

NORTH EAST

I N S T I T U T E O F  
T E C H N O L O G Y

# North East Institute of Technology

Newsletter

May 2026



# North East Institute of Technology Expands with Three New Strategic Partners



North-East Institute of Technology expands with three new strategic partners!

The North-East Institute of Technology (NEIoT) has welcomed **TDR Training, Durham University and Darlington College** as new strategic partners, strengthening its employer-led approach to higher technical education across the region.

The expanded partnership will help address skills shortages in Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering, Construction, and Digital & AI, supporting the delivery of high-quality Level 4 and 5 qualifications across the North East.

Find out more: <https://ow.ly/W1Ck50Z7sC1>



# Bishop Auckland College unveils 'Sustainable Pod' and renewable training bays



Bishop Auckland College has unveiled a new 'Sustainable Pod' and state-of-the-art renewable training facilities designed to prepare students for careers in the growing green economy.

Manufactured by Quantum Group, the college's three newly installed training bays provide hands-on experience in retrofit and modern construction methods. The facilities include solar PV, electric vehicle (EV) charging and battery storage systems.

The project began in September 2024 with the introduction of a retrofit qualification for full-time students. Following its success, the college secured government funding through the Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF), helping bring the new green skills hub to life.

The specialist training environment supports both full-time and part-time learners studying construction, retrofit, sustainability and building technologies. Students will gain practical knowledge of insulation, ventilation, renewable technologies and airtight construction methods used to create more sustainable buildings.

Michelle Andelin, director of creative and technology professions at Bishop Auckland College, said:

**"The Sustainable Pod is an exciting investment in the future of our students and our region."**

"It gives learners the opportunity to work with real-world sustainable technologies and understand how modern construction methods can reduce environmental impact."

"Whether students are studying full time, part time or already working in industry, this facility will help them develop the practical skills employers are actively looking for."

To support the new facilities, Quantum partnered with the NOCN Group to develop a range of courses launching in September 2026. These include a Level 2 qualification covering the principles of renewable technologies and sustainable energy, alongside Level 3 qualifications in solar PV installation.

The development strengthens the college's commitment to delivering future-focused technical education linked directly to industry demand and the UK's net-zero ambitions.

As a member of the North East Institute of Technology, Bishop Auckland College continues to provide employer-led learning and industry-standard facilities, helping learners progress into vital low-carbon careers across the region.



# Guild of Bricklayers Competition



**CONSTRUCTION** cousins have laid another brick in their ever successful careers by securing top places in a prestigious competition.

Darlington College students **Hollie and Mia Vayro** have taken the honours in the regional heat of the Guild of Bricklayers contest beating competitors from across the North East.

Hollie was runner up in the senior competition to former Darlington College fulltime student Oliver Shaw, an apprentice with Persimmon Homes, now studying at Newcastle College. Mia, who works for Brickwork Direct Ltd, took first place in the junior girls' competition.

Competitors were issued with a drawing of a design which they had to recreate in bricks against the clock. They were marked on accuracy and quality of finish in a competition lasting six hours, which is designed to inspire the next generation of construction workers.

The regional heat was staged at Darlington College where Hollie, 19, of Gainford, is a third year apprentice and Mia, 17, of Darlington, is a first year apprentice.

Hollie, a British junior champion cyclist, works for her father's building firm, MV Building Services, which one day she hopes to run.

She said:

**"I still really enjoy bricklaying and love to compete."**

Darlington College's head of construction Luke Gate said: "We were truly honoured to host such talented and dedicated craftspeople.

"Construction is a profession I am deeply passionate about and one that continues to play a vital role in shaping both individuals and communities. It has been immensely rewarding to see how the trade fosters not only technical excellence, but also confidence, pride and meaningful career progression.

"This event represents an important milestone for our learners, providing a platform to demonstrate their skills and take a significant step forward in their professional journey.

We are particularly proud to stand alongside The Bricklayers Guild, whose continued commitment to supporting and promoting the trade is invaluable."

Guild of Bricklayers president Paul Briggs added: "The competition is all about enhancing quality and standards and inspiring the next generation of bricklayers. The Guild has supported these competitions for 50 years and during this time we have been impressed by the consistently high standards of craftsmanship, professionalism and determination. It's also great to see an increasing number of females becoming bricklayers."

Kevin Jagg, of competition sponsor Grayson Building Products, said: "We have worked with the Guild for many years, share their passion for the industry and are delighted to be involved with the competition."

# Expanding Innovation: Investment in Advanced Additive Manufacturing



Derwentside College are pleased to share an enhancement to their Additive Manufacturing Lab with the addition of four new Elegoo Mars 5 SLA printers. This investment strengthens our capability in high-precision resin printing, giving learners access to technology that reflects current industry practice in engineering and design.

The new equipment opens up greater opportunities across the curriculum, from rapid prototyping to more complex design work. Learners can develop their technical skills with increased accuracy and confidence, gaining practical experience that links directly to real-world applications.

Supporting learners from Level 1 through to HNC level, the upgraded facility allows for clear progression in additive manufacturing knowledge and skills. As we continue to invest in our learning environments, our focus remains on preparing students with the experience, capability and confidence needed to succeed in modern technical industries.



## Strengthening Partnerships: Engineering Industry Forum at Derwentside College

Derwentside College hosted its third Engineering Industry Forum, bringing together a strong network of employer partners to explore the evolving needs of the engineering sector. The College's membership within the North East Institute of Technology (NEIoT) was embedded throughout the session, reinforcing a shared commitment to delivering higher-level technical skills aligned to regional priorities.

Discussions focused on both the technical capabilities required in modern engineering roles and the personal and professional skills that support effective teams. Insightful contributions also explored the impact of emerging technologies on industry practice, workforce development, and future talent pipelines, helping to shape a forward-thinking approach to curriculum design.

The forum highlighted the importance of strong collaboration between education and industry, with NEIoT partnerships playing a key role in ensuring provision remains responsive to current and future skills demands.



# North East Women **Winning** in **Welding** at EDC



On average, there are probably a few hundred women welders (roughly 200–400) across the entire North East of England at any given time – reflecting a very small minority (around 3–4%) of the workforce. At EDC, we are home to 3 successful women welders!

## Natasha McLaren named runner up at Teesside Welders Institute Awards

Natasha McLaren, representing Hydrum Engineering, has been named runner-up in the Practical Welder category at the Teesside Welders Institute Awards. The awards recognise excellence and emerging talent in the welding and engineering sector across the Teesside region.

Natasha’s achievement highlights her strong technical skills, dedication, and growing contribution to the industry. This recognition reflects both Natasha’s commitment to her craft and the strength of Hydrum Engineering in supporting skilled professionals to develop and succeed.



## Kiera and Sophie spark their next chapter

Our welding student Kiera has secured a place on the BAE Systems apprenticeship programme in Barrow in Furness. The site is central to the UK’s nuclear-powered programmes and selection for this apprenticeship highlights her exceptional technical talent and growing impact as a woman entering a traditionally male-dominated welding and engineering sector.

Her achievement reflects both her commitment to mastering a highly specialised craft and the increasing strength of women shaping the future of advanced engineering.

Lesley, our Head of Curriculum said:

**“We are breaking barriers in welding!”**

Though female participation is traditionally low, this year’s cohort has achieved incredible success, paving the way for future students by winning local awards and landing premier apprenticeships and traineeships.”

Another student, Sophie, has secured a traineeship with Caterpillar. Sophie’s accomplishment in securing a traineeship demonstrates her ambition, developing expertise, and rising contribution to the engineering workforce. Her traineeship marks a significant step forward with the vital role women continue to play in expanding and diversifying the technical and industrial landscape.



# ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE AT HARTLEPOOL COLLEGE



Hartlepool College's Schools of Engineering – which focus on Fabrication, Welding, Process, and Transport Engineering, and Advanced Manufacturing Engineering respectively – have had cause for celebration twice recently, with major awards for two of its engineering learners, Dylan Coulson and Sharne Tallon, alongside a visit from a valued industry partner to our Centre of Excellence for Fabrication and Welding.



From left: Head of School of AME, Mark Elliott; Dylan Coulson; and Nick Macrae, Master of the Worshipful Company of Needlemakers.

## Dylan Coulson: City and Guilds National Prize Winner

Advanced Manufacturing Engineering student Dylan Coulson was presented with the Worshipful Company of Needlemakers prize at the City and Guilds of London Institute's Awards and Livery Company Prizes ceremony at Mansion House – a prestigious recognition event for technical education across the UK and Ireland.

Dylan completed his T Level Qualification in Maintenance, Installation and Repair for Engineering and Manufacturing at Hartlepool College, achieving an overall Distinction. His achievement was marked not only by consistently high academic performance but by a three-week Turing Scheme industry placement in Salerno, Italy, where his host employer commended him for his maturity, adaptability, and professionalism. Since completing his T Level, Dylan has secured a Technical Apprenticeship with Cummins and begun HNC study.

### Read more:

<https://www.hartlepoolfe.ac.uk/whats-happening/news/engineering-student-prestigious-national-award>

## TWI Visit: Showcasing the Centre of Excellence

In April, Hartlepool College welcomed Dr Caroline Gumble AWeldI, CEO of The Welding Institute (TWI), and Andrew Ward AWeldI, Director of Professional Membership, to its Centre of Excellence for Fabrication and Welding – a purpose-built, everything-under-one-roof training facility launched in 2024.



The visit provided an opportunity to strengthen an already valued partnership between the College and TWI, one of the world's leading independent research and technology organisations. As a TWI Certification Approved Welder Training Organisation, Hartlepool College works directly with TWI to ensure its provision meets the highest professional standards.

Guests toured the state-of-the-art facilities and met with apprentices, scholars, and learners, hearing directly from students about their experiences and career goals. The day culminated at the TWI Teesside Branch Annual Awards Dinner, where Hartlepool College Fabrication and Welding alumna Sharne Tallon was named Student of the Year, recognised both for her technical excellence and her work supporting Women in Engineering events at schools across the region.

### Read more:

<https://www.hartlepoolfe.ac.uk/twi-visit-centre-of-excellence>

# Building Industry Skills Through T Levels



## Meet Julian, a T Level Media Broadcast and Production student at MC Digital, Middlesbrough College's dedicated digital centre!

Thanks to the College's NEIoT-accredited programme, Julian has been able to develop the technical skills, industry knowledge and confidence needed to take meaningful steps towards a successful future in media production.

Now preparing for the next stage of his journey, Julian is already making exciting progress within the industry, with his T Level opening the door to a wide range of opportunities both during and beyond college.

"My T Level programme, has been an amazing stepping stone, helping me build confidence, develop my skills and create a clear path from college into a future career.

"As part of my T Level course, I have had work experience with Smoggy Bloom, a company that creates documentaries and short films. While there, I've had the opportunity to work as a sound operator and a camera operator on several projects, which was really exciting. I'm still in frequent contact with them now!

"I currently work with Sea and Sky Productions in Hartlepool as my main work placement, where I help with video editing. I am so happy that I decided to do a T Level course because of the amount of experience it has provided me with and the hands-on work I've been able to do."

Studying at Middlesbrough College has also given Julian the opportunity to develop hands-on experience with the industry-standard equipment he will use in his future career. MC Digital is equipped with a wide range of professional media equipment, including cameras, microphones and tripods, allowing learners to gain real-world experience and fully immerse themselves in the industry while studying at college.

"You get access to so much professional equipment, it's a great opportunity to improve yourself and learn new things.

"The support I have received at Middlesbrough College has been really important to me.

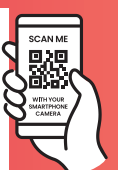
"Before coming to the college, I attended a specialist school and looked at a few different options for my next step, but nowhere else made me feel as comfortable or supported as Middlesbrough College did. From the beginning, the teaching staff spoke to me like an adult and really took the time to make sure I felt settled and confident.

"I was offered a support worker and additional breaks during lessons if I ever needed them. Although I haven't needed to use that support, just knowing it was there made a huge difference and showed how much the college genuinely cares about making students feel comfortable in the environment.

"Next, I am planning on continuing my studies at University Centre Middlesbrough (UCM) – I've received an unconditional offer, which is great. I really feel like the college has my back and I've been supported well through my time here.

"I would definitely recommend Middlesbrough College. The support I have received and the skills I have learned have massively helped guide me into the future I want."

Find out more and apply to study in Sep 2026



# County Durham to Benefit from National Investment in new **Technical Excellence** College



New College Durham (NCD) is delighted to announce it has been chosen as one of only four colleges across the country to have been recognised as an Advanced Manufacturing Technical Excellence College (TEC).

NCD is one of the few Further Education (FE) colleges that have been awarded 'technical excellence status' by the Department for Education, recognising its deep specialisms in priority skills areas. The college has earned its status due to its continued demonstration of excellence in provision of specific priority technical skills in Advanced Manufacturing.



**Alison Maynard, Deputy Principal for Curriculum at New College Durham,** said: "We are honoured that New College Durham has been recognised as a Technical Excellence College for Advanced Manufacturing. This award reflects both the strength of our college and the North East's long-standing reputation as a centre of excellence in advanced manufacturing and engineering. Through our strong partnerships with employers across key sectors, we have built a provision that responds directly to industry needs, supporting both regional growth and nationally significant supply chains."

NCD is already a recognised hub of excellence in the advanced manufacturing sector, with advanced facilities and resources, including expert staff, innovative course materials, and strong employer and industry partnerships. The college also proudly leads the North East Institute of Technology (NEIoT), which brings together employers, higher education institutions, and further education colleges across the region, working to deliver advanced technical education in areas including construction, engineering, manufacturing and digital. The new Advanced Manufacturing TEC will complement the existing Institute of Technology, strengthening our collective efforts to drive the technical skills agenda across the North East.

**Andy Broadbent, Chief Executive and Principal, New College Durham** added:

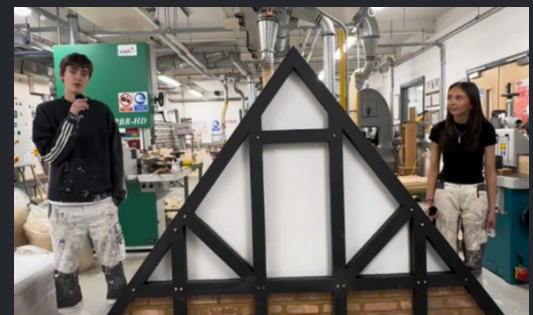
"Working as a hub for excellence, we look forward to collaborating with partners across the North East and nationally to raise standards, increase capacity, and help deliver the skilled workforce needed for the UK's priority industries. This is a proud moment for New College Durham and for our region. As an Advanced Manufacturing Technical Excellence College, we will continue to deliver the high-quality training and industry partnerships needed to equip learners with the skills for the jobs of the future."

## New College Durham apprentices win City & Guilds contest

**A heritage-inspired showcase has earned top national honours for a team of County Durham apprentices.**

The painting and decorating apprentices from New College Durham won the Judges' Award at the City & Guilds Apprenticeship Showcase Challenge, part of National Apprenticeship Week 2026. The apprentices designed and built a heritage structure using only traditional hand tools and methods. The winning pair, Nicole from Bagnalls Painting & Decorating Contractors and Ruby from Neil Gill Associates Painters and Decorators Ltd, are both Level 2 apprentices.

They were supported by fellow Level 2 apprentices in bricklaying, carpentry, and joinery. Judges praised their research into 16th-century construction methods, which informed their recreation of timber pillars, canopy supports, and a Tudor-era gable.



Kristina Smith, a judge and journalist at Construction Management Magazine, said: "I was really impressed by the variety of work presented in the showcase and the high level of skills that the apprentices exhibited. New College Durham's entry ticked all the boxes, demonstrating heritage skills in bricklaying, carpentry, and painting and decorating, and a clear connection to local buildings and to the curriculum." The judges awarded the team full marks in several categories, including research and development and complexity and technical challenge.

# Skills, Opportunity and Progress



## Women Thriving in Engineering and Manufacturing

TDR Training continues to champion women entering engineering and manufacturing. We are proud to see more female applicants each year and to celebrate the achievements of apprentices such as Amber Snowdon at Baker Hughes, Charlotte Fenwick in maintenance engineering, and Sarah Turner and Milly Phillips at Northumbrian Water Group.

Across fabrication, machining, design, laboratory science and process engineering, women at TDR are building strong careers and helping to challenge outdated perceptions of the sector



## Developing Higher Technical Skills with Employers

Our employer-led approach ensures apprentices gain the technical knowledge and workplace experience industry needs. Partnerships with organisations including GeoPura, Newcastle University, Pharmaron, Hart Door Systems and Trinity Precision Engineering help us keep training relevant and responsive.

Higher-level programmes such as the HNC continue to strengthen advanced skills. Apprentices like Alex Nicholls and Ryan Ford at Dräger, and Lewis Huggan and Jamie Bundy at Piramal Pharma, demonstrate the value of combining academic study with real industry experience.



Working closely with employers, we are supporting new cohorts across engineering maintenance, fabrication, machining and science, helping to build a strong and capable future workforce for the region.



# Employers Discover the Power of Apprenticeships at Enginuity Partnership Event

Last month, we were delighted to host an employer engineering event in partnership with Enginuity, bringing together local businesses to explore how apprenticeships can support growth, develop talent pipelines, and futureproof businesses.

The event provided employers with valuable insight into the benefits of apprenticeships and T Level industry placements, highlighting the positive impact these opportunities can have on businesses across the region.



Our Head of STEM and Green Skills, Neil Bowen, delivered an informative overview of how employers can work collaboratively with the college through apprenticeships and T Level placements. He discussed the ways these programmes can help organisations address skills gaps, support workforce development, and build the future talent needed for a rapidly evolving industry landscape.



A key highlight of the event was a panel discussion featuring our current T Level and Apprenticeship students. The students spoke about their experiences, sharing first-hand accounts of the skills, confidence, and industry knowledge they have gained through their placements and apprenticeship programmes. They showcased the real value that investing in young talent can bring to employers and reinforced the importance of creating meaningful workplace opportunities.

For more information about employer opportunities, get in touch with Neil Bowen [nbowen@tynecoast.ac.uk](mailto:nbowen@tynecoast.ac.uk)



# Upskill with engineering and manufacturing CPD and apprenticeship courses



Newcastle University's professional development courses in engineering combine world-leading research with specialist expertise. Develop the knowledge your organisation needs to succeed in a competitive market.

Upcoming courses include:

- Asphalt Materials and Pavements two-day course
- Discrete Element Method (DEM): Theory and hands-on practice
- Digital Control Systems
- An Introduction to Power Electronics, Machines and Drives (PEMD)
- Digital Twinning for PEMD

Explore all our [Engineering CPD courses](#)

For further information or to book your place email [cpd@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:cpd@ncl.ac.uk).

Higher and Degree  
Apprenticeships



## Drive engineering innovation in your organisation

**Level 6 BEng**  
**Product Design and Development Engineer**  
**Degree Apprenticeship**



Apply now for September 2026 entry  
Find out more [ncl.ac.uk/electrical-engineer](https://ncl.ac.uk/electrical-engineer)



# NMUK STEM EVENTS



## FIRST LEGO LEAGUE

The Nissan Skills Foundation hosted their annual 'First Lego League' regional tournament in March 2026.

We had a total of 46 teams/schools take part. – 393 Students (aged 7 – 15) and 84 teachers attended

The theme this season was Unearthed. Each team used coding to complete several 'Lego' missions. They also created an innovation project which they presented to a judging panel. NSF led, with the support of Stem Ambassadors at NMUK.

3 of our teams qualified to attend the First Lego League National tournament in Harrogate, on Saturday 25th April

The Reece Foundation, who sponsor all our teams, gifted £1000 to the winners to fund their trip expenses.



## VEX-IQ

Across the three-day VEX Robotics competition, we welcomed 51 schools, engaging with 377 students and 84 teachers.

The event gave students the chance to explore engineering, teamwork, and problem-solving through hands-on robotics challenges.

NSF led, with the support of 11 Stem Ambassadors at NMUK.

The Nissan Skills Foundation ran their annual VEX event in SASMI in January.



# NMUK STEM EVENTS

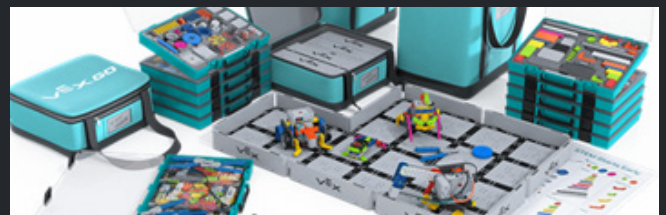


## VEX-GO

In June NMUK Skills Foundation will host VEX GO, a construction system for KS2 that teaches the fundamentals of STEM through fun, hands-on activities that help young students perceive coding and engineering in a fun and positive way.

In addition to robotics and coding, VEX GO lesson plans can be used to support classroom learning in a wide variety of other STEM topics including forces, lifecycles, fractions, simple machines and much more.

The Nissan Skills Foundation will run their annual VEX GO event in Nissan Sports Complex in June. We are expecting around 50 schools taking part in the tournament.



## CHILDRENS DAY

The Nissan Skills Foundation successfully delivered a Children’s Day event inspired by the Japanese national celebration, designed to promote the health, happiness, and development of young people.

The event engaged 120 Year 4 students (aged 8–9), specifically targeting a year group not previously included in the Foundation’s outreach activities. Held at MADE NE the event was led by the Nissan Skills Foundation team with support from STEM Ambassadors, providing a structured and engaging environment.

The day focused on introducing students to Japanese culture, offering a unique and immersive learning experience that combined creativity, discovery, and cultural awareness. Students took part in a range of interactive activities, including creative design tasks such as carp kites, Daruma dolls, and origami. A fact-finding activity to explore key aspects of Japan, cultural and language session delivered by Japanese Nissan employees, bringing authentic insight and personal experiences.

Overall, the event provided an engaging and educational experience that broadened students understanding of global cultures, while supporting early engagement in creative thinking and STEM-related learning.



# NEAA Annual Awards 2026

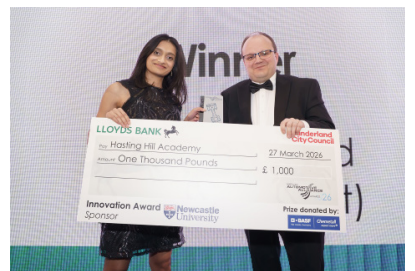


NEIoT partners celebrated the people and businesses driving excellence across the North East automotive sector and were delighted to sponsor the SME of the Year Award with the winners being announced as:

**SME of the Year (Service Provider) – Smart Manufacturing Solutions Technology Ltd**

**SME of the Year (Manufacturer) – Jenks & Cattell Engineering Ltd**

As part of the award the winners donate £1000 to local schools of their choice to support STEM projects. Smart Manufacturing Solutions Technology Ltd made their formal donation to Portobello Primary School with whom they have built a longstanding relationship, supporting their participation in VEX Robotics competitions. Jenks & Cattell are based in the Midlands and deliver various work for automotive businesses in the North East. They have split their £1,000 donation between Wednesfield Academy – a school on their doorstep – and The Link School in Sunderland, who will use the funds to build a school garden to create a rich and engaging learning experience that extends beyond the classroom walls





# Innovation Exchange 2026

**Powering Futures: Transforming lives through clean energy, innovation and skills excellence**

**25 June 2026  
9.30-4.30pm**

**Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Catapult, Albert St in Blyth NE24 1LZ**



## Shaping the future of clean energy, skills and innovation

Join UVAC, the North East Institute of Technology and the ORE Catapult for an inspiring Innovation Exchange bringing together leaders from education, industry, research and the wider technical skills ecosystem. Hosted at the UK’s leading offshore renewable energy innovation and research centre, this high-impact event will explore how curiosity-driven research, workforce foresighting and collaborative partnerships are helping to shape the future of technical, vocational and professional education while supporting the UK’s Net Zero ambitions. Together, we will examine how innovation, inclusion and skills excellence can help build a future-ready workforce capable of meeting evolving industry needs and driving sustainable economic growth.

Explore how cutting-edge technologies are advancing offshore renewable energy and strengthening the UK’s strategic priorities, including:

- Robotics, automation and AI technologies
- Floating offshore wind innovation
- Turbine blade testing and infrastructure resilience
- Marine energy and sustainable decommissioning
- Emerging approaches driving renewable energy performance and sustainability

Discover how ideas become impact across the innovation and skills value chain.

The UK faces growing workforce challenges, including a projected shortfall of up to 1 million engineers by 2030 alongside persistent diversity gaps across STEM and priority growth sectors. This Innovation Exchange will explore how universities, technical education providers, employers and sector partners can work together to widen participation, strengthen skills pathways and develop inclusive, future-focused talent pipelines that support productivity, competitiveness and Net Zero growth. What to expect

- Thought-provoking keynote speakers from education, industry, research and policy
- Practical insights, tools and real-world examples of innovation and workforce development
- Opportunities to explore emerging workforce needs and future skills priorities
- Networking and collaboration across education and industry partnerships

Exclusive ORE Catapult Site Tour - Delegates are invited to experience innovation first-hand through a guided tour showcasing cutting- edge innovation in offshore wind, floating technologies and robotics. Experience:

- World-leading turbine blade testing facilities
- Autonomous inspection robotics
- Floating offshore wind technologies
- Digital twin wind farm control rooms accelerating Net Zero innovation



**Register via QR code or visit [www.uvac.ac.uk](http://www.uvac.ac.uk)**



# High Street and SME Sustainability Summit

A solution-focused summit shaping the future of high streets and SMEs.

Insights from retailers, policymakers and regional leaders.

Practical solutions for high streets & SMEs.

Help shape future support and policy.

Who should attend:

- Business owners
- Policymakers
- Students
- Staff interested in the future of high streets and SMEs.

**Find out more book your place:**  
[durham.ac.uk/business/events](https://durham.ac.uk/business/events)



## When

Friday 19 June 2026  
 9.30am - 2.30pm BST

## Location

Durham University Business School, Waterside Building

**Room - WB 0003-0004**





# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN IN ENGINEERING DAY

Monday 22 June | Location: Cummins, Darlington | Time: 09:00



## EMPLOYER GRANTS & INCENTIVES

Supporting employers to create opportunities for young people through apprenticeships and employment.

[amazingapprenticeships.com/small-business-summer](https://amazingapprenticeships.com/small-business-summer)

### £1,000

#### YOUNG APPRENTICE INCENTIVE

Employers can receive £1,000 for taking on an apprentice aged 16 to 18 years old, or aged 19 to 24 years old with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan or who is a care leaver.

- ✓ All sizes of employer
- ✓ Available now

### £2,000

#### FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIP INCENTIVE

Employers offering Foundation apprenticeships to young people aged 16-21 (or eligible 22-24 year olds) can receive up to £2,000. Payments support progression to a further apprenticeship.

- ✓ All sizes of employer
- ✓ Available now

### £2,000

#### NON-LEVY JOBS GRANT

From October 2026, employers that do not pay the apprenticeship levy could receive up to £2,000 for hiring an apprentice aged 16 to 24 (and new employees within the previous 3 months).

- ! Only for non-levy employers
- ! Available from October 2026

### £3,000

#### YOUTH JOBS GRANT

From June 2026, businesses can receive £3,000 for hiring an individual aged 18 to 24 who has been receiving Universal Credit and looking for work for six months or more.

- ✓ All sizes of employer
- ! Available from June 2026

#### National Insurance Contributions

Employers do not pay NICs for apprentices aged under 25 years (nor any employee aged 21 or below) if salary is below £50,270 (25/26 rate).

#### Funding for under 25s

Non-levy employers do not pay training costs for apprentices aged under 25. For those aged 25+ the cost is 5% (or zero if using levy-transfer).

#### Care leavers' bursary

Eligible apprentices aged 16-24 can receive an additional £3,000 from government in addition to their salary, tax free.

Employers may be able to access multiple incentives for the same young person where eligibility criteria are met.



# International Women in Engineering Round Table

**Engineering & Manufacturing Network**

**You're invited**

**Engineering Intelligence: Engineering & Manufacturing Roundtable**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June  
10:00am - 12:00pm  
SETA, 17 Sedling Road, Washington, NE38 9BZ

**Celebrate International Women in Engineering Day!**  
Join us for a collaborative breakfast roundtable hosted by Jessica Williams to bring together business leaders, industry professionals and future talent. Topics of discussion will include: inclusive recruitment, retention and progression, and barriers women face entering the engineering and manufacturing industry etc.

This year's theme, **#EngineeringIntelligence**, connects businesses with regional emerging talent, graduates and students, and strengthens collaboration between industry, education and regional stakeholders.

**Engineering & Manufacturing Network**

**International Women in Engineering 2026 - Round Table**

**Register**

Jun 23, 2026  
10:00 - 12:00 GMT+1  
[Add to Calendar](#)

**Sunderland Engineering Training Association (SETA)**  
17 Sedling Road, Wear Estate, Sunderland, Washington, United Kingdom  
[Show on map](#)

**Ailsa Anderson**  
[Contact Organizer](#)

[Share](#)

## Event Details

In celebration of **International Women in Engineering Day 2026**, the **Engineering and Manufacturing Network** invites experienced professionals, graduates, students, apprentices and educators from across the region to join an open and honest roundtable discussion on the future of women in engineering and manufacturing.

Despite progress across industry, women still remain significantly underrepresented within engineering and manufacturing roles. In the UK, women make up around 16-17% of the engineering workforce, with even lower representation in senior technical and leadership positions. At a time where skills shortages continue to impact the sector, attracting and retaining diverse talent has never been more important.

This **collaborative roundtable chaired by Jessica Williams** will bring together business leaders, industry professionals and future talent to discuss:

- Barriers to entry into engineering and manufacturing careers
- Retention, visibility and progression of women within industry
- How businesses can create more inclusive pathways and cultures
- The role of education, outreach and industry collaboration
- Practical actions to strengthen the future workforce across the North East

This is not a lecture or panel event. It is a collaborative discussion designed to encourage shared experiences, practical solutions and stronger regional connections between industry, educators and most importantly - female engineers & manufacturers. Further events and forums to be held following the outcome of this initial session.

## Roundtable Objectives

- Encourage honest discussion around barriers facing women entering and staying in roles in engineering and manufacturing
- Connect businesses with emerging talent, graduates and students from across the region
- Share practical ideas and examples of inclusive recruitment, retention and progression
- Strengthen collaboration between industry, education and regional stakeholders
- Support the future sustainability and growth of the North East engineering and Manufacturing sector

## Why Attend?

- Hear real experiences from across the sector
- Connect with regional businesses, educators and future talent
- Share challenges, opportunities and best practice
- Position your organisation as part of the solution
- Support the future of engineering and manufacturing in the North East

**International Women in Engineering 2026 - Round Table Invitation**

**Registration - International Women in Engineering 2026 - Round Table | Engineering & Manufacturing Network on Glue Up**

# International Women in Engineering Day

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We are delighted to invite you and your KS4 and KS5 students to join Durham Energy Institute (DEI) for our International Women in Engineering Day 2026 Panel Event, celebrating innovative women shaping the future of engineering and energy research.

**Date: 23 June 2026**

**Time: 11.00am - 2.45pm**

**Location: Durham Energy Institute, Durham University, Mountjoy Research Centre, Upper Mountjoy, Stockton Road, Durham, DH1 3LE**

## Students will:

- Have opportunities to explore STEM careers, meeting female role models working in the energy sector, including in research and industry
- Take part in an interactive tour of the laboratories in Durham University's Engineering department
- Explore how women are shaping the future of energy innovation
- Have opportunities to connect their current learning with globally significant cutting-edge research happening here in the North East
- Hear from an inspiring line-up of female engineers, including academics, industry leaders, and current PhD researchers, who will share how they found their path into engineering and what motivates their work today.
- Join an open Q&A session, offering learners the chance to ask questions and explore opportunities in STEM fields.

**We welcome groups from Years 10–13 and their teachers to attend free of charge. Spaces are limited, so please RSVP ASAP to [dei.events@durham.ac.uk](mailto:dei.events@durham.ac.uk).**

We look forward to welcoming your students for what promises to be an engaging and eye-opening session.

# Contact us

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