

# Brighter Futures

02 Bradford College “Best Performing FE College in West Yorkshire”

03 New Academy to Nurture Budding Creative Skills

04 Bradford College Wins UK and Ireland ‘Green Gown’ Award

05 New Adult Skills Funding Boosts Careers in Construction

06 Adult Students Score Hat-Trick at West Yorkshire Awards

07 Outstanding Achievements Celebrated at SkillsHouse CTE Awards

08 Bradford Manufacturing Week Promotes Sustainability and Clean Energy

## Welcome

Welcome to the fifth edition of Bradford College’s stakeholder newsletter. We’re thrilled to continue on this journey of connection and collaboration with you.

Through this newsletter we aim to share our progress, achievements, and the transformative impact we’re making with our students and in the wider Bradford community.

You can explore our full catalogue of news at: [bradfordcollege.ac.uk/news](https://bradfordcollege.ac.uk/news)

### Follow Us



## Innovative ‘Junction Mills’ Building Nears Completion

**Bradford College has attracted nearly £40 million in funding over the last three years to reshape its estate and invest in bold new facilities in the heart of Bradford. At the centre of this transformation is Junction Mills, a new building designed to support future careers in growing sectors across the region.**

Set to open its doors later this year, Junction Mills will offer students skills in new technologies, such as modern automotive and digital engineering, electric/hybrid vehicles and advanced manufacturing. The four-storey facility will be vital in supporting the development of technology and low-carbon skills across West Yorkshire.

The exciting capital project was made possible thanks to £17.8 million from the Department for Education Further Education Capital Transformation Fund (FECTF) and a £1.5 million College contribution. Once complete, the site will become home to the College’s Automotive and Digital Engineering Department, with as many as 650 students enrolled.

Stephen Smith, Head of Engineering & Motor Vehicle at Bradford College, said: *“This new facility will give our staff access to the very best resources, enabling them to deliver*



*even more innovative and industry-relevant teaching. For our students, it means learning in an environment that mirrors modern workshops and garages, giving them the hands-on experience and confidence to thrive in their future careers.”*

Junction Mills recently received a platinum certification from Morgan Sindall Construction for outstanding carbon savings on a new building development. It was the only project in the whole of the Yorkshire region to achieve this status in 2025. Junction Mills has saved an impressive 473 tonnes of carbon over the project’s design and construction phases to date – the equivalent of heating 175 UK homes for a whole year!

Junction Mills is just the latest in a series of impressive capital works managed by Bradford College. Other projects include the extensively remodelled David Hockney Building T Level facilities, as well as the £6.9m Garden Mills refurbishment. The ambition project transformed a derelict 1900s five-storey building into a substantial STEM and health-science facility for higher-level students across specialisms such as ophthalmics and dentistry.

**Read the full story [here](#).**



## Bradford College “Best Performing FE College in West Yorkshire”

**Bradford College celebrated after being named one of England’s best-performing larger further education colleges based on achievement. The most recent National Qualification Achievement Rates (QAR) data published by the Department for Education for large training providers showed Bradford College to be:**

- The best-performing FE college in West Yorkshire for 16-18 provision with achievement better than 80% of English colleges with an Ofsted Outstanding grade (excluding maths & English GCSEs).
- One of England’s top five large FE colleges for apprenticeships and the best large college apprenticeship provider in West Yorkshire for a second year. Achievement rates are 5% higher than all other large FE colleges in West Yorkshire (70%).
- The best large college for adult learner English achievement rate in Yorkshire & Humber (93.9% against 79.5% regionally) and Maths achievement rate (84.8% against 71%). More than 10,000 adults upskill or reskill with Bradford College every year.

Judith Jackson, Head of Apprenticeships & Business Development at Bradford College, said:

*“Our exceptional training, industry-focused teaching, and hands-on support have contributed to us attaining one of the highest achievement rates in Yorkshire. Whether it’s construction, engineering, hair & beauty, health, or digital, we’re helping learners gain the skills employers need and supporting vital regional economic growth.”*

**Read the full story [here](#).**



## Persimmon Homes Donation Boosts Brickwork Training

**Bradford College cemented its partnership with Persimmon Homes after receiving a generous donation of 18,000 bricks - enough materials to build the external walls of a four-bedroom house! The donation will provide essential materials for vital hands-on construction training.**

To celebrate this support, the College hosted a special event at its Trinity Green Campus. Guests included Leader of Bradford Council Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe, Persimmon West Yorkshire Managing Director Christopher Hull, and Persimmon Apprentice Managers Robert Warburton and Michael Johnson.

Greg Bourke, Head of Construction at Bradford College, said: *“Persimmon’s belief in our vision for the department, and their generous donation of bricks, demonstrates a shared commitment to creating opportunities, and working together to transform lives. We look forward to continuing this valuable collaboration.”*

Christopher Hull, Persimmon West Yorkshire Managing Director, added: *“It was a pleasure to meet with staff and students at Bradford College and meet the next generation of construction workers. We are delighted to support the college in helping learners and apprentices reach their potential, and we hope these materials go far in supporting them.”*

**Read the full story [here](#).**



## New Academy to Nurture Budding Creative Skills

The Mayor of West Yorkshire, Tracy Brabin, officially opened Bradford College's new skills development space for the creative leaders of tomorrow. 'The Producing Academy' is an exciting new facility designed to nurture the wave of creative talent needed across West Yorkshire, helping to position the region as a national powerhouse for the creative industries.

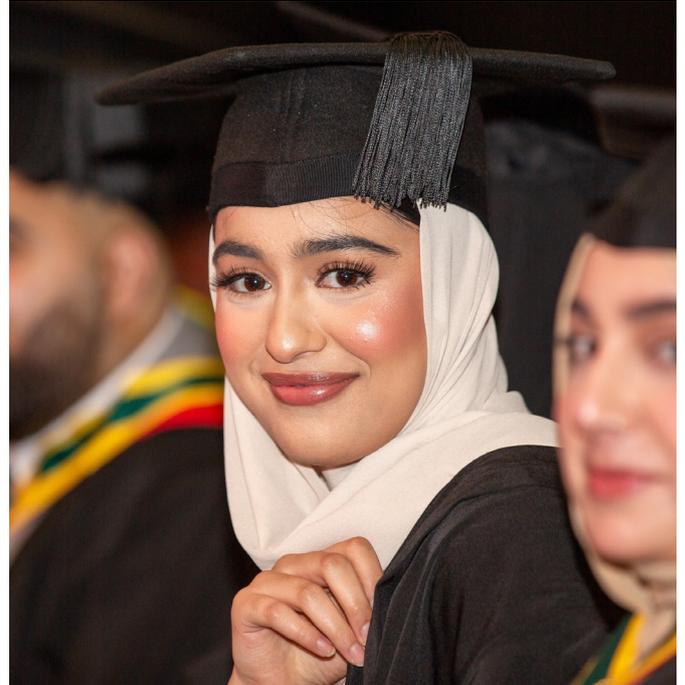
Covering Music Production & Broadcast Media, Digital Storytelling, Fashion & Photography, and eSports & Games Development, The Producing Academy will offer exceptional training that shapes and cultivates local creative talent to meet regional and national skills gaps.

Sarah Towan, Bradford College Vice Principal - Recruitment & Communication, explained:

*"The Producing Academy is designed for the filmmakers, sound engineers, journalists, content creators, fashion innovators, photographers, gamers, and digital artists of tomorrow. Bringing these disciplines under one roof, the Academy launches as Bradford's creative energy remains in the national spotlight following the success of Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture."*

West Yorkshire has the fastest-growing creative sector in England outside London, which is currently worth around £2.2 billion to the regional economy. The special launch event held in the David Hockney Building, home of the new Academy, invited representatives from across regional culture, sport and entertainment to tour facilities and see the students in action.

**Read the full story [here](#).**



## HE Students Honoured at Annual Graduation Ceremony

A remarkable 373 students gathered at The Life Centre to take part in the Autumn 2025 Bradford College graduation ceremony. This is the first year that all Bradford College higher education students attended the same graduation, making it the largest ceremony to date.

The special annual event welcomed related higher education students from across Social Care and Community Practice, the Margaret McMillan School of Education, Accountancy & Law, Science, Meditech, Allied Health & Computing, Engineering & Construction, and the Bradford School of Art.

Chris Webb, CEO & Principal of Bradford College, said: *"Our aspiration is that all students should be able to succeed, regardless of their life and educational experiences prior to enrolling. We want all students to be resilient in the face of new challenges and be stretched to realise their potential - something that you have all truly exemplified."*

Special guest speaker at the event was Dr Jo Salter MBE. Dr Salter has worked extensively within the university sector and was a former Royal Air Force fast-jet pilot - the first woman in the UK to achieve the incredible status.

**Read the full story [here](#).**



## Bradford College Wins UK and Ireland ‘Green Gown’ Award

**Bradford College was crowned a winner at the 2025 UK and Ireland Green Gown Awards.**

Now in their 21st year, the awards recognise sustainability innovation and leadership in post-16 education across the UK and Ireland.

This year’s awards saw 112 finalists from 76 institutions attend a glittering ceremony at the Library of Birmingham. Bradford College won the ‘Benefitting Society (Small Organisation)’ category for its work with The Welcome Café.

The Café offers refugees and people seeking asylum the opportunity to gain practical training in catering

and hospitality. Students transform surplus food into nutritious vegan meals inspired by global cuisines. The initiative promotes health, wellbeing, and employability while also supporting environmental responsibility, climate action, and zero-waste goals.

Bradford College’s ‘Reboot for Good’ project was also Highly Commended in the Next Generation Learning & Skills category. The innovative pilot sees students breathe new life into broken and obsolete PCs, which are donated to community centres and learner hubs.

**Read the full story [here](#).**

## First-Ever T-level Students Celebrate Results Success

**Bradford College marked Level 3 results day with an exciting milestone – the completion of its first-ever group of T-level students. The talented bunch showed what dedication and hard work can achieve, with a 100% T-level pass rate (compared to a national pass rate of 91.4%), and 80% of students achieving a distinction grade on the Education & Early Years programme.**



T-levels are a two-year qualification for 16-19-year-olds designed with employers. Each T-level is equivalent to 3 A-levels and includes a 45-day work placement – giving young people the edge when they move into the workplace or on to university.

Paige, a Bradford College Education & Early Years student, said: *“I really enjoyed doing my T-level. I would tell anyone wanting to do a T-level at Bradford College to go for it! I did my work placement at St Edmond’s nursery school; it was awesome. Everyone was really supportive.”*

Bradford College launched its Level 2 Fast Track to T-level courses in September 2022 but has since expanded to offer Level 2 Foundation T-levels, as well as full T-levels in Health (Adult Nursing), Engineering (Design & Development), Business (Management & Administration), Education & Early Years, and Design, Surveying & Planning for Construction.

**Read the full story [here](#).**



## Local Pupils Enjoy Thrilling Greenpower Race Day

**Bradford College hosted its second-ever Greenpower Race Day at Tockwith track in North Yorkshire. Run in partnership with the Greenpower Education Trust and main sponsor CBRE, the day brought together eight secondary schools from across the Bradford district.**

The Greenpower Challenge event gave pupils a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to race electric cars which they had spent months designing, building, and testing. The Challenge is designed to spark imaginations and offer a hands-on opportunity to apply STEM learning through teamwork and sustainable engineering.

The event also debuted its first-ever Goblin Race, allowing primary school students to get involved. Swain House Primary School has partnered with Hanson School to build their very own Goblin cars, bringing younger students into the world of engineering and sustainability.

Jack Laycock, BBG Academy Teacher, said: *“We are grateful to Bradford College for offering this opportunity and supporting us with the building of the car. [...] It is a worthwhile competition to take part in, and the students love it!”*

Any schools interested in taking part in the 2026 Greenpower Challenge, or employers willing to sponsor the event, can contact **[events@bradfordcollege.ac.uk](mailto:events@bradfordcollege.ac.uk)** for more details.

**Read the full story [here](#).**



## New Adult Skills Funding Boosts Careers in Construction

**An award of nearly half a million pounds from the Department for Education is helping Bradford College to support more young adults into the construction sector. Over £994k in Adult Skills Fund money was given to regional colleges via the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA), with Bradford College securing nearly 50% of the funding.**

A new Community Construction Academy has since welcomed its first cohort of 15 students to a fully-funded City & Guilds Level 1 Award in Construction Skills. Adult learners aged 19-24 develop technical skills in bricklaying, joinery, decorating, plumbing, tiling, and electrical, as well as contextualised maths, English, employability, digital skills, and more.

Bradford College Project Manager John Wells explained: *“Regionally, we have an issue with construction skills gaps but also with adult ‘NEETS’ (individuals Not in Education, Employment, or Training). The aim of the funding is to boost construction worker numbers and help achieve national housebuilding targets, while getting more adults into work.”*

Bradford College is working in conjunction with key partners, including the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, The Sandale Trust in Buttershaw, Procure Plus, and Bradford Council. Construction and built environment employers are also invited to support the project. To get involved, please contact: **J.Wells3@bradfordcollege.ac.uk**

Read the full story [here](#).

## Bradford Wins ‘College of the Year’ at Edufuturists Awards

**Bradford College won a prestigious Edufuturists award for its groundbreaking use of digital technology in teaching and learning. At a glittering award ceremony in Manchester, Bradford College was declared ‘College of the Year’ in a highly competitive category.**

A group of expert judges, along with 30,000 public votes, decided this year’s winners from across the education sector. The Bradford College Learning, Development, and Innovation team won this year’s accolade for playing a crucial role in upskilling staff and supporting individuals with digital tools to drive digital transformation.

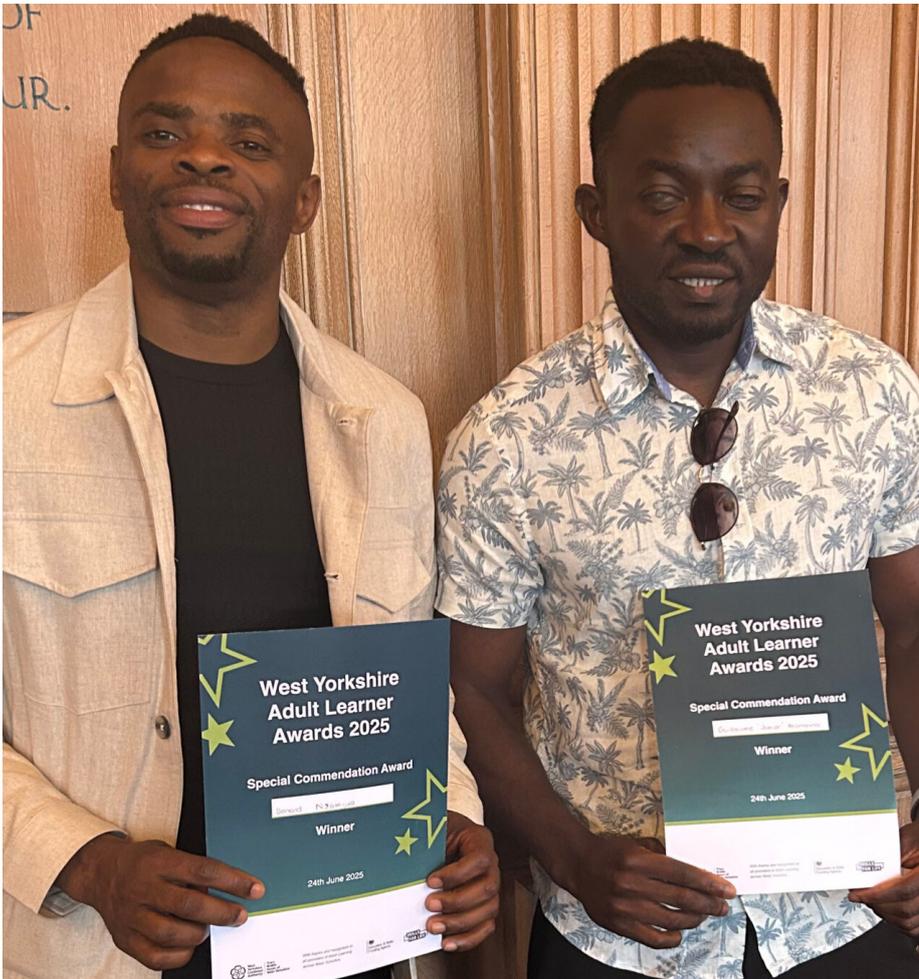
Tim Lupton, Head of Learning, Development, and Innovation at Bradford College, said: *“Being recognised by such an esteemed group highlights Bradford College’s leadership and commitment to supporting staff through innovative digital practices.*

*It’s a powerful endorsement of the impact we’re making in education.”*

The award followed news that Bradford College was also selected as a 2025/2026 Microsoft Showcase School for the second year running, showcasing a commitment to integrating innovative technologies like AI (Microsoft Copilot) and Microsoft 365 for immersive, future-focused learning.

Read the full story [here](#).





## Adult Students Score Hat-Trick at West Yorkshire Awards

**Bradford College students scored a hat-trick at the West Yorkshire Adult Learners Awards held at Leeds Civic Hall. The prestigious event, attended by Mayor of West Yorkshire Tracy Brabin, celebrated the achievements of many students including Bradford College Pharmacy learner, Caitlin Moisey, who won the Inspirational Adult Learner Award.**

Caitlin completed a Level 2 Apprenticeship and BTEC Certificate in the Principles and Practice for Pharmacy Support Staff. She was nominated for her exceptional contributions to pharmacy, outstanding performance, and being an exemplary role model for peers. Caitlin finished the course an impressive three months earlier than expected.

Adult learners Guillaume 'Junior' Atangana and Donard Nyamjua were also jointly awarded a Special Commendation for their achievements and inspirational journey. They both sought asylum in the UK, with Junior (who is visually impaired) studying ESOL and Donard pursuing GCSE English and maths.

Both students thrived with Bradford College's support, balancing studies with rigorous sports training. The result was their historic bronze medals in the men's 400m T11 event at the Paris 2024 Paralympics, marking the first-ever Paralympic medals for the Refugee Team. The success showcased their incredible resilience and talent, but also served as a powerful example of the support Bradford College provides for individuals seeking sanctuary in the city.

**Read the full story [here](#).**



## Bradford College Connects to Energy Network in Net Zero Push

**Work began last year to connect Bradford College to the £70m Bradford Energy Network led by 1Energy - the UK's leading low-carbon city heat network developer. The project marked a significant move away from fossil fuels and towards achieving Net Zero.**

Heat networks (also known as district heating) supply heat from a central source. Underground pipes carry hot water to buildings on a network, enabling the rapid decarbonisation of heating - the country's biggest source of carbon emissions. These networks are playing a key role in achieving Britain's climate goals.

The College joined the scheme thanks to a £2.6 million grant delivered by Salix and run by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. The Phase 3c Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) supports energy-efficiency works in public sector buildings like Bradford College's David Hockney and ATC buildings.

Pamela Sheldon, Head of Projects at Bradford College, said: *"Bradford College is committed to reducing its carbon footprint, and we are proud to be leading the way in this crucial work. Our transition to renewable energy will benefit nearly 3,500 staff and students in two of our main college buildings and marks a major step forward in Bradford College's sustainability efforts."*

**Read the full story [here](#).**



## Outstanding Achievements Celebrated at SkillsHouse CTE Awards

A group of extraordinary Bradford College staff and students were celebrated at the annual SkillsHouse Careers & Technical Education (CTE) Awards. The uplifting ceremony recognises educators and local organisations for their invaluable work with young people and the outstanding learners who develop skills for future careers in the workplace.

Winners on the day included Ali Adnan (Hospitality, Tourism & Sports Learner of the Year), Wade O'Neill (Public Services & Law Learner of the Year), and Jack Littlewood and Harvey Garside (Sustainability Champions). Each student was recognised for their commitment to excellence, personal growth, and making a positive impact within their field.

The Educator of the Year Award was presented to the Early Years, Health and Care Team, with special recognition for Vicky Carter, whose leadership and teaching continue to inspire learners across the College. Sarah Towan, Vice Principal Recruitment & Communications, said:

*"As a college we are so proud to be a part of these awards that recognise the achievements of young people across education in Bradford, and what a year for our college community, with five winners! We're just so proud of all the hard work that has been recognised at these awards. Congratulations to everyone involved."*

Read the full story [here](#).

## International Graffiti Artist Transforms Bradford College Building

The Bradford College ATC building had a striking makeover when internationally acclaimed graffiti artist, Shamsia Hassani, paid the campus a special visit. The 'Progression to Learning and Work' building was chosen as the canvas for an incredible new mural by Shamsia, the first female graffiti artist of Afghanistan.

The inspirational work was the result of the Bradford 2025 City of Culture BD:Walls project - a powerful initiative bringing internationally acclaimed street artists to the city. Artists from around the world spent 2025 creating stunning new works on walls across the Bradford District, paying tribute to Bradford's heritage while celebrating dynamic street art culture.

Bradford College ESOL learners, Afghan refugees, asylum seekers, and Bradford School of Art students helped to inform the artwork. Through engagement



sessions, Shamsia gathered student voices to ensure the mural was a bold public statement about empowerment, safety, and belonging, to reflect the concerns and hopes of Bradford's young people.

Alina Khan, Bradford College Vice Principal for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, said: *"We were truly privileged to welcome Shamsia Hassani to Bradford College. [...] This collaboration is more than a mural. It is a conversation on the walls of our city - a lasting legacy for Bradford."*

Read the full story [here](#).



## Bradford Manufacturing Week Promotes Sustainability and Clean Energy

**Bradford College was proud to take part in Bradford Manufacturing Week, an initiative that celebrates and promotes careers in manufacturing across the region. The College collaborated with Ilkley Grammar School to deliver a unique and innovative educational experience focused on sustainability, clean energy, and cutting-edge technology.**

During the week, students from Ilkley Grammar School joined Bradford College students for a hands-on workshop exploring the future of green technology through hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. The workshop sparked curiosity, developed practical STEM skills, and deepened students' understanding of the role of clean energy.

The highlight of the session saw students working together to design and build their own miniature hydrogen-powered cars. Using real hydrogen fuel cells, the students explored how this emerging technology works and how it could revolutionise transportation and energy consumption in the years to come.

By promoting sustainability and innovation in a practical, engaging way, Bradford College is helping inspire the next generation of engineers, scientists, and green technology advocates. The initiative aligns with the College's commitment to environmental responsibility and preparing students for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.

**[Read the full story here.](#)**

## Bradford College Sponsors Bradford City AFC Kit

**Bradford College was delighted to become the Bradford City AFC shorts sponsor for the 2025/2026 season. The College has played an important role in City's success in recent years, including supplying student actors, stylists, and make-up artists for the previous season's kit release campaigns.**

Continuing its support of the then newly promoted Bantams, Bradford College sponsored kit with its logo featured on the back of the club's playing shorts. Speaking on behalf of Bradford City AFC, Davide

Longo (Chief Commercial Officer) said: *"Bradford College has been a valued partner for many years, and we are proud to be strengthening that relationship with such a key member of the community."*

Bradford College is a passionate advocate of community sport and fitness. Other local sports partners include Bradford Bulls - the official partner for the Level 3 Diploma in Sport and Physical Activity, which features weekly placements for students to assist with community coaching.

Past collaborations have included hands-on experiences (such as Fashion and Textiles students restoring the "Bullboy" mascot and business students managing the Bulls' social media content) and initiatives such as the Primary and Secondary School Challenge Cup, a joint community-based project.

**[Read the full story here.](#)**