

Making waves

FIRST EDITION

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MARTA'S MESSAGE

As we come together for the first edition of the West Thames College Magazine, I am incredibly proud to reflect on what has been an extraordinary start to the college year. This issue brings together highlights from June to November, capturing just a fraction of the energy, ambition, and achievement that define West Thames College, from outstanding student successes and enriched curriculum experiences to the partnerships that connect our learners to real opportunities across West London.

Our students continue to inspire us every day. Whether they are performing on stage, excelling in national competitions, exploring exciting career pathways, or transforming their future through determination and resilience, their stories fill these pages with purpose. Their achievements remind us why our work matters and why our commitment to delivering an outstanding student experience remains unwavering.

This edition also reflects the strength of our external partnerships. From employer collaborations and industry events to community celebrations and regional recognition, our relationships across the region continue to grow. These partnerships help shape a future focused, inclusive, and vibrant learning environment where every student can thrive.

I would also like to acknowledge the dedication of our staff, whose passion and expertise drive the success highlighted

throughout these pages. Together, we are creating a college that is ambitious, connected, and deeply rooted in its community.

I hope you enjoy exploring this first edition, a celebration of our students, our staff, and our shared journey. Thank you for being part of West Thames College. I look forward to an exciting year ahead as we continue to build opportunities, raising aspirations, and shape futures together.

Start Here Go Far.

Marta Gajewska
CEO & Principal



WEST THAMES COLLEGE WELCOMES MARTA GAJEWSKA AS NEW CEO & PRINCIPAL

West Thames College has entered an exciting new chapter as Marta Gajewska steps into the role of CEO and Principal, following the retirement of long-serving leader Tracy Aust at the end of the 2025 academic year.

Marta Gajewska, a passionate further education leader with over 20 years of experience, brings a clear and ambitious vision rooted in student success, inclusive learning, and skills development. Her focus is on ensuring all learners are well prepared for their next steps – in education, employment, and life – through high-quality, responsive, and future focused education that reflects the diversity of the community and meets the needs of the local economy.

Having already played a key role in shaping the College's strategic direction, she now leads one of London's top-performing colleges – ranked number one in the capital for student achievement three years running and awarded an Outstanding Ofsted rating, with a strong contribution to meeting skills needs, in December 2024.

Marta said: *"We are incredibly proud to have been ranked number one in London for student achievement for three years in a row, and to be recognised as Outstanding by Ofsted. These achievements reflect the dedication of our staff, the ambition of our students, and the strength of our partnerships with employers and stakeholders. Our commitment to excellence – our journey beyond Outstanding – continues. We will keep raising the bar to ensure every student receives the education, support, and opportunities they need to thrive, developing the agility, confidence, and skills to succeed in a rapidly changing world and highly competitive job market."*

Marta brings a forward-thinking, inclusive leadership approach shaped by over two decades in further education. West Thames College already works closely with major employers and stakeholders – including **Heathrow, British Airways, Buckingham Palace, Curo Construction, and Brentford FC** – to equip students with the broad, adaptable skill sets they need to flourish. Marta is committed to strengthening these partnerships further, ensuring students develop the confidence, independence, and future proof skills to thrive in life, further study, and a dynamic, evolving job market.

She added: *"West Thames College is a place where every student, every member of staff, every partner and employer matters. I believe in creating an inclusive, welcoming environment where learners can build confidence, grow in independence, and realise their potential. I genuinely care about students' experience, their journey, and their future."*

Marta takes the reins from Tracy Aust, who retires after 27 years of service to the College, having led it as Principal and CEO since 2016. Under Tracy's leadership, the College strengthened its financial position, deepened community partnerships, and set a clear trajectory of improvement, culminating in the recent Outstanding Ofsted result.

Reflecting on her final year, Tracy said: *"This achievement means so much to me personally as CEO and Principal. We've been on a journey to Outstanding, and it's not the Ofsted Outstanding that means the most to me – it's the fact that we are able to provide an Outstanding Student Experience for each and every student who walks through our doors. That has always been my personal goal and what has driven me to do the role I do in a sector which genuinely transforms lives, with the College being an anchor institution serving our community."*

As the baton passes from one dedicated leader to another, West Thames College stands poised to build on its exceptional foundation and continue delivering transformational education to the communities it serves.

“

We are incredibly proud to have been ranked number one in London for student achievement for three years in a row, and to be recognised as Outstanding by Ofsted.

”



SHINING BRIGHT: STUDENT EXCELLENCE HONoured AT 2025 FE AWARDS

In June, West Thames College hosted its annual Further Education Student Awards, a vibrant evening celebrating the resilience, creativity, and excellence of its students across all subject areas. Held at the College's Isleworth campus and attended by students, families, staff, sponsors, and dignitaries, the event was a powerful tribute to personal and academic achievement.

This is a celebration of brilliance, creativity, and the boundless potential of our student community

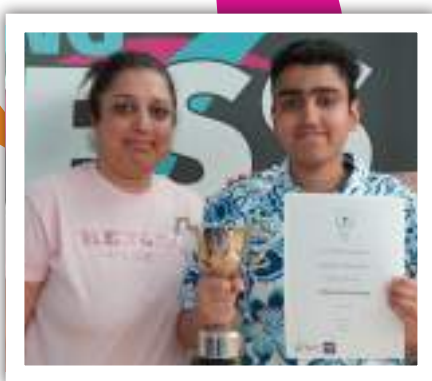


The former CEO and Principal, Tracy Aust, said: *"This is a celebration of brilliance, creativity, and the boundless potential of our student community,"* as she welcomed guests and set the tone for the evening. *"These awards are a testament to the talent, dedication, and drive that define the next generation of leaders."*

The evening was attended by a number of special guests and dignitaries, including the Mayor of the London Borough of Hounslow, **Councillor Amy Croft**, the Leader of the London Borough of Hounslow, **Councillor Shantanu Rajawat**, Cabinet Member for Education, Children, Skills and Employment, **Councillor Samia Chaudhary**, the Labour MP for Brentford & Isleworth and Chair of the UK Parliament's Transport Select Committee **Ruth Cadbury**, the Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London, **Randeep Singh Lall**, a former student **Jai Harji** alongside **Carl Lomas** of the Institute of Couriers with our Logistics Employer Board members and our long-standing partners at Ambitious about Autism, West London Chamber and Hounslow Local Authority. Their presence, along with representatives from local and national organisations, reflected the strong community partnerships that continue to support and celebrate the achievements of our students.

The event was made possible with the generous support of our event sponsors. This year, **Ascentis** was our headline sponsor, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. A leading educational charity and awarding organisation, Ascentis offers a wide-ranging portfolio of qualifications from Access to HE and community interpreting to digital skills, construction, ESOL, and employability, helping learners to progress in education, employment, and beyond.

Over 40 awards were presented throughout the evening, spanning departments such as creative arts, health and care, STEM, vocational trades, ESOL, business, and apprenticeships. Notable winners included **Rain Elson** (Contribution to the College Award), **Harman Bhardwaj** (Determination Award), and **Abdelhadi Harchich** (Outstanding Academic Achievement Award).



The awards given by sponsors were:

Art & Design:

Rain Elson

Sponsor: This is Jelly

Dance, Performing Arts & Makeup:

Romaniia Buchii

Sponsor: St Mary's University

Media & Music:

Amelia Kilgallon-Sheppard

Sponsor: Andrew Ward

Beauty Therapy & Hairdressing:

Zofia Orczyk

Sponsor: Milkshake

Beauty Therapy (Adults):

Zineb Taileb

Sponsor: Eve Taylor

Supported Learning Student of the Year:

Harman Bhardwaj

Sponsor: Curo Construction

Science:

Bailey Elliman

Sponsor: NHS

Health & Care:

Muskaan Babwani

Sponsor: Young Hounslow RSE

Business:

Dmytro Horlov

Sponsor: Hounslow Highways

Computing & ICT:

Abdelhadi Harchich

Sponsor: Ajar Technology

Sport & Uniformed Public Services:

Jeorge Lock

Sponsor: The Army

Travel, Tourism & Aviation:

Mimasa Bala

Sponsor: Radisson Hotel

Partnerships (Adult):

Razia Saffi

Sponsor: Mindful Education

ESOL (Adults):

Tahmeena Hameed Baha

Sponsor: Ascentis

14-16:

Kateryna Venher

Sponsor: West London Chambers

ESOL Threshold:

Artin Amini

Sponsor: Ascentis

English & Maths:

Rashmi Ojha

Sponsor: Sam's Waterside

Construction & Building Trades:

Zoe Fuller

Sponsor: Curo Construction

Logistics:

Josh Gill

Sponsor: TVS Supply Chain Solutions

Electrical & Motor Vehicle:

Louis Brown

Sponsor: Curo Construction

Student Experience Award (Individual):

Dennis-Gabriele Mihaila,

Sponsor: The Berkeley Group

Student Experience Award (Group):

West Thames College

Football Team

Sponsor: Curo Construction

Adult Learner of the Year (Ernest Harrison Award):

Niranjan Singh Kapoor

Sponsor: Ernest Harrison Memorial Fund

Apprentice of the Year:

Kinan Patel

Sponsor: Morgan Hunt

The Determination Award:

Harman Bhardwaj,

Sponsor: BlueCube

The Contribution to the College Award:

Rain Elson,

Sponsor: BlueCube

The Outstanding Academic Achievement Award:

Abdelhadi Harchich,

Sponsor: BlueCube



This year's ceremony held even greater significance as it marked the final awards event for then CEO and Principal, **Tracy Aust**, who retired at the end of the 2025 academic year after 27 years of service.

She also proudly highlighted that this year had been a particularly special year for the College, and one which reflects the dedication, resilience, and brilliance of the entire College community. **In December 2024, West Thames was graded Outstanding by Ofsted, which is the highest possible judgement.**

Sponsor Acknowledgement

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Headline Sponsor, Ascentis for their support of this year's FE Awards.



We would also like to offer a special thank you to Blue Cube, who generously provided three pairs of British Airways European return flights for our award-winning students, and to Curo Construction, whose continued partnership and contribution throughout the year remains invaluable.



CONGRATULATIONS HIGHER EDUCATION GRADUATES

June was nothing short of extraordinary as we celebrated our outstanding Higher National Certificate and Higher National Diploma graduates at West Thames College's 2025 Higher Education Graduation Ceremony.

You should be immensely proud of yourselves, just as we are, and we wish you all the best in your future careers

The event, hosted by **Vice Principal Katrin Lehmann** and **College Governor Bruce Armstrong**, was a heartwarming tribute to our students' dedication and perseverance.

Katrin opened the evening by reaffirming the college's commitment to delivering top-tier courses taught by industry professionals, utilising state-of-the-art equipment in excellent surroundings. She emphasised the personalised support each student receives.

"At West Thames College, we know that high-quality courses combined with tailored support empower every student to achieve their full potential," she said.

Our graduates proudly received their certificates from their tutors, met with resounding applause from friends and family.

Bruce Armstrong paid tribute to their collective efforts.



"You should be immensely proud of yourselves, just as we are, and we wish you all the best in your future careers," he remarked.

The evening was filled with joy, pride, and reflection, as students and staff alike looked back on the dedication and effort it took to reach this point. Whether our graduates choose to continue studying, enter the workforce, or start their own ventures, we are confident that they leave us equipped with the skills and confidence to succeed.

As we look back on last night, we are reminded of the strength, determination, and hard work that brought our students to this pivotal milestone. We are immensely proud of all they have achieved, and cannot wait to see the bright futures they will shape.

Congratulations to the class of 2025! Your journey is only beginning, and we're excited to support you every step of the way.



DFN PROJECT SEARCH CLASS OF 2025 CELEBRATES GRADUATION DURING LEARNING DISABILITY WEEK

Students from West Thames College's DFN Project SEARCH class of 2025 marked a significant milestone during Learning Disability Week by celebrating their graduation after completing a year of internships with local organisations. The event was a joyful occasion, highlighting not only the students' hard work, but also their personal growth, resilience, and determination throughout the programme.



Project SEARCH is designed to support young people with learning disabilities in their transition from education to employment. Over the course of the year, students gained valuable work experience in a variety of professional settings, developing essential skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving. The programme places a strong emphasis on real-world learning, giving students the confidence and practical knowledge needed to succeed in the workplace.

The graduation ceremony celebrated the achievements of all students, with heartfelt recognition of their individual journeys. Staff, families, and local partners came together to applaud the dedication and progress of each participant. The success of the programme was further underscored by the fact that two students already had secured full-time employment, demonstrating the tangible impact of Project SEARCH in opening pathways to meaningful careers.



GCSE RESULTS 2025

CELEBRATING COLLECTIVE ACHIEVEMENT ON RESULTS DAY

GCSE Results Day is always a special moment, and this year, West Thames College has plenty to celebrate. Our students' achievements reflect not only their hard work but also the dedication and professionalism of staff across the College. The results highlight the impact of our revised Maths and English strategy, and place us firmly ahead of the wider FE sector.

In Maths, 32.7% of resit students aiming for a high-grade target achieved a grade 4–9, compared with a sector average of just 15.3%. Across all students, 87 achieved high grades, including one exceptional grade 9 and two grade 7s. Overall, 48% of students achieved or exceeded their target grade.

English outcomes were equally impressive. Thirty percent of resit students with high-grade targets achieved a grade 4–9, outperforming the sector average of 19.7%. An additional 44 students achieved high grades for the first time or after previous low grades, with three achieving a grade 7. Overall, 46% of students met or exceeded their target grade.



STUDENT VOICES: JOURNEYS TO SUCCESS

Bhavleen: Cyber Security Dreams Incoming

Bhavleen passed both her ICT Diploma and Maths GCSE. Reflecting on her journey, she said: *“It took me a lot of effort, but all that revising really made it possible.”* She also gave credit to her revision classmate, proving teamwork really does make the dream work. Next stop? University, where she will begin her journey into Cyber Security.

Strong results in Maths and English open doors for students—whether that’s moving on to higher-level study, progressing to university, securing apprenticeships, or entering the workforce.

Marta Gajewska, CEO & Principal, emphasised the importance of these skills:

“A pass in GCSE English and Maths gives our students the confidence and ability to engage fully in society, manage their finances, and navigate opportunities and challenges in adult life.”

Marta also celebrated the personal achievements behind the numbers:

“Many of our students have faced setbacks, some multiple times, yet they didn’t give up. They confronted low self-esteem, anxiety, and external barriers, and still found the courage to keep striving for success. Their

perseverance is inspiring, and I am in awe of the strength they have shown in achieving these results.”

These outcomes are the result of teamwork across the College. Marta paid tribute to staff who supported exams, invigilated, improved attendance, and encouraged learners throughout the year:

“Our English and Maths teachers and managers have shown expertise, determination, and unwavering support, helping our students to achieve these outcomes. This year’s results are a shared success, demonstrating what we can achieve when we work together to give every learner the opportunity to succeed and progress with confidence.”

GCSE Results 2025 remind us that success is never just individual, it’s a collective achievement, built on resilience, support, and collaboration.

STUDENT VOICES: JOURNEYS TO SUCCESS

Tajindar: Determination + Support = Success

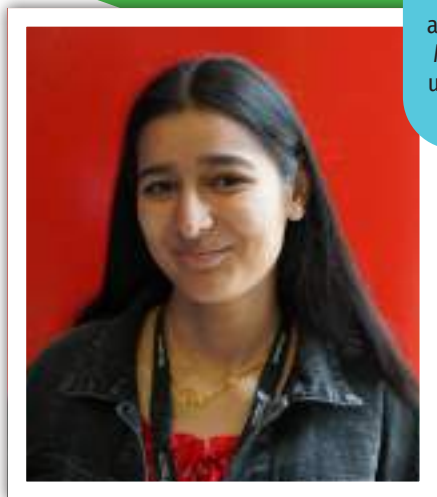
Tajindar excelled in English, Maths, and Business GCSEs. She was especially proud of her English result: *“It was three times higher than before — I didn’t think I could do it!”* Her next step is a Level 4 apprenticeship with Heathrow Airport. She also gave heartfelt thanks to God, her parents, and her teachers for guiding her along the way.



STUDENT VOICES: JOURNEYS TO SUCCESS

Parvesh: Ready for Take-Off

Parvesh passed her Maths GCSE and English Functional Skills. Sharing her approach to success, she said: *"I practised revision papers, even late at night. They helped me so much."* Parvesh is now preparing for her English GCSE while moving up to Level 3 Aviation Operations, with her sights set on becoming cabin crew. She also thanked her friends for keeping her motivated throughout her journey.



In August, students across the country opened their envelopes on GCSE results day and at West Thames College, there was plenty to celebrate. For many, these results are more than just grades; they are stepping stones to new opportunities, future careers, and lifelong ambitions.

GCSEs and Functional Skills courses provide students with vital skills in Maths, English, and ICT, while vocational programmes like Aviation Operations and Business pave the way to exciting industries. These achievements reflect not only the hard work of our learners, but also the support of teachers, peers, and families who helped them along the way.

This year, four remarkable students shared their journeys with us, each one proof that determination and resilience can lead to success.

STUDENT VOICES:
JOURNEYS TO SUCCESS

Abdullah: The Power of Revision

Abdullah celebrated a well-earned pass in Maths. His biggest lesson?

"Revision is the number one thing." Now planning to continue his education at college, with the possibility of working alongside his studies, Abdullah has shown that dedication brings results.



A pass in GCSE English and Maths gives our students the confidence and ability to engage fully in society, manage their finances, and navigate opportunities and challenges in adult life.



Looking Ahead

From Maths passes to ICT diplomas and apprenticeships with leading employers, these success stories highlight the many pathways open to West Thames College students. Each journey reflects the same lesson: with resilience, teamwork, and support, the sky's the limit.

T LEVEL RESULTS DAY

STUDENT VOICES AT WEST THAMES COLLEGE



On 14 August, West Thames College proudly celebrated **T Level Results Day**, the culmination of hard work, dedication and ambition from our students.

T Levels are an exciting new qualification, equivalent to three A Levels, that blend classroom learning with extended industry placements. Designed with employers, they prepare students for skilled employment, apprenticeships, or higher education. At West Thames College, we offer T Levels in areas such as Health and Care, Digital, and Education, equipping learners with the practical experience and confidence needed to take their next step.

This year, we're spotlighting the journeys of three of our Health and Care students who have achieved incredible success and are now moving forward to the next stage of their education and careers.

Abrish: Guided Every Step of the Way

For **Abrish**, the support of her teachers has been central to her success:

"They always helped us find a better way to do things – never telling us off, just guiding us."

Her pathway has been one of steady progression. Having started with Level 1, she has now completed Level 2 and will begin Level 3 in September. After that, her goal is to secure a four-year apprenticeship in health and care.

"I think the T Level has been great because it's so detailed. My plan after Level 3 is an apprenticeship for the next four years."



Feysal's T Level Journey

Scan the QR code to hear Feysal's journey from the classroom to real-world digital skills. He is currently studying T Level Digital Production, Design and Development.





Aakriti: Building a Future in Nursing

Aakriti has just completed her Health and Care T Level and is preparing to move on to Level 3 before university, where she aims to study nursing.

Having recently moved to the UK, she initially faced challenges adjusting to a new environment. She credits her teachers and peers with helping her thrive:

“The teachers and my friends helped me so much — listening in class really made the difference.”

She’s also grateful to the people who supported her most:

“Natasha, Carolyn, and Abrish. Abrish made me feel welcome, and Caroline and Natasha helped with my assignments and everything to do with college.”

Aakriti’s resilience and determination are a testament to the opportunities T Levels provide for students from all backgrounds.



Muskaan: Advice for the Next Generation

Completing her Health and Social Care T Level, **Muskaan** is now progressing to Level 3 with her sights set on becoming a nurse. Alongside celebrating her achievement, she also offered some valuable advice for future students:

“Attendance is key, you’ll miss important points if you’re not there.”

She added that good communication is essential for success:

“Communication is really important. Talk to classmates and teachers to avoid misunderstandings and get help when needed.”

Muskaan’s thoughtful insights are a reminder that success is built not only on hard work, but also on active engagement and collaboration.

Looking Ahead

The stories of Abrish, Aakriti, and Muskaan highlight the power of T Levels to create pathways to university, apprenticeships, and employment. With the combination of academic study, industry placements, and strong support from staff, our students are well prepared for the future.

At West Thames College, T Levels aren’t just about qualifications, they’re about building confidence, resilience, and careers.

RECOGNISING **NEXT GENERATION TALENT** AT THE 2025 NATIONAL COURIER AWARDS

Marta joined leading figures from across the logistics and delivery industry at the **2025 National Courier Awards**, a prestigious event hosted by the **Institute of Couriers** at the City of London Livery Hall.



The gala evening marked the 29th year of the awards, recognising outstanding achievements across the express delivery and courier sector, from innovation and safety to sustainability and long service. With record attendance and representation from major national and regional courier companies, the event celebrated the individuals and teams driving excellence in final mile delivery.

Marta took to the stage alongside **Seema Malhotra MP** to present the first awards of the evening. The Express Delivery Level 2 Award went to **Private Freestone-Shaw of the Royal Logistic Corps**, the Express Sortation Level 2 Award was presented to **Amber Pickard** of Whistl, and the HGV Apprentice Award was given to **Matthew Crane** and **Rashid Choudary**.

Her involvement highlighted West Thames College's commitment to skills development and vocational excellence, reflecting the college's close partnership with employers and dedication to preparing students for high-demand sectors like logistics and transport.

Carl Lomas MBE, Chairman, Institute of Couriers described the Awards as a milestone in the sector's story – a true fanfare of excellence where every applause echoed the dedication, innovation, and heart that drives final mile delivery across the UK. From apprentices to veterans, SMEs to national brands, this year's celebration proved that the courier community stands united as the essential network keeping our nation moving.



WEST LONDON CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE BUSINESS AWARDS

In November, the West London Chambers of Commerce held their annual Business Awards with a black-tie gala dinner at the Novotel London West, gathering businesses, entrepreneurs and community leaders from across Hounslow, Ealing and Hammersmith & Fulham.

This year's awards featured 19 categories, celebrating everything from "Apprentice Employer of the Year" and "Best Business for Health & Wellbeing" to "Creative Business of the Year," "Best Tech Business," and "Diversity and Inclusion Award," reflecting the rich diversity of local industry and enterprise.

As headline sponsor, West Thames College was proud to support the Awards, underlining our commitment to bridging education, skills training and the regional business community. The College's support helps foster stronger collaborations between employers, potential apprentices and trainees across West London.

For students and employers alike, the Business Awards offer more than recognition. They spotlight opportunities for growth, partnerships, and career pathways. As we continue to engage with the Chamber and its network, West Thames remains dedicated to connecting learners with local businesses, apprenticeships and vocational opportunities.

Congratulations to all the winners and finalists of the 2025 Awards, and thank you to the West London Chambers for bringing together the best of our region's enterprise, innovation and community spirit.



NEW INDEPENDENCE HUB LAUNCHED FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

West Thames College, in a partnership with the London Borough of Hounslow, is proud to announce the launch of its brand-new Independence Hub in October at its Isleworth campus.

“
At West Thames College,
we believe that every
young person deserves the
opportunity to thrive, no
matter their starting point
”

The Independence Hub has been designed to support young people with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities (PMLD) and Severe Learning Disabilities (SLD), offering a tailored, person-centred approach that empowers students to achieve greater independence and prepares them for adulthood.

The vision of the Hub is rooted in creating meaningful, engaging, and highly individualised learning experiences that celebrate each student's unique abilities. The curriculum is structured around the Preparing for Adulthood (PFA) outcomes – Education, Independence, Community Participation, and Health – ensuring every young person is equipped with essential life skills, confidence, and opportunities for progression.

Marta stated: “At West Thames College, we believe that every young person deserves the opportunity to thrive, no matter their starting point. We are proud to serve our community and to work in partnership with the London Borough of Hounslow to transform opportunities for young people with the most complex needs.”

Curriculum Quality and Training Manager in Supported Learning, **Jane Pendrey**, added: “Over the years I've seen the difference it makes when young people with learning disabilities are given the right support at the right time. The Independence Hub is about creating those moments every day – whether that's making a meal, gaining work experience, or simply feeling safe and understood. These are the stepping stones to independence, and I'm thrilled to see this vision become a reality.”

Activities include developing independent living skills such as cooking and housekeeping in the purpose-built flat, gaining work-related experience in the College's on-site shop (in partnership with Tesco) and charity shop, and participating in creative, physical, and therapeutic programmes to support communication, interaction, and wellbeing.



Hounslow Council's
Steven Forbes and Mandy Skinner



**London Borough
of Hounslow**



The Hub also benefits from state-of-the-art facilities including sensory rooms, accessible outdoor spaces, immersive learning environments, and dedicated support from highly trained staff, including speech and language therapists and occupational therapists.

Councillor Samia Chaudhary, Cabinet Member for Education, Children, Skills, and Employment at Hounslow Council added: *“The development of independence hubs, beginning with this exciting partnership with West Thames College, is further evidence of a SEND improvement journey that’s gathering pace. Through effective collaboration we’re creating new provision within the borough to support young people to develop the skills to live full and fulfilling lives.”*

West Thames College’s commitment to excellence was reaffirmed in December 2024, when the College was graded ‘Outstanding’ for its provision for High Needs Students. The Independence Hub builds on this success, ensuring students have every opportunity to thrive in an inclusive, supportive, and nurturing environment.

The joint partnership between West Thames College and the **London Borough of Hounslow** also ensures that the Hub is closely connected to the local community. Both partners work in collaboration with families and external agencies to support smooth transitions into and beyond college, whether that means progressing into supported living, employment, or community-based activities.

Marta concluded: *“The Independence Hub embodies our shared commitment to inclusion, equality, dignity, and respect – providing a safe and nurturing environment where every learner is supported to build confidence, develop independence, and experience success in ways that are meaningful to them. Together, we are helping families and the wider community access the high-quality education, expertise, and opportunities that make a lasting difference to people’s lives.”*



West Thames College’s CEO and Principal,
Marta Gajewska

Cabinet Member for
Education, Children, Skills,
and Employment, Councillor
Samia Chaudhary

Join Us

Families interested in learning more about The Independence Hub are warmly invited to get in touch or arrange a visit.

Contact Information:

The Independence Hub
Supported Learning
West Thames College
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Isleworth
TW7 4HS

T: 020 8326 6492

E: Parmeen.sarda@west-thames.ac.uk

THE GREEN TRAVEL PLAN

NEW EV CHARGING POINTS NOW AVAILABLE AT BOTH SITES

As part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability and supporting low-emission travel, we are pleased to announce the installation of new electric vehicle (EV) charging points at both our Isleworth and Feltham campuses. This initiative is in line with our **Green Travel Plan**, which promotes more sustainable travel choices and supports our wider environmental goals.



Isleworth Campus - Harvard Road Entrance: Eight EV charging bays are now operational in the College car park (turn left upon entry from Harvard Road). These are available to staff, and visitors on a first-come, first-served basis.

Feltham Campus – Skills+Logistics Centre: Two EV charging bays are now available in the car park at the rear of the Skills & Logistics Centre. Due to location constraints, these are currently available only to college staff.



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION! NEW EQUIPMENT IS THE STAR OF THE SHOW

Our Level 3 Media students are now working with industry-standard, broadcast-quality equipment, including Blackmagic cameras, professional switching desks, lighting and audio boards, studio monitors, and more!

This cutting-edge kit is giving our students the chance to develop real production skills, build standout portfolios, and gain the confidence to step into media and film careers.

We caught up with **Paul Muhammad**, Lecturer in Media, who shared his insight on how this equipment is transforming learning in the studio and preparing students for the fast-paced world of media and TV production. We also spoke to some of our First-Year students, who shared how this equipment is already transforming their projects, boosting their creativity, and opening doors to exciting careers in film, TV, and media.

Scan the QR code to watch the full interview.



STUDENT EXPERIENCE

COLLEGE EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Our students are at the heart of college life, bringing energy, creativity, and community spirit to everything they do. From cultural celebrations and charity events to wellbeing initiatives and lunchtime sessions, Student Experiences at Isleworth and Feltham are vibrant, inclusive, and full of opportunities to learn, connect, and make a difference. Here are just a few events that have taken place over the last couple of months.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Our amazing students on the Functional Skills and GCSE English courses at Feltham, came together to host a delightful Coffee Morning. Everyone came to show their support, donations were generous, and the atmosphere was one of community and compassion.

Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas Celebration

Congratulations to **Thinuja**, a talented student from the SLDD department, she has won this year's Diwali Art Competition! A big thank you to **Shazia Khan**, Thinuja's tutor, for supporting her and encouraging artistic expression within the group.

Black History Month Celebration

The carnival-themed event featured lively steel pan music, soca beats spun by a DJ, and energetic dancers, creating an unforgettable atmosphere. Many shared how much they loved the vibe, saying it "brought the whole college together." Some students even said, "This has been the best day at college."

Remembrance Sunday

The college community came together to observe the national two-minute silence for Remembrance Day. Staff and students paused across all campuses to reflect and honour those who have served and sacrificed in conflicts past and present.

Thrilling 3-1 Triumph!

Our opening Tactics League clash against Bedfont Sports FC was electric! A brilliant 3-1 victory, thanks to an outstanding team effort. Huge congratulations to all our players for such a fantastic performance on the pitch!

Men's Mental Health Awareness

We are also pleased to partner with MIND, who will now be offering monthly drop-in support at both campuses. This new collaboration focuses on supporting the physical and mental wellbeing of our male students, encouraging open conversations and access to professional guidance.

All-girls Tuesday Lunchtime Sessions

We've launched an all-girls Tuesday lunchtime session, welcoming over 25 students to the first session, with numbers continuing to grow each week. These sessions are important to promote inclusivity and support, provide safe spaces for students, and demonstrate the college's commitment to wellbeing, social connection, and personal development.

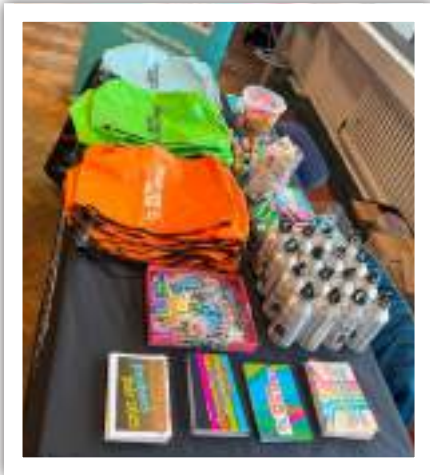
Freshers Fair Fun at Isleworth and Feltham

This year's Freshers Fair was packed with energy, great agency engagement, and fantastic support for our ESOL adults from Hounslow Council. Our Marketing Team's social media competition was a huge hit too, adding extra buzz to the event!

Raising Smiles and Funds for Cancer Research UK

The Student Experience team hosted a charity sale packed with badges, keyrings, cakes, and more, all in support of Cancer Research UK (Early Detection). Thanks to the generosity of students and staff, an amazing £111.61 was raised. Staff and students also took part in Wear Pink to help raise awareness.





BRIGHT FUTURES AT WEST THAMES COLLEGE: RUTH CADBURY MP HIGHLIGHTS LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Ruth Cadbury, Labour MP for Brentford & Isleworth, has spoken warmly about the opportunities available for young people in west London, praising West Thames College for the vital role it plays in preparing students for exciting careers.

“When I visited West Thames College, I heard how the skills that young people were learning, such as hairdressing and make-up design, are enabling them to go and work in theatres in the West End,” she said. “It’s wonderful to see students gaining practical experience that connects directly to industries on our doorstep.”

Earlier this year, the government announced an additional £1 million investment in capital works at West Thames College, which Ruth welcomed as a significant boost for local students. *“This will make a huge difference locally and shows the commitment towards giving young people the best start in life,”* she explained.

West London is home to thriving sectors such as media, tech, film, logistics, and aviation. Ruth highlighted how the College, alongside local employers, helps ensure that students are ready to step into these industries with confidence and skills. *“We are lucky in West London to have so many job opportunities,”* she said. *“West Thames College plays a key role in equipping students to succeed in them.”*

Ruth also underlined the importance of investing in teaching staff to ensure young people receive the best possible education. She welcomed initiatives to improve teacher retention in colleges, which will further strengthen the support available for students.



It’s wonderful to see students gaining practical experience that connects directly to industries on our doorstep



Reflecting on her ten years as an MP, Ruth emphasised her continued commitment to linking local employers with schools and colleges. *“I have been actively involved in bringing together local employers with college and school leaders to ensure that our young people can see and access local opportunities, and I will continue to do so.”*

For students, parents, and future learners, Ruth’s comments highlight the exciting path ahead: a well-supported College, strong local investment, and a community working together to create bright futures.



CELEBRATING WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AT THE **LADY MAYOR'S SHOW** IN LONDON

Marta took part in this year's Lady Mayor's Show, joining the Institute of Couriers (IOC) VIP group for a vibrant celebration of women and diversity in leadership.



The IOC delegation was led by CEO **Dr Tracey Worth** and included prominent female figures from across business, education, logistics, policing and public service. Among them were Traffic Commissioner **Sarah Bell**, Superintendent **Lisa Maslen**, Professor **Stacey Clemes**, West London Chamber CEO **Sally Smith**, and our very own **Marta Gajewska**.

"It was a vibrant and exciting experience to take part in this year's Lady Mayor's Show alongside the Institute of Couriers," said Marta.

The delegation shone a spotlight on the logistics profession, highlighting its contribution both nationally and within local communities. Marta emphasised the importance of strengthening logistics skills and career pathways through education. West Thames College delivers a growing range of courses and apprenticeships in logistics and leads the development of the Logistics Skills Hub.

Marta felt proud to be representing the logistics education sector saying:

"The logistics sector is a cornerstone of the West London economy, in Hounslow, one in five jobs are in the transport and storage sector, making it the borough's number one employer. We are committed to working with employers and partners to inspire and train the next generation of logistics professionals who will continue to drive innovation and excellence in this essential industry."

The event marked the investiture of **Dame Susan Langley DBE** as the 697th, and first ever titled — Lady Mayor of London. It stood as a powerful celebration of women and diversity in leadership. With inspirational female leaders at the forefront of the procession, the event showcased the strength, talent and impact of women across industries.

It was a vibrant and exciting experience to take part in this year's Lady Mayor's Show alongside the Institute of Couriers

LEADING THE WAY IN WEST LONDON'S LOGISTICS FUTURE



West Thames College is playing a central role in shaping the future workforce for one of West London's fastest-growing sectors: logistics. This was made clear at the recent Opportunity Hounslow Conference, held at the University of West London, where education and industry leaders came together with MPs to celebrate the Golden Mile's centenary and look ahead to the next 100 years of growth.

Speaking at the event, Marta underlined the importance of the College's work in preparing students for careers in logistics. "Logistics is the largest sector in West London employment," she said. "People see the sector but often miss the value. We must build a talent pipeline for logistics."

That pipeline is already being created at West Thames College. The College delivers apprenticeships for leading courier and express delivery brands, giving students the opportunity to gain real-world experience in a sector that is vital to how our communities and businesses function every day.

Carl Lomas, Chair of the Institute of Couriers, praised the role of educators in this transformation: "The Golden Mile of the A4 is the artery of West London into the capital. The veins that run into Hounslow provide the people that make logistics happen, and educators including UWL and West Thames College give those people the skills to make that logistics work."

With logistics facing exciting changes—from new technology to the rise of clean air vehicles and collaborative delivery solutions—skills and training are more important than ever. West Thames College

is equipping students not just for today's jobs, but for the next generation of roles in this dynamic sector.

For students, parents, and prospective learners, the message is clear: West Thames College is at the heart of West London's logistics growth, providing the skills, training, and opportunities that will keep our region moving for decades to come.



EALING FESTIVAL OF BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT ON OPPORTUNITY WITH WEST THAMES COLLEGE

In October, the West London Chambers held their annual Ealing Festival of Business at the University of West London. With more than 300 visitors attending and 45 stands exhibiting, the event offered a lively platform for West London's business community, and among those stands was the Apprenticeship & Careers Team from West Thames College.

For West Thames College, the festival represented a valuable opportunity to highlight the vocational and apprenticeship pathways available within the local area, connecting prospective students, apprentices and employers under one roof. As part of a growing network of local businesses, college staff engaged with attendees and local SMEs, raising awareness of how the College supports career development and skills training.

This follows the success of the recent West London Festival of Business earlier this year, which welcomed some 450 visitors to the College's stand. Through such events, West Thames continues to build meaningful relationships with local employers and expand apprenticeship opportunities.

The Festival of Business continues to play a vital role in showcasing West London's diverse business ecosystem. By bringing together entrepreneurs, start-ups, employers, training providers and individuals seeking career or training opportunities, the event fosters collaboration, growth, and brighter futures across the borough.



WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EMPLOYERS

These collaborations demonstrate West Thames College's strong links with leading employers and our ongoing commitment to preparing students with the **knowledge, skills, and industry connections** needed for successful careers in construction and engineering.

Highway Agency Outdoor Event - Feltham

Hard hats on, skills switched up, students gather to gain hands-on experience at an enrichment live event, delivered in collaboration with industry experts, **Hounslow Highways**. Students took part in precision road bricklaying, road sign placement for repairs, health and safety best practice, underground cable detection & surveying and specialist electrical skills workshop. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to apply technical skills, develop industry knowledge, and connect directly with sector professionals.



Bouygues taking the lead on Health and Safety.

Hosted by **Bouygues** this year's Equans Data Centre Health & Safety event at Data Hall Stockley Park. It focused on teaching students the importance of using appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and tools on site. The initiative supports both companies' shared commitment to achieving the highest Health & Safety standards across all areas of their business operations.

For their second event **Bouygues** delivered a Health & Safety workshop and industry introduction to our Carpentry, Electrical, and Multiskill students. "It was a really engaging session, and the students gained valuable insight into safe working practices in the construction industry," said **Amar Singh**, Employability Coach.



Inspiring the Next Generation of Electricians

SSE Electrical Solutions delivered a delightful workshop for our students at the skill centre. It was an engaging and informative session that gave students valuable insight into safe working practices within the electrical industry and the apprenticeship opportunities available. A highlight of the session was hearing from one of SSE's current apprentices, who shared his inspiring journey and experience of training within the industry.



Behind the Scenes at the Worlds Business Airport

We were thrilled to welcome **Vijay Kapur**, Baggage Operations Manager and **Siobhan Ridout**, Security Manager, for a behind the scenes talk about working at one of the world's busiest airports, **Heathrow**. Vijay described how his team works 365 days a year, managing baggage and logistics, ensuring every suitcase reaches the right plane, day or night, rain or shine. Siobhan explained the critical duty of airport security: supervising staff, monitoring security procedures, screening passengers and baggage, and maintaining compliance with strict safety and regulatory standards to keep travellers and colleagues safe. Their visit gave our Aviation students a real glimpse into the precision, responsibility and collaborative effort required behind every flight.



Flying High with the BA Crew

Our Aviation students recently enjoyed a visit from **Diane Lewis**, **British Airways** Cabin Crew Manager, who gave a brilliant insight into life at 35,000 feet, from the excitement and global reach of a BA cabin crew career, to the realities of delivering top service and ensuring passenger safety on both long haul and short haul flights. Diane helped our students understand the teamwork, dedication and professionalism required behind every flight. For students studying on our Level 2 Travel with Cabin Crew pathway, the talk offered a real world connection between their coursework and a future in aviation. It was a fantastic opportunity to bridge classroom learning with industry, inspiring some very motivated next generation aviation professionals.



Stepping Into Service – British Army Inspires Our Students

Our Uniformed Public Services students welcomed **Sergeant Andrew Miller** from the **British Army**, an inspiring visit that brought military life and values to life.

Sergeant Miller shared first hand insights into the mindset, discipline and teamwork needed for a career in the uniformed public services. Our students left motivated, informed, and excited. The visit was a great opportunity to connect classroom learning and future possibilities.



GET INVOLVED: PARTNER WITH WEST THAMES COLLEGE

At West Thames College, our partnerships with employers sit at the heart of how we prepare students for the future. Every collaboration, from a one-hour workshop to a long-term strategic relationship, brings learning to life, builds confidence, and creates direct pathways into employment. Together, we help young people develop the skills, behaviours, and ambition they need to thrive in an evolving job market, while supporting employers to grow a diverse and work-ready talent pipeline.

We are proud to work with a wide network of local and national organisations across sectors including health, construction, logistics, digital, media, aviation, and public services. By sharing real-world insight, shaping curriculum content, or offering hands-on opportunities, our partners play an essential role in developing the future workforce.

To explore the full range of ways your organisation can get involved, from mentoring and master classes to work experience, Advisory Boards, apprenticeships, and more, our **Employer Engagement Pack** provides a detailed overview and is available on request.

Be Part of Aspire 2026

Our flagship Aspire Careers and Skills Event on **Wednesday 4 March 2026** brings employers and students together for a day of inspiration, conversation, and opportunity. It is an ideal platform to raise your profile, meet motivated learners, and engage directly with West London's future talent.

Start Here. Go Far. Together, we can shape futures that go even further.



Get Involved

If you would like to access the Employer Engagement Pack or discuss taking part in Aspire 2026, please contact us.

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CLUEDO COMES TO LIFE ON STAGE

A few weeks ago, our talented **Level 3 Performing Arts students** took audiences on a thrilling journey with their Final Major Project. Bringing the classic murder mystery “Cluedo” to life, they transformed the stage into a world of intrigue, suspense, and unforgettable characters.

In the story, guests are invited to a mysterious mansion, only for the evening to take a dark turn when a murder is discovered. Each eccentric character, from Colonel Mustard to Miss Scarlet, becomes a suspect, and the audience is left guessing who committed the crime, with which weapon, and in which room, until the dramatic truth is finally revealed.

From striking costumes to dramatic performances, every detail captured the spirit of the game and left the audience on edge until the very end.



PERFORMING ARTS STUDENTS SHINE IN 'MACBETH'

Performing Arts students recently took to the stage for their first production of the academic year — **Macbeth**.

The performance, held in the College's very own Endeavour Theatre, showcased the students' exceptional talent, creativity, and professionalism. From powerful acting to innovative stagecraft, the production was a testament to the high-quality training and real-world experience students gain throughout their studies.

Prospective students looking to pursue a career in theatre, film, or performance can explore West Thames College's fully-accredited **University of the Arts London (UAL)** Performing Arts courses. These programmes offer hands-on learning in acting, musical theatre, and production, combining academic excellence with practical performance opportunities in professional-standard facilities.

Whether you're aspiring to perform on stage or work behind the scenes, West Thames College provides the skills, confidence, and industry connections to help you succeed in the creative arts.

ual: university
of the arts
london



WELCOMING DA VINCI COLLEGE FOR INTERNATIONAL BEAUTY THERAPY KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

The Beauty Therapy Department recently welcomed 21 guests from **Da Vinci College** in the Netherlands for a dynamic knowledge exchange visit that celebrated creativity, collaboration, and international learning.

The delegation included 17 Hairdressing and Barbering students and their four lecturers. Together, they spent the day immersed in the vibrant world of hairdressing and beauty at West Thames College, participating in a range of interactive and educational activities.

To ensure the **Da Vinci College** visitors experienced the department to its fullest, the event featured live demonstrations of advanced hairstyling techniques led by both students and tutors. Guests also took part in hands-on workshops, giving them the opportunity to try new hairstyling methods and share their own approaches.

A curriculum presentation showcased how West Thames College integrates practical skills with industry standards, followed by a Q&A session that encouraged open discussion about teaching strategies,



equipment, and the overall student experience. The day concluded with an engaging networking session, where students and staff from both colleges exchanged ideas and contact details – sparking the beginning of an exciting international connection.

“International collaboration brings so many advantages to both institutions,” said **Kate McGill**, CQTM in Hair & Beauty at West Thames College. *“For students, it’s a chance to gain new perspectives and explore global trends in their chosen field. For tutors, it’s about sharing best practices and discovering innovative teaching methods that can enhance what we do here at West Thames.”*

“The visit from Da Vinci College has helped build a bridge between the UK and the Netherlands” added Kate. *“It promotes cross-cultural understanding and professional growth. Collaborations like this inspire innovation, broaden horizons, and ultimately*

improve the quality of vocational education, preparing our students for the demands of an increasingly globalised industry.”

The enthusiasm between both groups suggests this visit is just the beginning of a long-term partnership.

“Our students have already exchanged social media details with their Dutch counterparts and are continuing to connect online,” Kate shared. *“We’re already exploring the exciting possibility of arranging a visit to the Netherlands in the near future!”*

West Thames College looks forward to strengthening its international links and continuing to provide opportunities that inspire creativity, collaboration, and global awareness among its students.

COLLEGE STUDENTS CELEBRATE NATIONAL MATHS SUCCESS

West Thames College held a special awards ceremony to celebrate the achievements of 12 maths students who won medals in the national MEI Further Education Maths Challenge.

The competition, run by Mathematics in Education and Industry (MEI), is designed for students in further education working towards GCSE maths or functional skills qualifications. It challenges learners to apply problem-solving skills while building confidence and resilience.

This is the third year West Thames College has taken part, and staff noted that student enthusiasm and determination have grown stronger each year. Following in-class activities and a tough college final, 12 students went on to represent the college in the regional stage of the challenge.

The finalists competed across three categories, each designed to reflect their current level of study. **The Funkies** included students whose highest grade was 1 or those studying functional skills at Entry Level. **The Einsteins** brought together students working at Grade 2 or functional skills Level 1. Finally, **Go Forth** was aimed at students who had achieved a high grade of 3 or were studying functional skills at Level 2.

Remarkably, all 12 students received medals, with awards ranging from gold to bronze.

Speaking at the ceremony, maths tutor Despoina Boli praised the students:

"Your medals represent far more than just the competition outcome. They symbolise your hard work, independence and belief in your own potential. We are extremely proud of what you have accomplished."



Your medals represent far more than just the competition outcome. They symbolise your hard work, independence and belief in your own potential.



MEET THE **STUDENT LEADERS** SHAPING OUR COLLEGE

A new year brings a new team of passionate student leaders dedicated to supporting, representing, and uplifting the West Thames community. The Student Union and Student Governors have officially been appointed, ready to drive positive change, boost student engagement, and ensure every learner's voice is heard. Meet the students stepping up to lead the way.

Join us in congratulating the new team and wishing them an amazing year ahead as they represent and support our student community!



Iara Jeni Santos Silva
Level 3 Public Services

Dennis-Gabriele Mihaila
Level 2 Aviation

Joshua Sanders
Level 3 Business

Student President:
Tajinder Khalsa

Vice President:
Ishmeet Kaur

Finance Officer:
Labiba Ahmed

Environmental Officer:
Dennis Mihaila

WEX Officer:
Fateh Singh Bhattia

Events & Campaigns Officer:
Enosh Jaques



Aspire Event

WEST THAMES COLLEGE

SAVE THE DATE
4TH MARCH

2026
10AM-1PM

SCAN ME



Register Today

Live Talks

Mock Interviews

Market Stall



