

MAKING waves

The termly magazine Summer 2017



aSPIRE
The West London
Career & Employment

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**You're
hired!**

Just the job
Employment success
Apprenticeships
Alumni news

Welcome to West Thames College.

Executive Director of Performance, Development and Student Experience
Graeme Baker welcomes you to the summer edition of Making Waves.

Dear Reader

Please forgive the long job title! In a nutshell, my role is to make sure all our students are safe, enjoy their time at the college and fulfil their potential. We aim to get our students into the best local jobs and this edition of Making Waves features some of our recent employment successes.

- Apprenticeship programmes are a proven route into permanent jobs and we have strong links with local employers, including Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. See how our healthcare apprentices are getting on: [page 3](#)
- A regular highlight in the college calendar is the Aspire Careers Fair, which resulted in jobs for several of our students: [page 4](#)
- Find out how the college employability programme helps prepare students to enter the workforce: [pages 6 and 11](#)
- Catch up with former students who are forging successful careers in the TV and film industry: [page 7](#)

Whatever your starting point, we will give you the support and the skills you need to get the career you want. We look forward to welcoming you to the college. In the meantime follow us on social media to stay up-to-date with life at West Thames.

Yours sincerely,
Graeme Baker



A career in care with a West Thames College apprenticeship



Under the direction of qualified nursing and midwifery staff, West Thames College apprentices are gaining invaluable experience and clinical knowledge at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital.

The apprentices are working in different departments and wards providing care, support and information to patients and their families.

"I've been looking forward to being a nurse for as long as I can remember and this is the beginning," said apprentice Florence Adeyemi-Adebawale.

The apprentices are working towards the Edexcel Level 2/3 Diploma in Health and Social Care (Dementia Pathway). When they complete the programme they will be eligible to continue in a healthcare support worker role with the option of further study.

Visit west-thames.ac.uk for vacancies.



Training for employees

Ability Housing Association provides housing, care and support services to people with learning disabilities and mental health needs who want to live more independently.

Working closely with Ability Housing, West Thames College enrolled over 50 staff on Level 2 and Level 3 apprenticeships in adult social care. The training has had a wide impact on the organisation, including:

- Improved care delivered to patients
- Winning new contracts due to a more qualified and confident workforce
- Improved staff retention.

20% of staff are now progressing into more senior roles, including promotion to supervisors.

West Thames College is an approved apprenticeship provider offering expert training in many sectors including:

- Health and social care
- Business, customer services and ICT
- Engineering and construction

If you are an employer and want to upskill your workforce, contact apprenticeships@west-thames.ac.uk



aspire

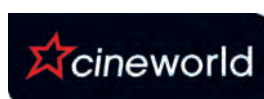
The West London Careers Experience

Spring term ended with our Aspire event, a careers experience to introduce young people to the exciting opportunities available to them locally.

School pupils, members of the local community and our own students met employers such as Premier Inn, London Heathrow, the Metropolitan Police, Rush Hair and Beauty, Brentford FC and Asda. Employers were impressed with the calibre of our students and filled vacancies on the spot.

Dave Purvis from European Springs and Pressings was looking for engineering apprentices and saw several strong candidates. Three visitors received job offers from Premier Inn and several more successfully applied for roles at Cineworld.

The day was brought to a close by our principal Tracy Aust and Brentford and Isleworth MP Ruth Cadbury, who highlighted the valuable contribution made by the college to equip local people with the skills they need.





Asda representative speaking with a visitor



The Metropolitan Police spoke to visitors about careers in the police service



Demonstrations in our state of the art media studios



Health and Social Care students gave demonstrations about healthy eating



"We're pleased to say that Premier Inn have offered jobs to three visitors to the West London Careers Experience."

**Premier Inn Manager
Ryan Silvera**



The Cineworld display

Careers taking off at Heathrow

“We feel one big step closer to achieving our dreams”

Congratulations to Brendon Fernandes and Raj Quadros, who secured jobs at Heathrow after attending the Heathrow Jobs and Careers Fair.

Brendon and Raj are best friends; they study Business and Travel and their ambition is to work at Heathrow full-time after they graduate. Their employability teacher told them about the Heathrow Jobs and Careers Fair and encouraged them to attend.

“Maliha worked with us on our CVs before the fair and we explored successful interview techniques before our interviews,” said Raj.

Brendon and Raj impressed the interviewer so much they were both hired on the spot. Brendon secured a Customer Service Assistant job while Raj is working as a VIP ambassador and host at Terminal 2.

“The job is a great platform to develop my skills,” Raj said. “I’ve gained confidence and have received great feedback from customers.”

“The college has given us an abundance of opportunities and we feel one big step closer to achieving our dreams of working as cabin crew for Heathrow Airport,” added Brendon.

For information about our new Level 2 Cabin Crew qualification and other Travel & Tourism courses, visit **west-thames.ac.uk**.

Heathrow

Success to shout about

Many of our alumni go on to achieve great things after graduating and we love to celebrate their accomplishments.

It's been over 10 years since two energetic, larger than life characters graced the halls of West Thames College. Hugo Chegwin studied Performing Arts and Music Technology while Asim Chaudhry studied Media.

"I'll be straight up, they weren't role models in terms of attendance," admits Alex Searle, Director of Visual & Performing Arts and Media. "However they have both gone on to be absolute successes."

Hugo and Asim co-created and star in **People Just Do Nothing** on BBC3. Now in its fourth series, the programme has received critical acclaim and multiple prestigious nominations and awards, including the 2017 Royal Television Society Award for best Scripted Comedy and nominations for BAFTA for Best Scripted Comedy in 2016 and 2017.

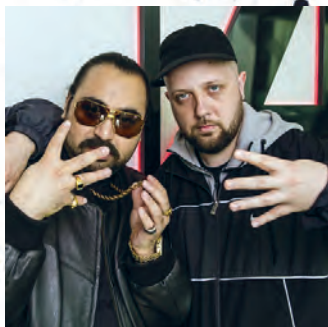
Hugo has also written songs for British superstars such as Sam Smith and Emeli Sande, while Asim has played alongside Benedict Cumberbatch on the BBC series **Sherlock**.

Another West Thames College graduate making waves is Samuel Benta, who achieved a distinction in Level 3 Music Technology in 2004. Since graduating he's appeared in BBC's **Silent Witness**, **Hotel Babylon** and **Eastenders E20**, before becoming the first British actor to land a role in the hit kids' franchise **Power Rangers Operation Overdrive**.

Samuel has also successfully written, produced and directed his own UK family sitcom, **All About the McKenzies**, which aired on London Live in 2014.

If you want to take the first step towards a successful career in media, music or the performing arts, visit **west-thames.ac.uk**.

Right: Asim Chaudhry and Hugo Chegwin.



Below: the cast of People Just Do Nothing



Right: Samuel Benta



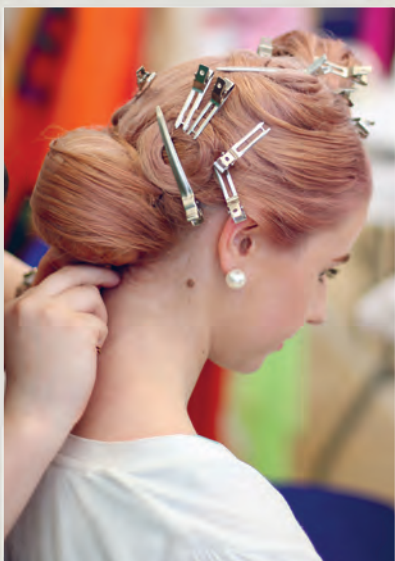
Styling by Level 2
Hairdressing 1st place
winner Patrycja
Jarzynska



Level 3 Hairdressing 1st place
winner Farah Khan with her model



Level 2 Barbering
2nd place winner
Aaron Laryea and model



Judges Steve Haberfield, Sarah-Jane Langford,
Sabrina Peake and Derek DeCutter



HAIR THROUGH THE AGES

Hairdressing and barbering students and apprentices showed off their creativity and artistic flair in the college's annual hairdressing competition in April.

This year students took inspiration from distinctive, era defining hairstyles from the classic 1920s fingerwave to the modern day man-bun.

The competition was a great opportunity for students to demonstrate their skills to the employers in attendance, including Steve Haberfield from Grade 1 Salon, Derek DeCutter from Hairways, Sarah-Jane Langford from 122 Knightsbridge, Sabrina Peake from Sally's Hair and Beauty Supplies and Leona Loosely from Rush Twickenham.

Level 1 Hairdressing

1st place: Sade Williams

2nd place: Sean McGuckin

3rd place: Tahmina Ahmadi

Level 2 Hairdressing

1st place: Patrycja Jarzynska

2nd place: Stephanie Franklin

3rd place: Alina Sisiac

Level 2 Barbering

1st place: Jonathan Perino

2nd place: Aaron Laryea

3rd place: Mustapha Isa Kizito

Level 3 Hairdressing

1st place: Farah Khan

2nd place: Margaret Nolan

3rd place: Alexandra Dalomba

Thank you to Dennis Williams, Ellisons, L'Oreal and Sally's Hair and Beauty Supplies for donating prizes for our winners.

Photos of the winning styles can be found under **News** on our website: west-thames.ac.uk.

From trainees to employees

Project SEARCH is a work-based programme for young people with learning disabilities which supports their move from education to employment.

The programme consists of extended traineeships at GlaxoSmithKline and the London Borough of Hounslow, taught by a West Thames College teacher and supported by a full-time job coach employed by Action on Disability.

We are delighted that two trainees at Project SEARCH GSK have now found paid employment. Roberto De Abreu is working as a document controller at GSK House and Henry Codrington will start work at Morgan's Dairy in July.

Congratulations also to trainee Ian Friel, who has been working for Sodexo for three years now. Ian won several awards for excellence including the On the Spot Winner for Team Spirit, Service Spirit and Spirit of Progress, and the Regional Employee of the Year.

For more information about Project SEARCH traineeships, please visit west-thames.ac.uk.



Global legal firm visits West Thames College

Members of Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP presented an **Effective CV and Interview Skills** workshop for our business students.

Focusing on administrative jobs, the BLP team shared their knowledge and expertise about what it takes to secure a role in the highly competitive legal sector.

After the presentation, eight students were chosen to receive feedback on their CVs and interview skills. The students found the workshop informative, insightful and a real confidence boost.

Ayeda Shahid: "I am grateful that the BLP team came to speak to us. I now feel more confident about the interview process."

Anushka Da Silva: "I found the mock interview really helpful as I received feedback to strengthen my interview skills."

Hansa Munyegera: "The presentation raised my awareness about how employers view candidates."

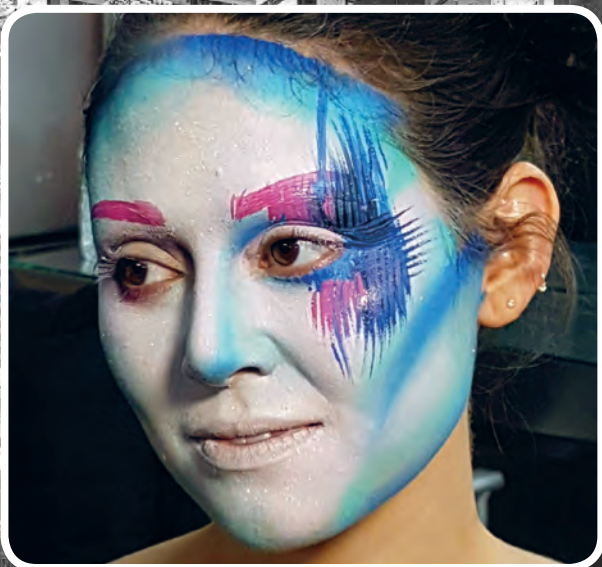
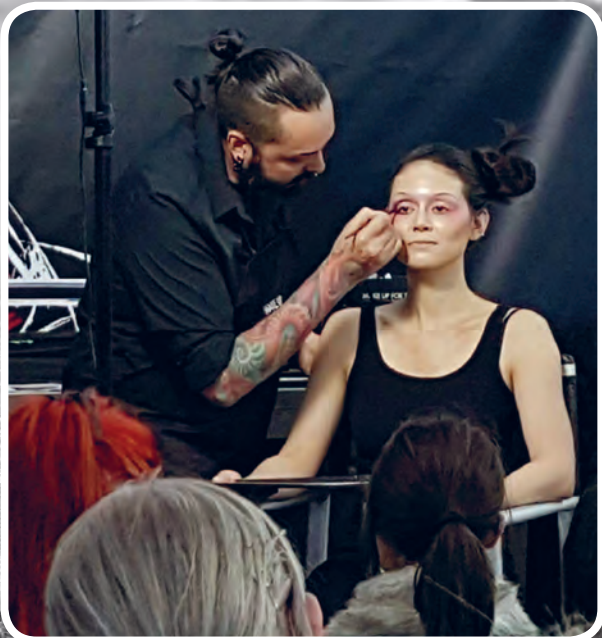


Special Treatment in the Big Apple

Each year HNC and HND Specialist Makeup students have the opportunity to spend 3 days in New York and take part in a variety of makeup activities and demonstrations.

In March, 15 students travelled to New York City with their teachers. They attended demonstrations by renowned artists such as Nicholas Lujan, the international trainer at Make Up Forever, and top brands including MAC. They also enjoyed discounted shopping sprees around the city. Despite heavy snowfall, they still managed to visit top tourist attractions such as the Empire State Building, Times Square and the ultra-trendy Meatpacking District, before rounding off their trip watching the St Patrick's Day Parade.

If you're interested in our Specialist Makeup courses, please visit **west-thames.ac.uk** for more information.



Science links with Kingston University

In co-ordination with Kingston University, our science students are getting involved with activities related to STEM careers.

In March, HNC and HND Science students visited Kingston University to learn more about molecular biology. They met Dr Lisa Pritchard, cancer biologist and molecular biology coordinator, who spoke about her work and helped them take part in activities such as DNA isolation, centrifugation and gel electrophoresis. The students also prepared histological slides before observing them under fluorescent microscopes.

Dr Pritchard returned the visit in June, arriving at West Thames College with student ambassadors who are studying science degrees at Kingston University in the Lab in a Lorry.

This mobile laboratory enabled our students to try out activities such as programming robots and looking at the engineering behind the structure of bridges. Students also had the opportunity to talk to the university ambassadors about life at Kingston University and different types of careers that STEM subjects can lead to.

In 2016, 85% of our science students who applied to university were offered a place. If you would like more information about our science courses, please visit west-thames.ac.uk.

**Kingston
University**
London



Ambitious about achieving.

Ambitious about Autism, the national charity for children and young people with autism, moved into our Isleworth campus last summer.



**Ambitious
about Autism**

Since then we have been working with Ambitious College to ensure their learners have access to a wide range of mainstream vocational learning, the social benefits of being included in everyday college life and work experience opportunities.

“Working at West Thames has been brilliant. The facilities at the campus are terrific and offer our learners a lot of opportunities to develop their skills,” says Katie Wake, Ambitious about Autism Employment Specialist. “We thank the team at West Thames for their support.”

Last term we offered two students from Ambitious College work experience at West Thames College. Connor supports the Estates Team with litter picking and parcelling services, while Tara (pictured) supports the IT Services Team with maintenance on the college’s printers.

“Work experience gives our learners the opportunity to try out different jobs,” Katie says, “so they are able to make informed decisions about what vocational area they would like to pursue in the future.”

“The facilities at the campus are terrific and offer our learners opportunities to develop their skills”





Back row (L-R): Coach Jermaine Purcell, Abhisek Gurung, Joel Rafin, Laszlo Kunu, Karl Jacinto, Abdul Rafique and Karl Ete.
Front row (L-R): Aldrich Giron, Tsundrue Darjee (holding cake), Dave Pelaez and Jerico Manzano.

Sports roundup

Basketball champions

The college basketball competed in the AoC Men's Division 2 League this academic year and were very successful. They managed to win the league unbeaten, triumphing against several academy teams. The team also had a very promising National Cup run and reached the quarter finals.

New futsal team

The newly formed futsal team participated in two local festivals during 2016-17. They performed well against experienced teams, getting to knock out stages in both events, and will be entering the league next year.

Future Events

See our website or follow us on social media for more details.



2017

Open Days

Thursday 12 October
5-7pm, Isleworth

Saturday 11 November
10am-1pm, Isleworth

Thursday 16 November
4-6pm, Feltham

Monthly tours

Throughout the year for
Isleworth and Feltham.
Please book on our website.

Enrolment

Wednesday 23 August
*if you have received an
unconditional offer*

Thursday 24 August to
Tuesday 5 September
for open enrolment

Autumn Term begins

Monday 11 September
*New students will be invited
to attend induction activities
before the start of term.*