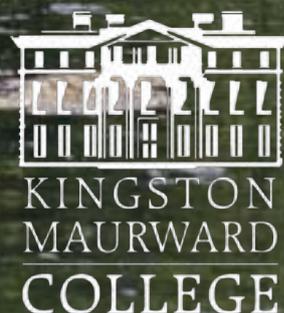
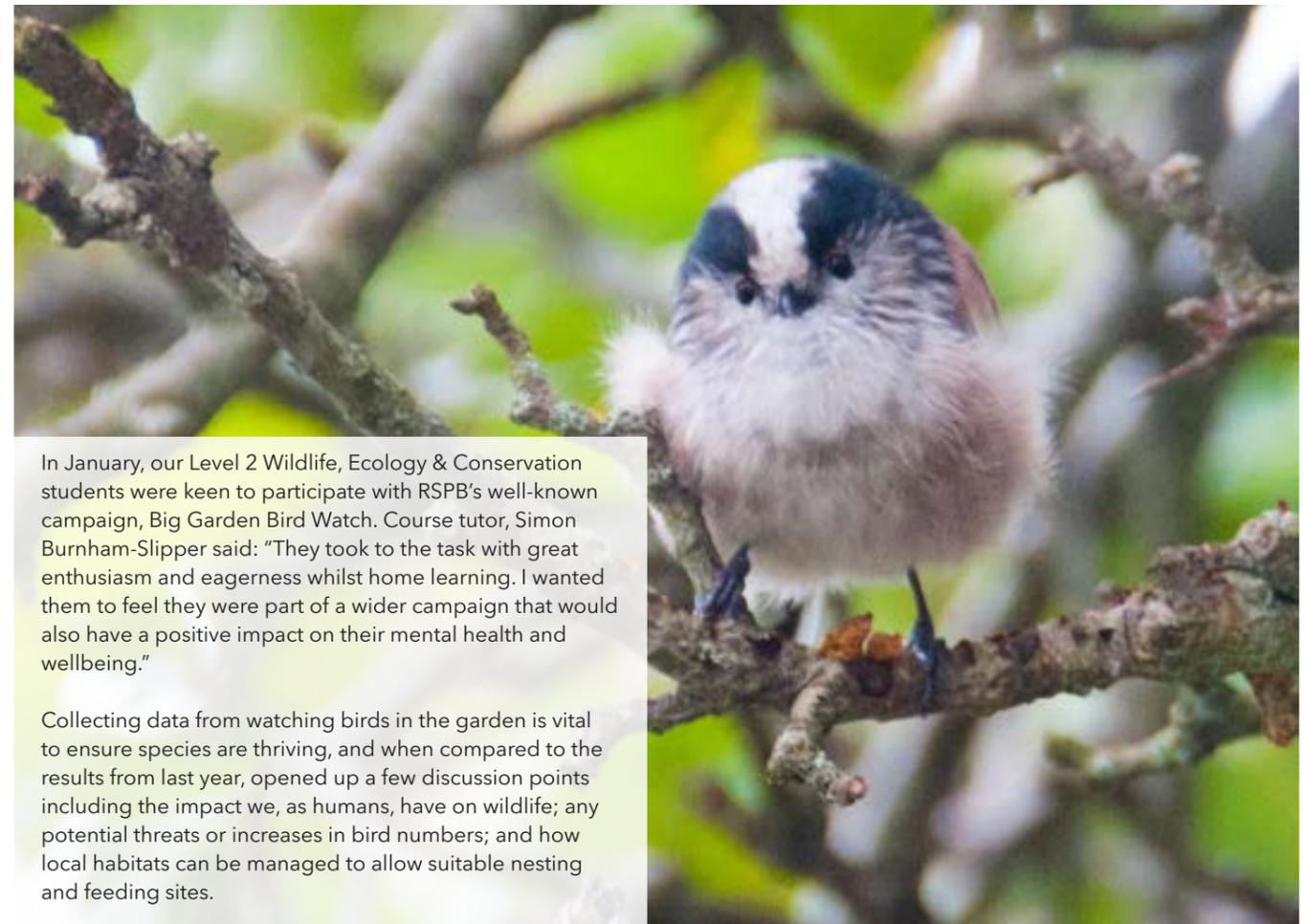


# Kingston Maurward College

End of Year Newsletter





In January, our Level 2 Wildlife, Ecology & Conservation students were keen to participate with RSPB's well-known campaign, Big Garden Bird Watch. Course tutor, Simon Burnham-Slipper said: "They took to the task with great enthusiasm and eagerness whilst home learning. I wanted them to feel they were part of a wider campaign that would also have a positive impact on their mental health and wellbeing."

Collecting data from watching birds in the garden is vital to ensure species are thriving, and when compared to the results from last year, opened up a few discussion points including the impact we, as humans, have on wildlife; any potential threats or increases in bird numbers; and how local habitats can be managed to allow suitable nesting and feeding sites.



Back in March, our Level 3 Horticulture students were experimenting with various technologies to help visualise their concepts and ideas. One student, Jacob Rooney used The Sims 4 and said: "While it can be costly with the additional packs, it's brilliant for allowing me to take my ideas from paper and see them in a three-dimensional environment!"



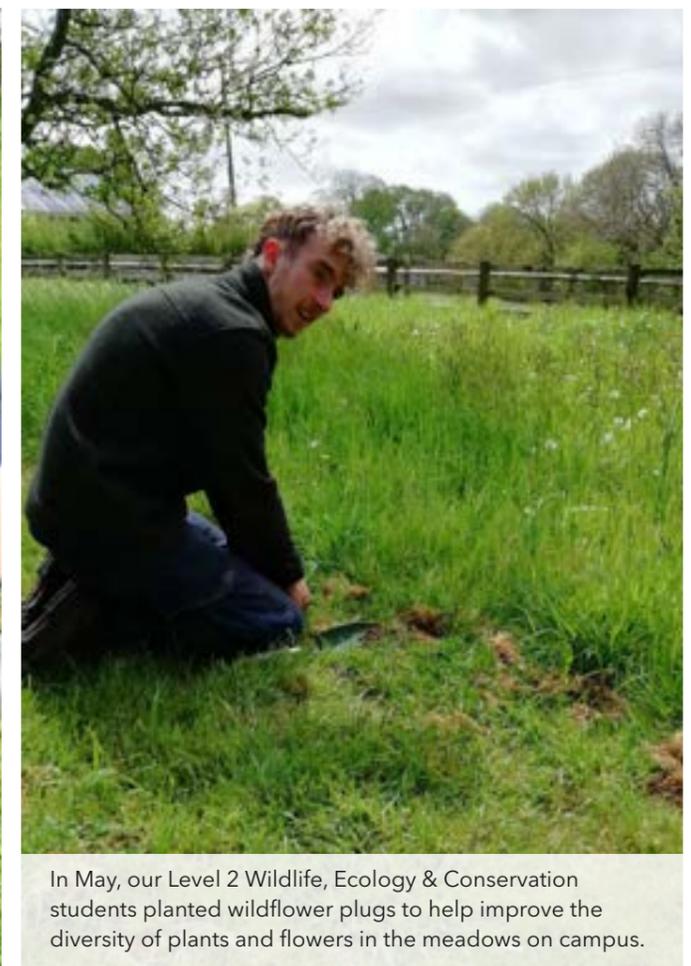
Since studying, Wildlife, Ecology and Conservation, one of our students, Sophie Court, has had various roles within the sector. Starting as a volunteer Ranger across the country, including the National Trust in Purbeck, the Peak District, and Forestry England in Grizedale Forest. From 2013 to 2015, she worked as an Assistant Reserves Officer with the Cumbria Wildlife Trust.

In May of 2015, she had a serious accident that left her with two broken legs. After recovering, she decided she wanted to travel and visited New Zealand, Australia, Vietnam and Nepal, saying yes to every opportunity from au pairing, teaching English, hosting an eco-lodge, and working as a farmhand on a cattle station.

Photo | The Urban Heath Partnership



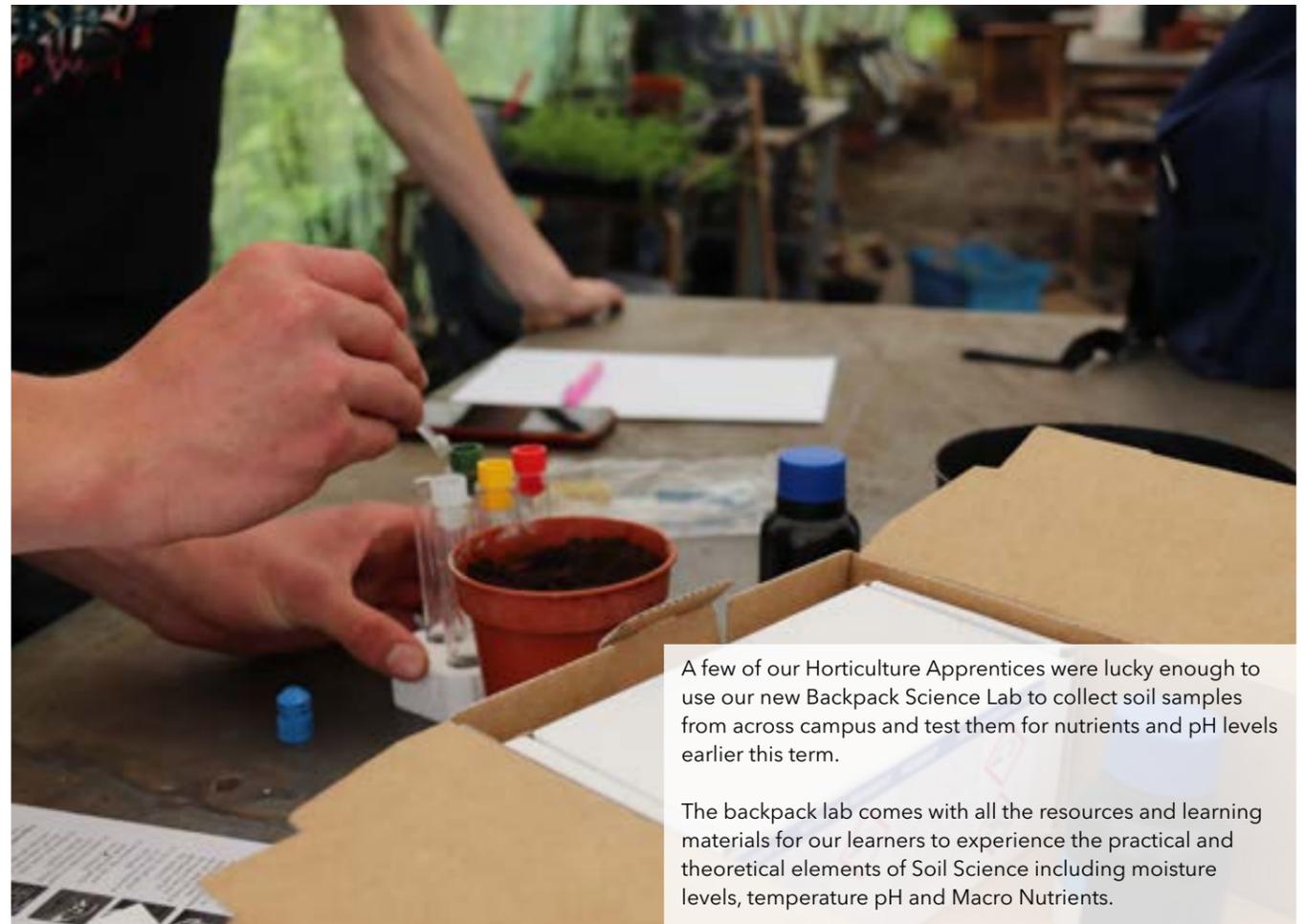
In April, as part of their assessment, our Level 1 Wildlife, Ecology & Conservation students completed a Spring survey that involved surveying the campus and wildlife identification. One of our students, Luke Hipperson, even spotted a pair of Roe deer feeding in the woodland!



In May, our Level 2 Wildlife, Ecology & Conservation students planted wildflower plugs to help improve the diversity of plants and flowers in the meadows on campus.



In April, we visited two of our Horticulture apprentices at their employer, Chewton Glen Hotel & Spa. Both Stefan Romer and Jenson Gilchrist were busy completing a variety of jobs including plant maintenance, pruning, companion planting, irrigation and pest & disease scouting to ensure optimum plant health and a high-quality finish.



A few of our Horticulture Apprentices were lucky enough to use our new Backpack Science Lab to collect soil samples from across campus and test them for nutrients and pH levels earlier this term.

The backpack lab comes with all the resources and learning materials for our learners to experience the practical and theoretical elements of Soil Science including moisture levels, temperature pH and Macro Nutrients.



Since leaving the College in 2017, one of our past Level 2 Horticulture students, Joanna Legg, is now working as a Horticultural Manager responsible for vegetable propagation and growing at High Mead Farm in Ferndown. She said: "I would recommend this course for those who have an interest and passion in this area; I chose it as I love gardening."



Some of our mature Gardening short course students working on pest prevention using drain pipe cultivation, to establish seedlings before planting out in April!



RHS Level 2 Horticulture student, Alex Farlane explains about her mushroom and mycology cultivation hobby: "I was first interested in this after foraging for wild mushrooms, such as, porcini and chanterelle which gave me a great excuse to explore nature! The more I researched they became fascinating to me, soon learning that you can grow a wide assortment of edible varieties from around the world."



Alex continues: "I firstly picked five species to experiment with; pink oyster, golden oyster, king trumpet, enoki and lion's mane; all of these being saprotrophs, meaning they can be cultivated on sterilised sawdust unlike porcini and chanterelle, both of which are mycorrhizal species. I now cook and eat many of the mushrooms I have grown, and give the rest away to family or friends. I believe studying them has helped further my understanding of biology and ecology."



Our expert tutor of the short course in Gardening, Jo Milan, saw our mature students busy preparing areas on campus for wildflowers back in April.



Our Level 3 and 4, Floristry students were inspired by the talented florist, Alexandra Sylvester in February this year. She gave our students an idea of career roles and opportunities in the floral industry, as she has recently worked on the popular Netflix series, Bridgerton.



When asked what she thought of the Floral Design course, Level 3 student, Rosie Bailey said: "I partly chose Kingston Maurward as it was the only college within miles which offered all 4 programme levels. Since starting here, I have been able to learn new skills which have allowed me to expand my creativity, and the freedom to design what I would like to."

"As the course is only two days, it allows you to work around a job and means you can gain practical, real hands-on experience, which has developed my communication and technical skills."



We are delighted to have been nominated for the British Florist Association Awards, BFA, and to have placed third overall last year! Congratulations to our floristry team!

From left to right: Linda Carlile, Mary North and Tracey Nadin.



As part of their course, our Level 4 Floristry Design students are required to plan and create a variety of events to learn about the challenges, opportunities and creative thinking involved.

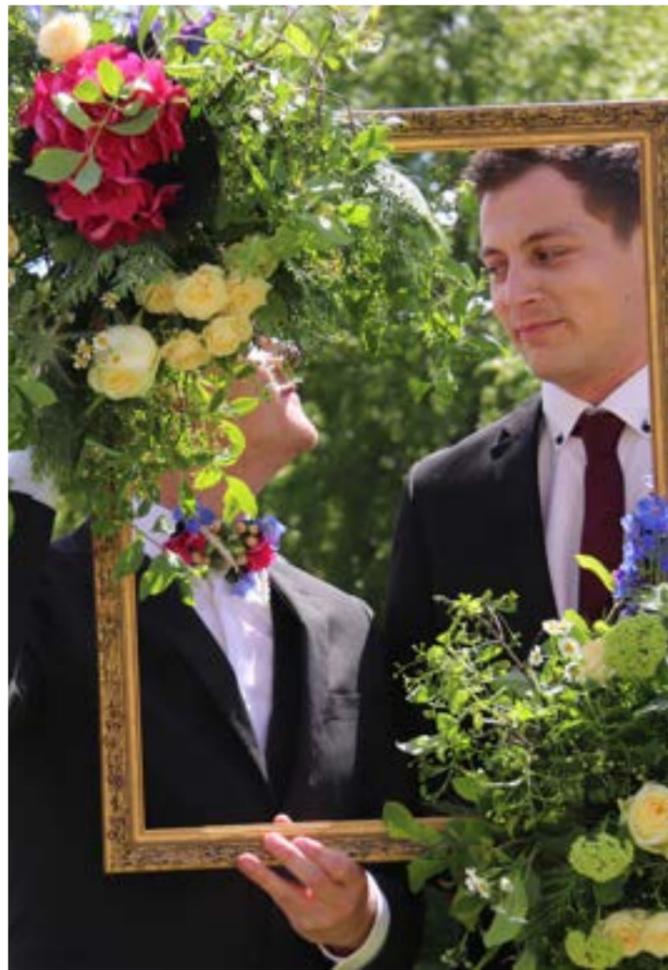
Earlier in February, Amy Reid, a Weddings and Event Co-ordinator at The Larmer Tree, spoke to our students in depth about her role and answered any questions they had.

Tutor, Tracey Nadin, said: "It was fantastic for the students to speak to a wedding and event specialist; it really gave them an insight into the wider industry."

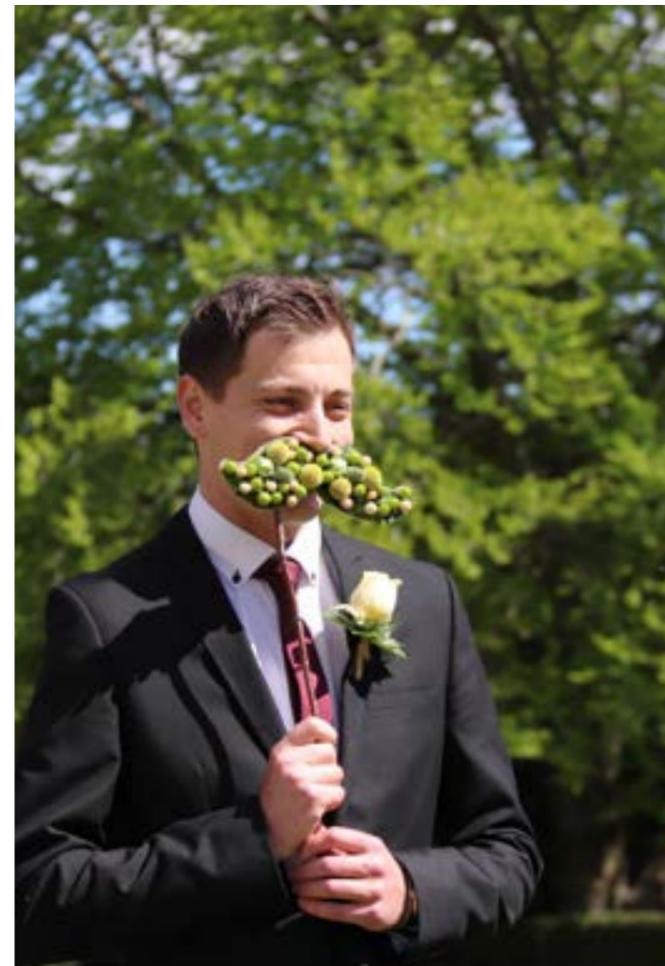
Photo | Steph Newton Photography



Our Level 2 Floristry students embraced the opportunity to design and create a fantastic mix of bridal bouquets, buttonholes, corsages and novelty bridesmaid flower wands for a fictional wedding on campus in May. This was a great opportunity for the students to showcase the skills they have developed and refined so far!



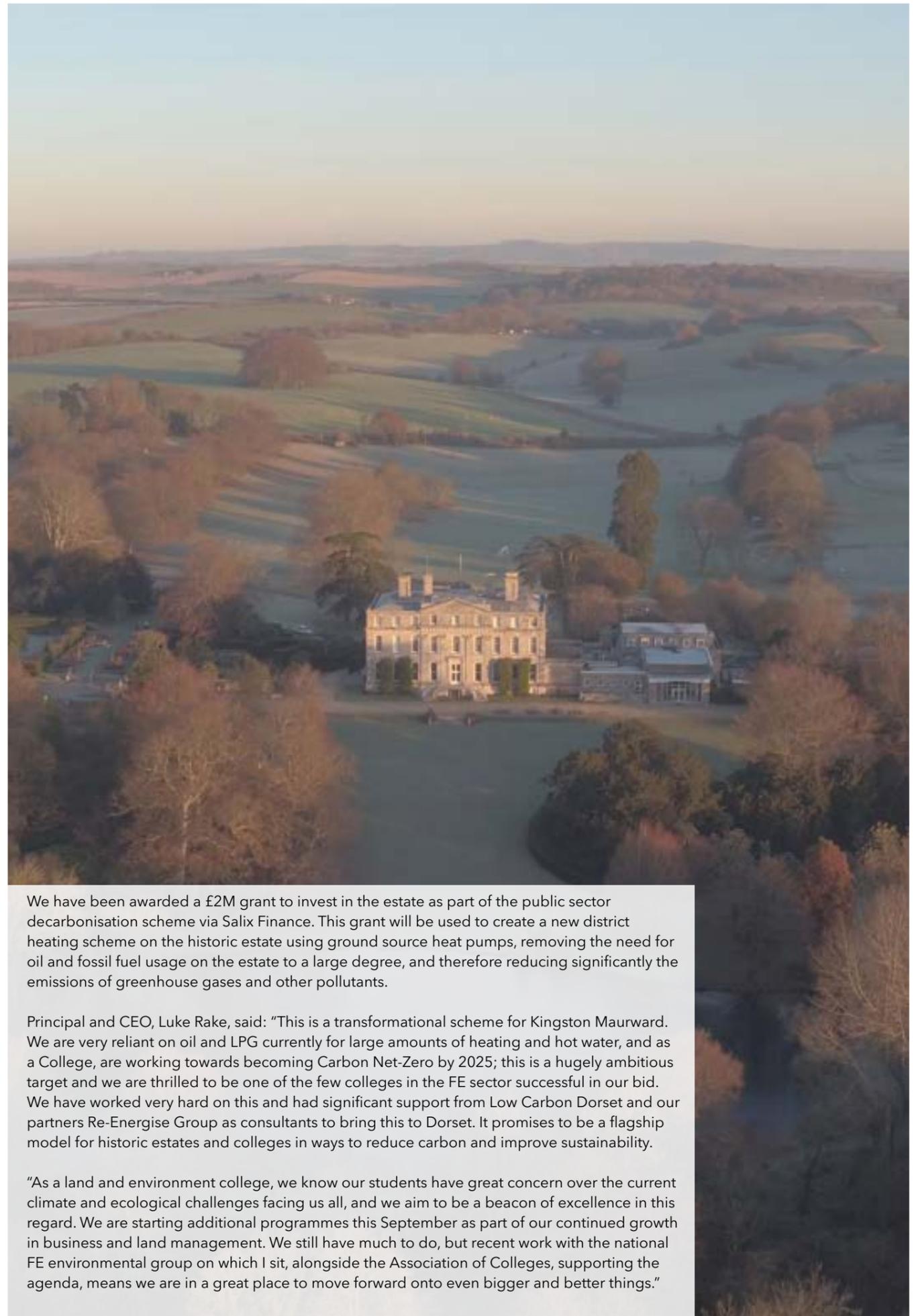
In May our Level 3, Floristry students design beautiful bouquets, horse garlands, sashes, crowns, and even a waistcoat for a fictional wedding photoshoot. Forming part of their assessment, this exercise was great for students to practise photographing and staging models for their websites or portfolios. A huge thank you to our models, staff members Ben and Mike!





Earlier this year, we received a £5000 donation from the Henry Hoare Trust to go towards new IT equipment for our students. So far, we have sent out 90 devices to students, including an additional amount with internet access. We have also helped students to get online by providing dongles, hot spots and routers to access the internet through a Vodafone data sim card. The College has also released £10,000, which has gone towards a further quantity of laptops that have now been distributed. Overall, the devices have been received positively from both the students and their parents and carers. Thank you to the staff who individually delivered these to students.

We have also recently been awarded £8000 from The Ashely, Churchill and Thorner Educational Trust, based in Bridport, to purchase computers for students who meet certain necessary criteria. These devices are not on loan and are for the learners to keep if they wish, or donate once they no longer need them.



We have been awarded a £2M grant to invest in the estate as part of the public sector decarbonisation scheme via Salix Finance. This grant will be used to create a new district heating scheme on the historic estate using ground source heat pumps, removing the need for oil and fossil fuel usage on the estate to a large degree, and therefore reducing significantly the emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants.

Principal and CEO, Luke Rake, said: "This is a transformational scheme for Kingston Maurward. We are very reliant on oil and LPG currently for large amounts of heating and hot water, and as a College, are working towards becoming Carbon Net-Zero by 2025; this is a hugely ambitious target and we are thrilled to be one of the few colleges in the FE sector successful in our bid. We have worked very hard on this and had significant support from Low Carbon Dorset and our partners Re-Energise Group as consultants to bring this to Dorset. It promises to be a flagship model for historic estates and colleges in ways to reduce carbon and improve sustainability.

"As a land and environment college, we know our students have great concern over the current climate and ecological challenges facing us all, and we aim to be a beacon of excellence in this regard. We are starting additional programmes this September as part of our continued growth in business and land management. We still have much to do, but recent work with the national FE environmental group on which I sit, alongside the Association of Colleges, supporting the agenda, means we are in a great place to move forward onto even bigger and better things."



As part of Mental Health Week in May, our Student Welfare Team gave away free houseplants to help promote the benefits of 'Grounding', a therapeutic technique based on the belief that, allowing our skin to come into direct contact with the earth: dirt, stone, the sea or river water, can help us rebalance.

The Student Welfare Team is available to offer any advice and support - please email [121@kmc.ac.uk](mailto:121@kmc.ac.uk)



Earlier this term, our Students' Union launched 'Litter Picking Parties' as part of their anti-litter campaign. Taking place during lunchtimes, they worked with volunteers from various courses to help pick up any litter and keep our campus clean!



We were delighted when our students were able to come back on-site after lockdown and use our library facilities. When thinking about the importance of books and education across the world, we come to think about The Children's Library of Mongolia which uses camels to bring books to those living in rugged terrains. We don't have a library camel ourselves, but we can certainly help you all to find the resources you need!

For more information, search The Camel Back Library.

Please don't hesitate to contact us on 01305 215064 or email; [library@kmc.ac.uk](mailto:library@kmc.ac.uk)



Some of our Year 3, Foundation Learning students showing their support for Red Nose Day!



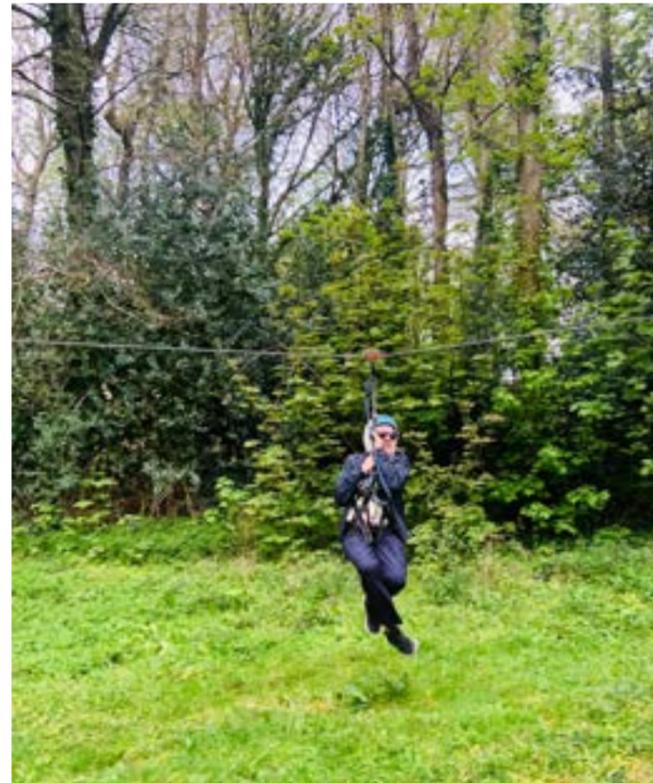
Letters from parents about some of our Foundation Learning students' experiences this year:

- "I just wanted to thank you for the delivery and teaching from the Greys Loft staff during lockdown. Every week you have interacted with, engaged the students, and ensured they were on track with their studies through such difficult times. Your enthusiasm for teaching shines through and brings positivity to the students. In the lessons I have been fortunate enough to be a part of every teacher has been so patient, kind and caring and shown such passion for what they do; and as a result, deliver such interesting lessons that the students get so much out of."

- "We were so grateful for everything you have done to enable our daughter to continue learning during lockdown, from sowing seeds to cooking lessons, we have seen her grow in confidence."

- "I would just like to say a huge thank you to all the Greys Loft staff and their support during lockdown. My son has ADHD and Autism, and actively joined in during his online sessions, so I'm very proud of him!"

- "Since my son started on the Foundation Learning course, his confidence has grown hugely. We are so thankful for the staff who continued to deliver education, support, help students work on their life skills and we truly appreciate the extra mile they have gone."



In May, two of our Level 3 Outdoor Adventure students, Ethan Tucker and Toby Easby, led a High Ropes session with our Entry 3 Foundation Learning students. Participating in activities like this, helps build their confidence.



In April, our Year 2 Foundation Learning students had a great time on the lake...at least most of us stayed dry!





In May, the Level 2 and Level 3 Military Preparation students conducted various combat activities to show guests from The Royal Wessex Yeomanry, AFCO and 6 Rifles what our programmes entail to potentially create a curriculum alongside our staff to better support our learners.



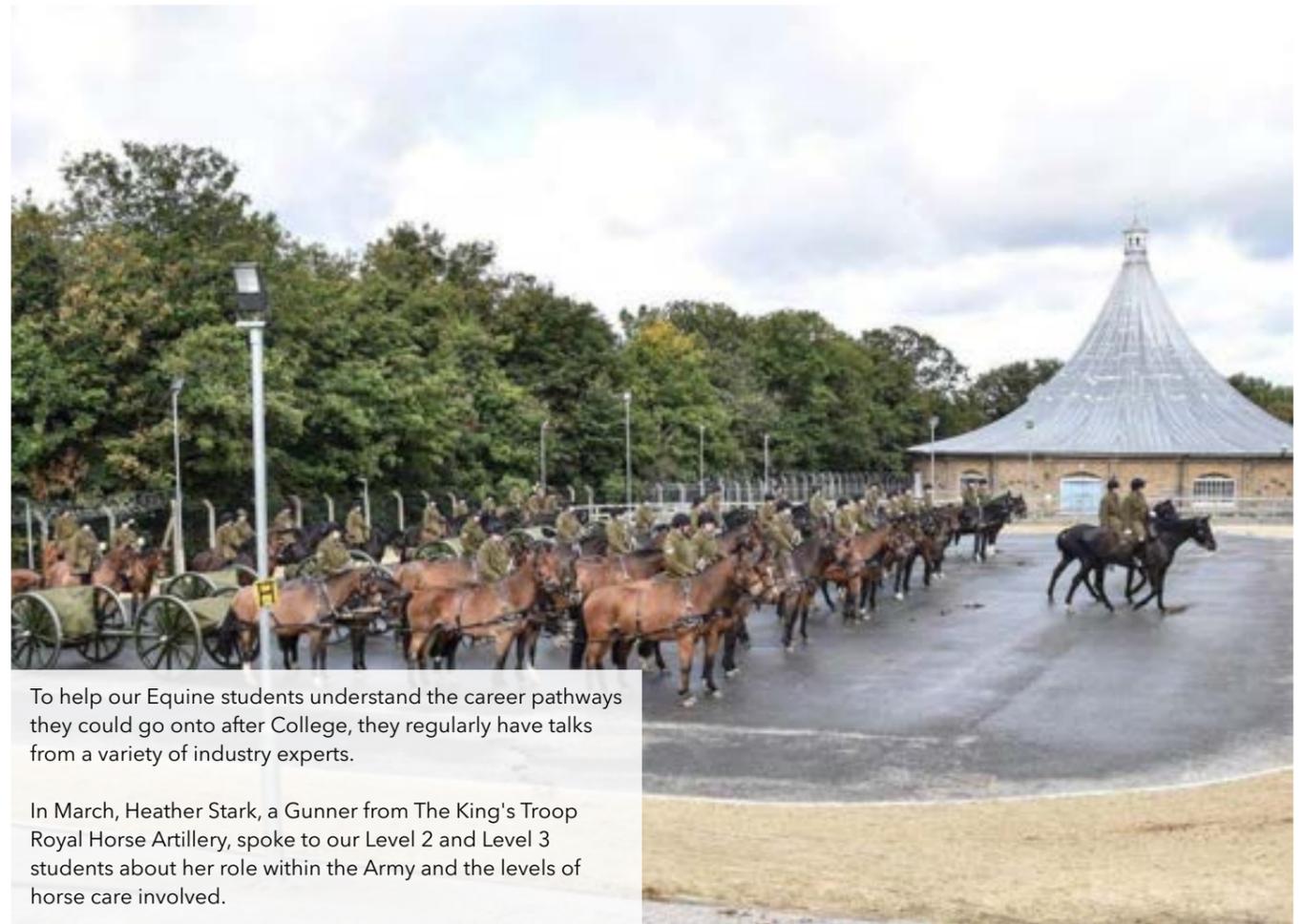
Our Level 3, Year 2 Military Preparation students were tasked to build a mini tank as part of their practical assessment in the Spring. Once assembled, they were vigorously tested by our cadets for any loose fittings before the students were able to hop in the seat and aim the canon for themselves. This looked like great fun!

Since welcoming our Degree Level students back onto campus, they have been making the most of our facilities and practical learning. In addition, our Marine Ecology & Conservation students have been able to visit various sites across the Jurassic Coast to complete survey work on beach profiles, shingle communities, and rocky shores.



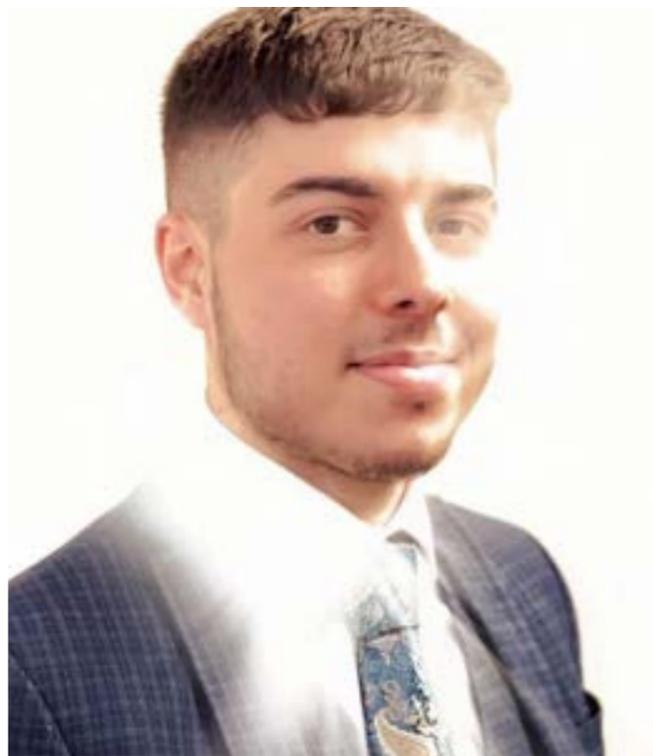


As a part of one of their assessments, our Level 5 Marine, Ecology & Conservation students visited Osmington Mills to study predator-prey relationships between shore crabs and limpets. By measuring both, this allowed the learners to study how limpets develop ridges on their shells to make it harder for crabs to grip onto, and how crab claws have evolved to enable this.



To help our Equine students understand the career pathways they could go onto after College, they regularly have talks from a variety of industry experts.

In March, Heather Stark, a Gunner from The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery, spoke to our Level 2 and Level 3 students about her role within the Army and the levels of horse care involved.



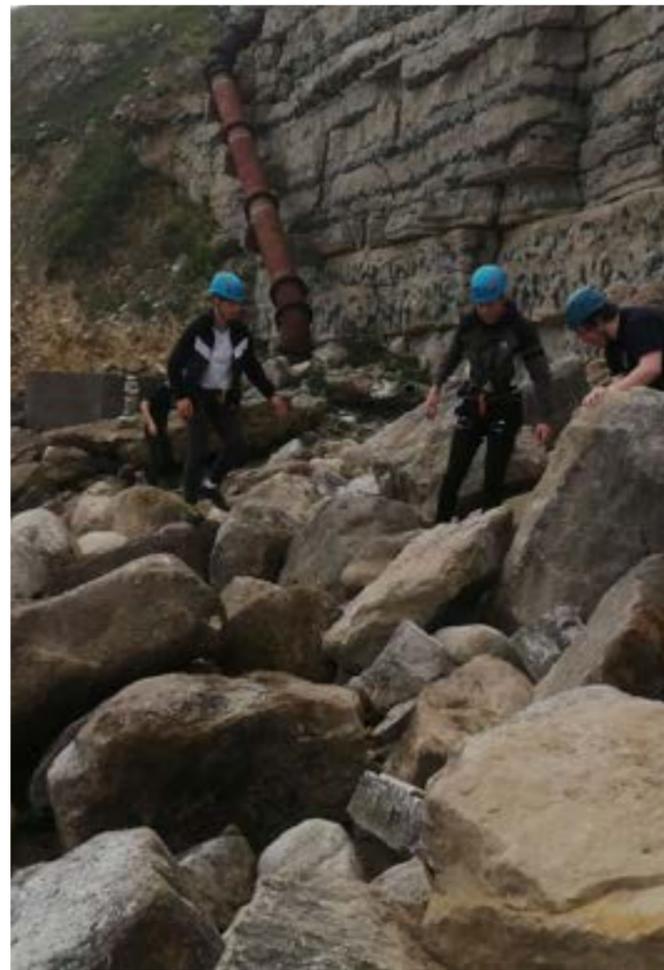
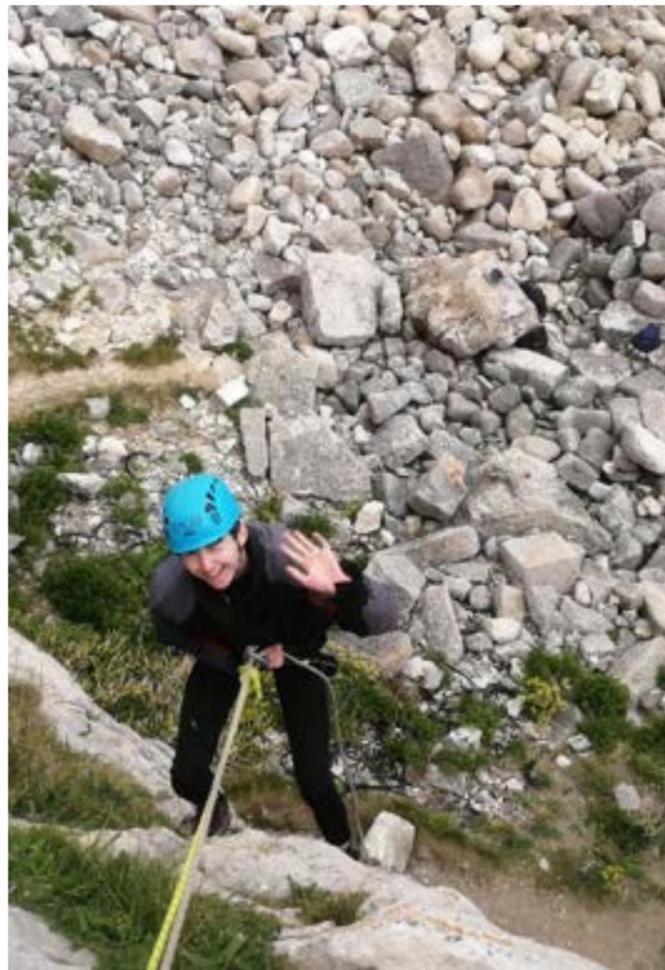
We are delighted to share that one of our past apprentices has completed and passed his final exams to become a Financial Planner! 22-year-old Oliver Wickham studied a Level 3 Business Administration Apprenticeship back in 2016 and now works for Blueberry Mortgages. Well done, Oliver!



One of our Level 2 Welding, Fabrication & Blacksmithing students, Sam Dutson, recently started constructing a helmet inspired by the style from the German sixteenth-century. Great work Sam!



In March, our Equine students had a presentation from Carolyn Jenkinson and her horse, Jos, on equine behaviours and clicker training. The demonstration showed alternate training methods which could be used in the equine industry.



Forming part of one of their practical assessments, our Level 2 Outdoor Adventure students visited West Bay for some canoeing. Looks like great fun!



In the Spring term, our Level 2 Protective Service students visited Portland to do some rock climbing and abseiling. Forming part of one of their assessments, practical activities like this help our students develop key skills and knowledge that can be used in career progressions after College.



We are delighted that all our agriculture apprentices have completed their apprenticeships with their Work-Based Learning Co-ordinator, Ruth Dunford. Of the thirteen apprentices, six achieved Distinction, six achieved Merit and one achieved a Pass. Congratulations to all, and thank you Ruth for supporting them!

Ruth pictured with Deputy Principal, Oliver Symons.

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