

THE TRUTH BEHIND THE SCENES

AT CHELMSFORD COLLEGE CELEBRATION WEEK

When you're sitting in the hot marquee at Celebration Week, waiting to collect your certificate or award in recognition of your hard work, attitude and accomplishments at Chelmsford College you focus on the moment. Celebrating your success is at the top of your mind. You might reflect on your year - highs and lows and the challenges you've overcome to drive yourself forward, striving to learn something new, attain new skills, leaving your comfort zone to make progress, often surprising yourself with just what's possible once you've set your mind to it. Your friends, family and tutors will be with you - cheering you on, proud that you're getting recognition for all you've put in, all you've accomplished and for believing in yourself, committing to a goal and staying on course.

Onlookers might not appreciate what goes on behind the scenes. It's easy for someone who's not been in education recently to assume College nowadays is exactly the same as it was in their time.

Speaking brutally, pressures today have mounted. A young person attending college these days is likely to be faced with more anxiety and feelings of depression than their parents ever were. MQ, a mental health

organisation have shared that our UK statistics show 75% of mental illnesses start before a child reaches their 18th birthday whilst 50% of mental health problems in adult life (excluding dementia) take root before the age of 15. The Office of National Statistics have said the number of young suicides (20 - 34 year olds) each year is greater than it has been for the past 10 years. Recent research has suggested that 1 in 6 young people will experience anxiety at some point in their lives.

This can be hard for an older generation to accept.

Before, there might have been one member of staff assigned to pastoral care. Behind the scenes in a college today there is a whole team of dedicated, highly trained, caring professionals, specialising in extra support for learning difficulties, mental health and safeguarding issues ranging from dyslexia to self-harming and

neglect. Leaving school and starting college is often a young person's first experience of being independent and establishing a stronger sense of themselves.

This can be confronting and without support systems in place it can feel overwhelming. A college today provides so much more than a place to learn. They provide a community. A safe place. A network of support so you can work through what's holding you back in life and begin to plan your future.

Marco Iciek, Director of Learner Development and Inclusion says "Life beyond college in modern Britain is so much more than qualifications. In our last inspection, we were really happy Ofsted recognised the support we provide for students and apprentices to achieve their full potential academically and that we prepare them for work, citizenship and adulthood."

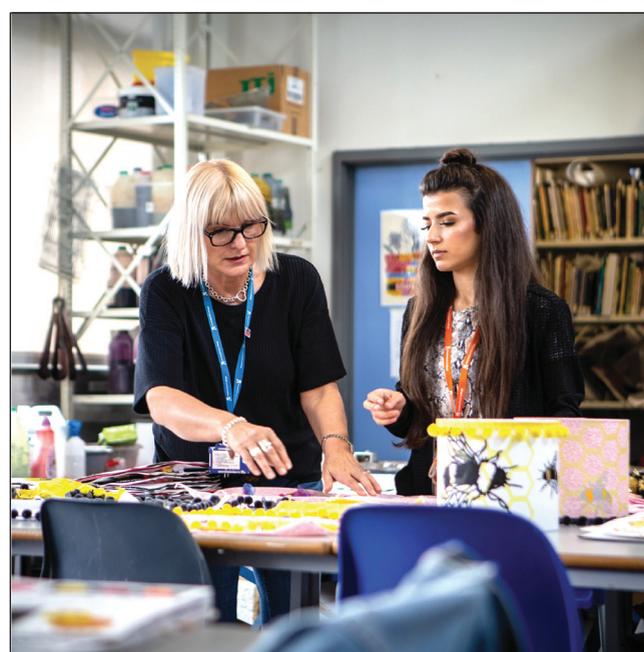
"Life beyond college in modern Britain is so much more than qualifications."

Marco Iciek, Director of Learner Development and Inclusion

At Chelmsford College, there's also a team dedicated to improving quality and teaching. There are programmes led by Advanced Practitioners to drive innovative teaching and learning. Principal Andy Sparks says "Our College continually focuses on high quality leadership, management and innovative teaching."



Lecturer in Photography Tony Page photographs student Jack Branch-Woodwards for the 2020/21 Prospectus.



Art and Design Programme Area Manager Julie Leahy with student Amber Gavriel



Principal Andy Sparks

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A promotional banner for Chelmsford College. It features a yellow background with two images of students: one on the left is a young woman laughing with her mouth open, and one on the right is a young man with glasses and a blue t-shirt, also laughing with his hands raised. In the center, there is the Chelmsford College logo (a stylized blue and green shape) followed by the text "Celebrating Success at Chelmsford College". Below this, it says "Find out more at www.chelmsford.ac.uk" and "#ChelmsfordSuccess".

“Our College continually focuses on high quality leadership, management and innovative teaching.”

Andy Sparks, Principal of Chelmsford College

Caroline Williams, Deputy Principal says “We invest in nine professional development days for teaching staff a year, training our teachers to foster a positive culture of learning, including using higher order thinking skills, questioning techniques, encouraging students to reflect on their own learning and target setting.”

The pass rate for 16 to 18 year olds at Chelmsford College was 93.2% last year. For learners aged 19 and over it was 95.9%. FE Week also ranked Chelmsford College as in the top ten of the national league table for 16-18 learner progression (i.e. students progressing into a job or Further/Higher Education).

All year long, support staff work tirelessly to keep a college running, from the services you see during term time, such as Reception, Admissions, Careers Advice Zone, Student Support, Library and Assessment Centre staff, Catering and Cleaning teams to those you might not, such as Finance, Premises and Estates, Exams, Information Services, IT, Marketing and HR.

At Chelmsford College there are 40 teams working together to keep the College running, delivering nearly 260 courses, 50 apprenticeships and achieving over 800 exams set each year across 13 awarding bodies.

As you sit in the marquee, waiting to collect your certificate or award, you are one of the 3,366 students who’ve all had their lives supported by a collective of over 570 staff.

That’s over 570 staff behind the scenes, beyond the team who’ve taught you, perhaps unknown to you - but never-the-less rooting for you, cheering you on. You are their reason for

getting up every day. You are their reason for doing the best they can in their job, to support you and give you the best chance of success in your future job or chosen career.

As they print the certificates, prepare the refreshments, load the PowerPoint presentations and co-ordinate the speeches, they are thinking of you.

Celebration Week marks their calendars as a time to take stock and appreciate everything that has led you to this point over the last year. Every challenge that’s been overcome, every triumph building momentum, every lightbulb moment when you grasp a key concept or realise a new skill has clicked into place. Every time a former student gets back in touch to share good news of their promotion and every whoop for joy when you get into your dream Uni or secure your perfect job.

You may not see them, but our staff at Chelmsford College shed tears of joy on your behalf. They beam from ear to ear when you gain confidence or push through to achieve something. They feel a profound sense of pride when they see your kindness to others or your compassion and interest for things happening in the wider world.

Our College is a community. With so many stakeholders you’d be forgiven for not having a chance to meet everyone whilst you’re here, but isn’t it great to know they are all here for you.

The excitement and buzz you feel as you sit in the marquee, waiting for your tutor to call your name comes from that collective. A community who has your back and is not afraid to share how proud they are of you, not just today, but as a Chelmsford College student going out into the world and taking your next step.

It’s taken a lot of combined effort, enthusiasm and planning to reach this point in our year. Thank you to everyone behind the scenes who has contributed. Thank you for letting us take a week out of a hectic year to pause, recognise and celebrate Chelmsford success but most of all, thank you to you for being part of it all! Here’s to your success, from everyone

ing Student Achievemen



The marquee



Deputy Principal Caroline Williams at Celebration Week



Moulsham Street campus of Chelmsford College



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Chelmsford College
SHOWCASE

01245 293031 | information@chelmsford.ac.uk | #AchieveMore



ARRIVE BEFORE
8PM
SO YOU GET THE ATTENTION YOU DESERVE



OPEN EVENING
24th June 2019
6.00-8.30pm

Moulsham Street and Princes Road Campuses