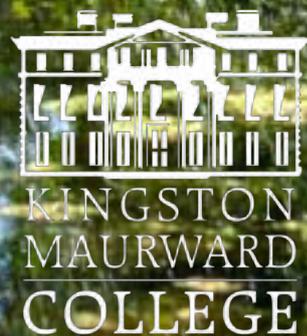


Kingston Maurward College

Winter Newsletter





In September, our Level 3 Wildlife, Ecology & Conservation students were busy clearing the prolific, invasive plant; Himalayan Balsam, which was growing from the water meadows on campus. This grows very quickly, and will keep on growing anything from six to ten feet!



Our Level 3, Year 2 Wildlife, Ecology & Conservation students completed a National Vegetation Survey in the woodland on campus in September, to understand how to manage and monitor various woodlands and recognise their value to the landscape and local biodiversity.



In October, our Level 2 Wildlife, Ecology & Conservation apprentices helped the Dorset Important Geological Sites, DIGS, clear away vegetation covering an old Chalk Quarry fence on the estate. This location is one of only sixty in Dorset and relies on maintenance from volunteers to allow it to remain visible and in a good condition. This was a great opportunity for our students to develop their skills in site management and understand the role of DIGS in looking after areas that do not have legal protection.





Our Level 3, Year 1 Wildlife, Ecology & Conservation students visited Cranborne Chase, Area Of National Beauty (AONB) to speak to the Manager and Chair of the Countryside Management Association, Linda Nunn about the work of the National Trust. Talks like this are fundamental for our students to learn more about the industry.



Our Wildlife, Ecology & Conservation teacher, Brian Heppenstall, visited Coombeshead Farm in November with staff from several Wildlife Trusts, to look at the work of Derek Gow, author of Bringing Back the Beaver.

Derek has diversified his former farm with a mixture of ecotourism (camping and shepherds huts for accommodation) and experiences for people who want to know about his work with reintroduced species. He currently has a large, fenced area where beavers have been allowed to engineer the area with dams, changing the hydrology and creating valuable pools which help to increase biodiversity and restore natural food web.



Botany begins for our Level 3 Horticulture students, who were studying the Monocotyledon Bed in our Walled Garden in September.



Although it's been feeling more wintery recently, our Horticulture students have been planting Foxgloves and Sweet Williams in the Crown Garden ready for spring!



Our Level 3 Horticulture students displaying great teamwork and enthusiasm when tackling a reluctant thorny hedge in October.



In September, our Level 2 Floral Design students designed beautiful buttonholes using Rosa, Eryngium, Dianthus, and Chamelaucium - well done all!

Earlier in September, it wasn't just our Level 2 Floristry students designing buttonholes - our Level 3 students also created these pieces - don't they look lovely!



We're delighted to share that one of our Level 3 Floral Design students, Becky McDaid, will be selling her fresh flowers in our Estate Shop every Friday! Congratulations Becky!



Back in September, our Level 3 Floral Design students designed these beautiful displays at Stinsford Church - aren't they lovely!

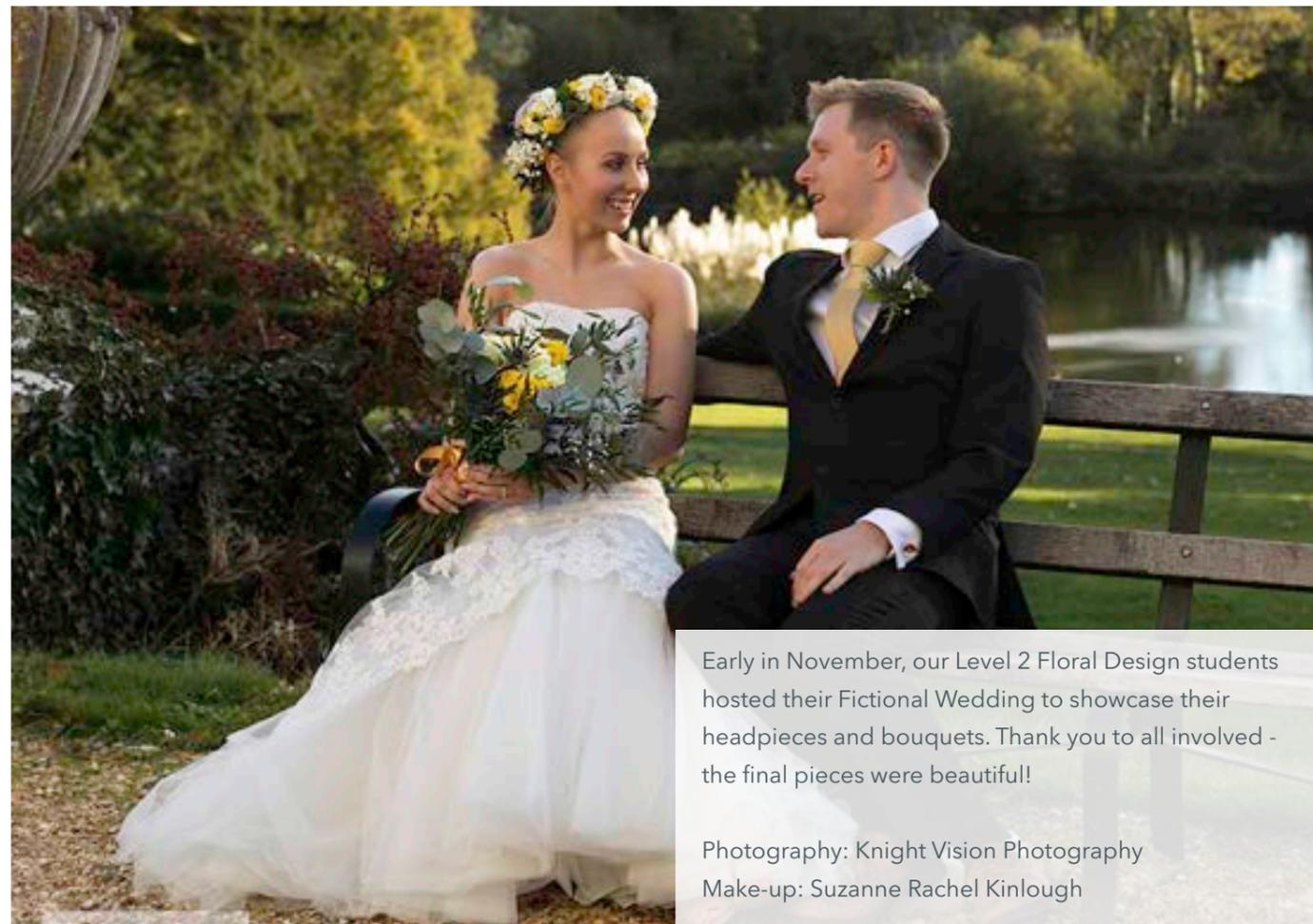
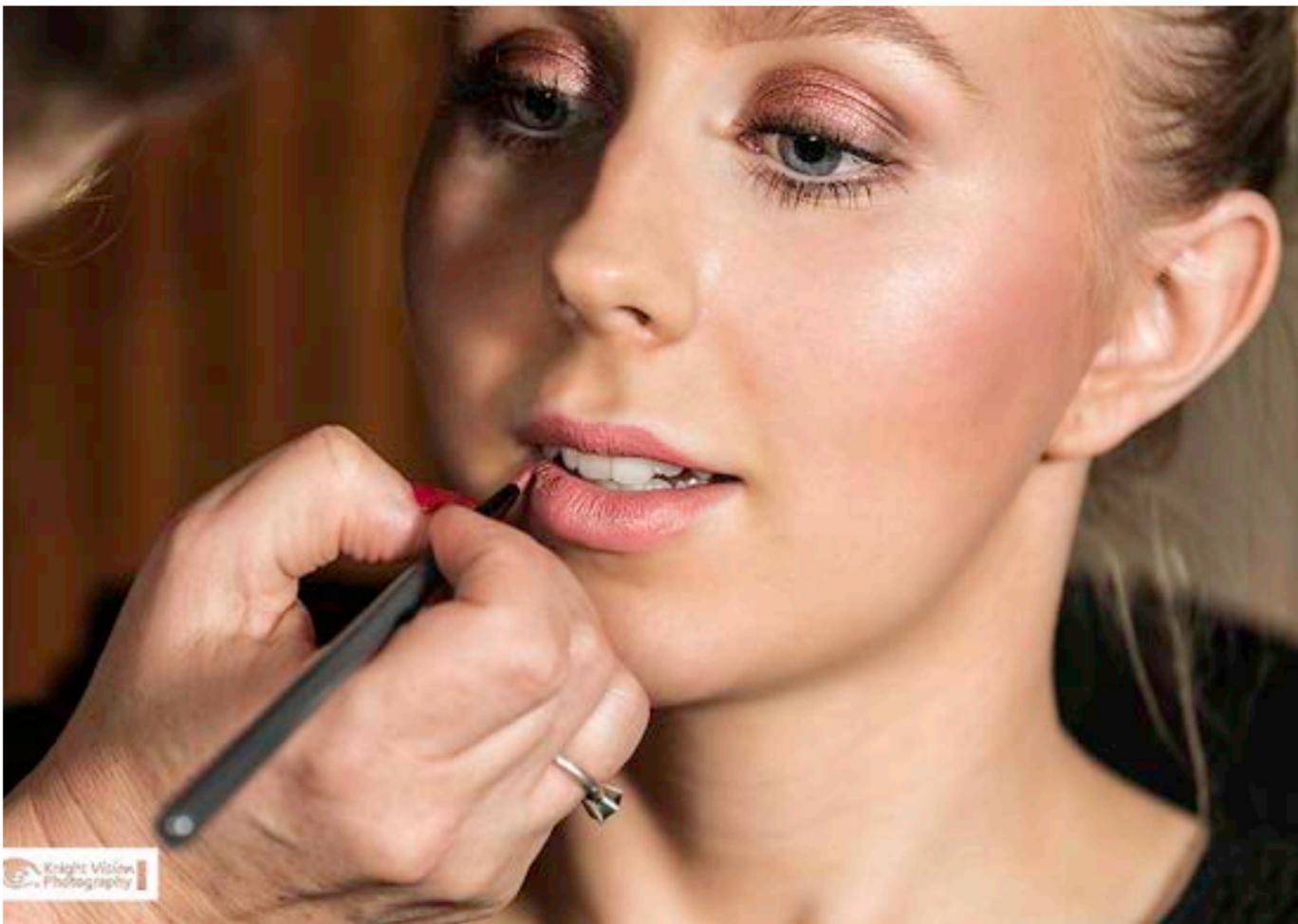


We are delighted to share that one of our Floral Design students, Deborah Winthorpe has received the highest Level 4 theory exam marks for her course. Well done Deborah!



As part of their course, our Floral Design students assist Weddings Florist Linda Carlile on a variety of arrangements for our commercial events. In October, one of our Level 2 students, Liza Penny, helped Linda create beautiful autumnal bridal bouquets and table arrangements using Roses, Euphorbia fulgens, Leucospermum and foliage.

Linda said: "Liza worked so hard on the designs and gained so much experience with us; it's such a great opportunity to make a brides day with her creative talent!"



Early in November, our Level 2 Floral Design students hosted their Fictional Wedding to showcase their headpieces and bouquets. Thank you to all involved - the final pieces were beautiful!

Photography: Knight Vision Photography
Make-up: Suzanne Rachel Kinlough

Knight Vision Photography

Knight Vision Photography



As part of their Future Farming, Women in Agriculture focus, Cornish Mutual recently spoke to Agriculture Head of Department, Lydia Lee about the changing gender balances in agricultural programmes.

Lydia said; "In recent years, we've seen the number of females enrolled in agricultural and land-based courses at Kingston Maurward remain relatively stable at 20-30%. The number of women studying agriculture at the College has remained stable since the 1980s, although, we are seeing more female students on our Level 2 & 3 courses compared to the Level 1 intakes."



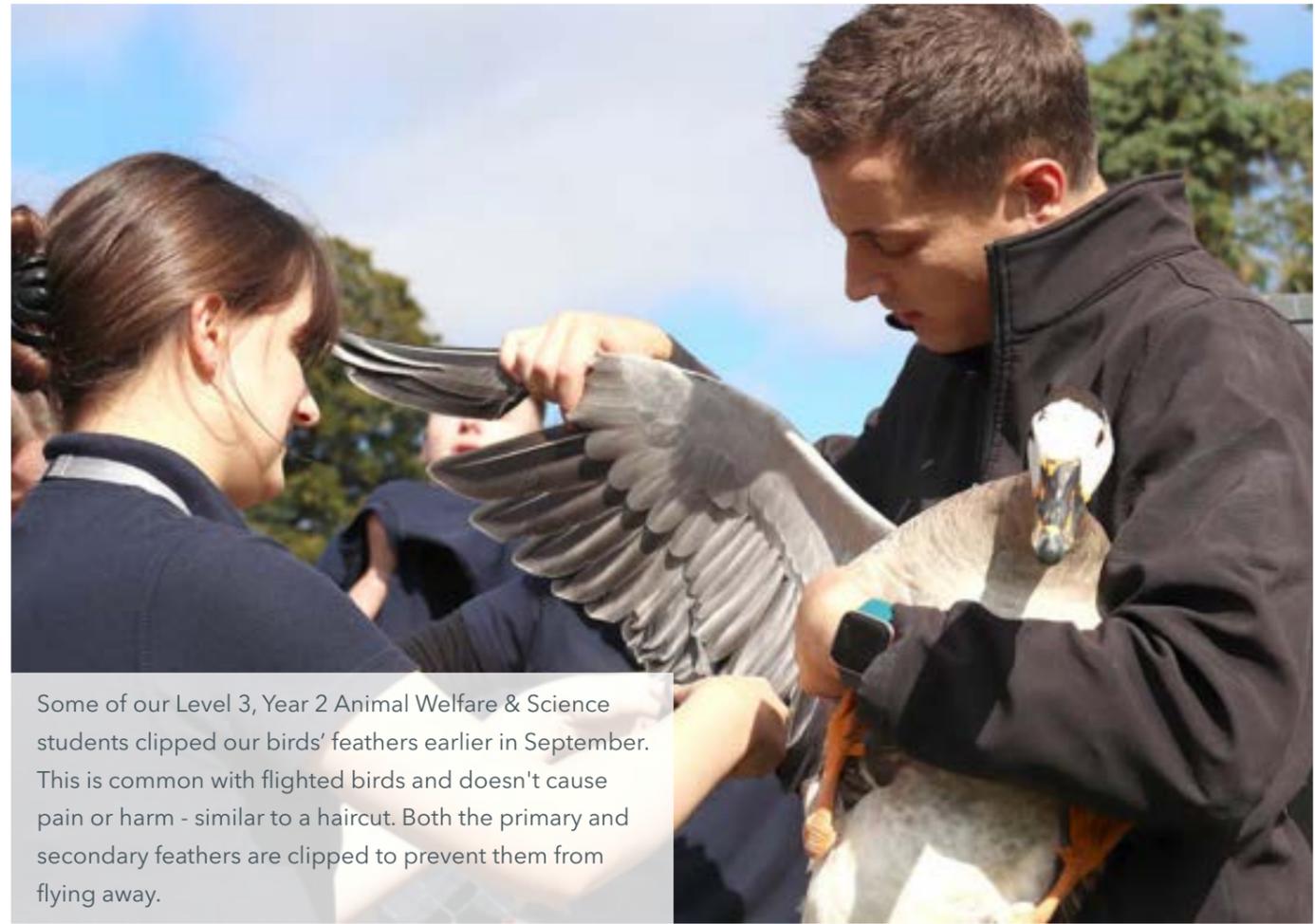
As part of our college #soilsday, we invited industry speakers onto campus to speak to our students about the importance of healthy soil.

We are excited to share that our Agriculture Course Manager, Lydia Lee, attended the Hedgelaying & Ploughing Match at Melplash Show in September and won a few classes!





As part of their course, our Level 1 Agriculture students took part in a variety of activities including clearing a walkway, building a new path to the tractor shed and learning about different animal feeds, maize, and grass silage.

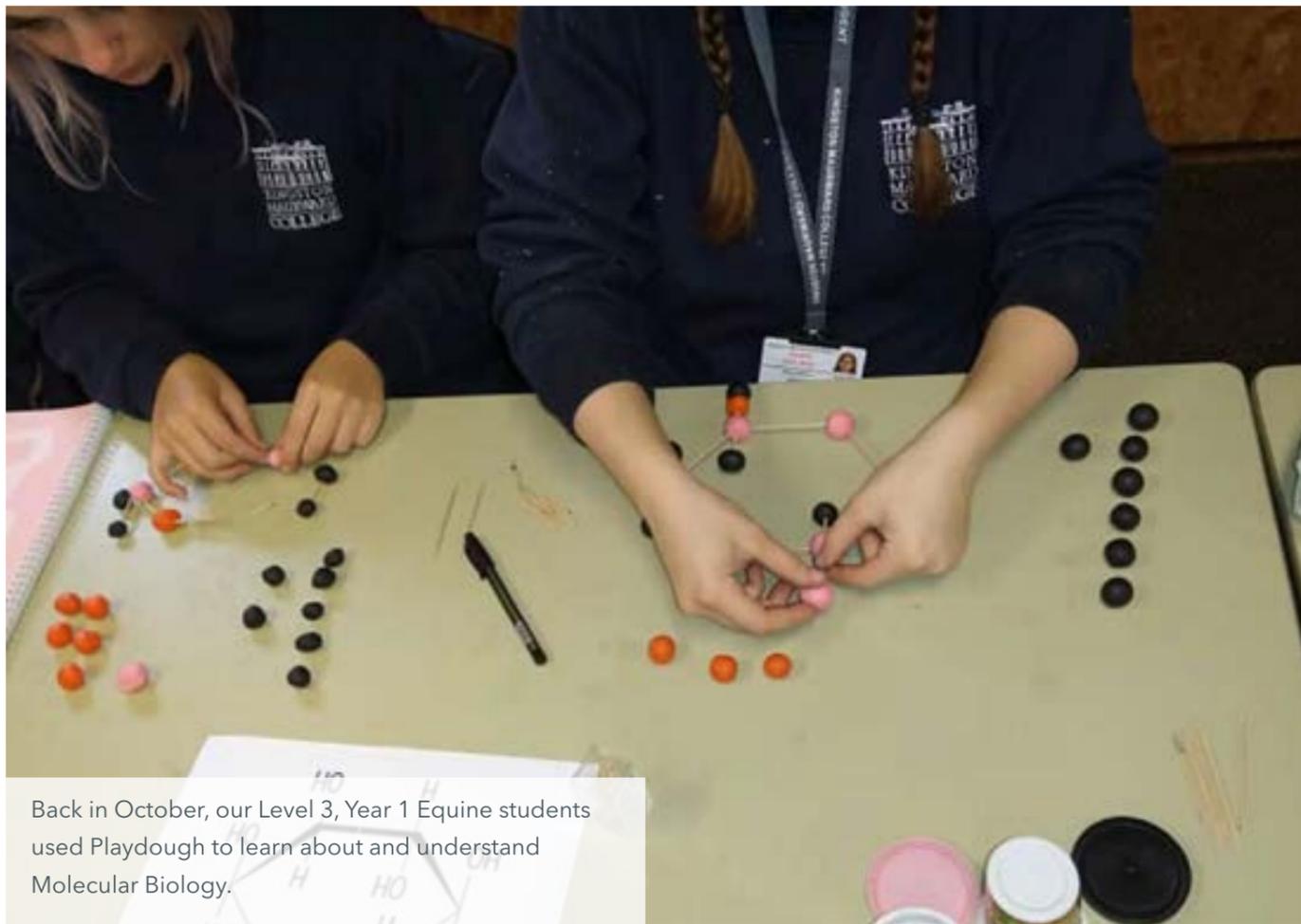


Some of our Level 3, Year 2 Animal Welfare & Science students clipped our birds' feathers earlier in September. This is common with flighted birds and doesn't cause pain or harm - similar to a haircut. Both the primary and secondary feathers are clipped to prevent them from flying away.



Our Level 3, Rural Business students were joined by Matt Uren, an agent from NFU Mutual, earlier in October who spoke to them about insurance for their Personal & Business Finance module. Talks like this are fundamental for our students to learn more about this industry.





Back in October, our Level 3, Year 1 Equine students used Playdough to learn about and understand Molecular Biology.



In October, Racing to School hosted our Level 3, Year 2 equine students for a day racing at Wincanton. They were given a behind-the-scenes tour of the weighing, and jockeys' changing room, and careers information on all the supporting roles in racing...it's not all about riding!



Our Level 3, Year 1, Equine Studies students getting to grips with estate skills earlier this term.



As part of their Coaching unit, our Level 3, Year 2 Equine students gave our Year 3 Foundation Learning students a lead rein lesson last week. This was a great experience for all and helped develop their co-ordination and teamwork skills.

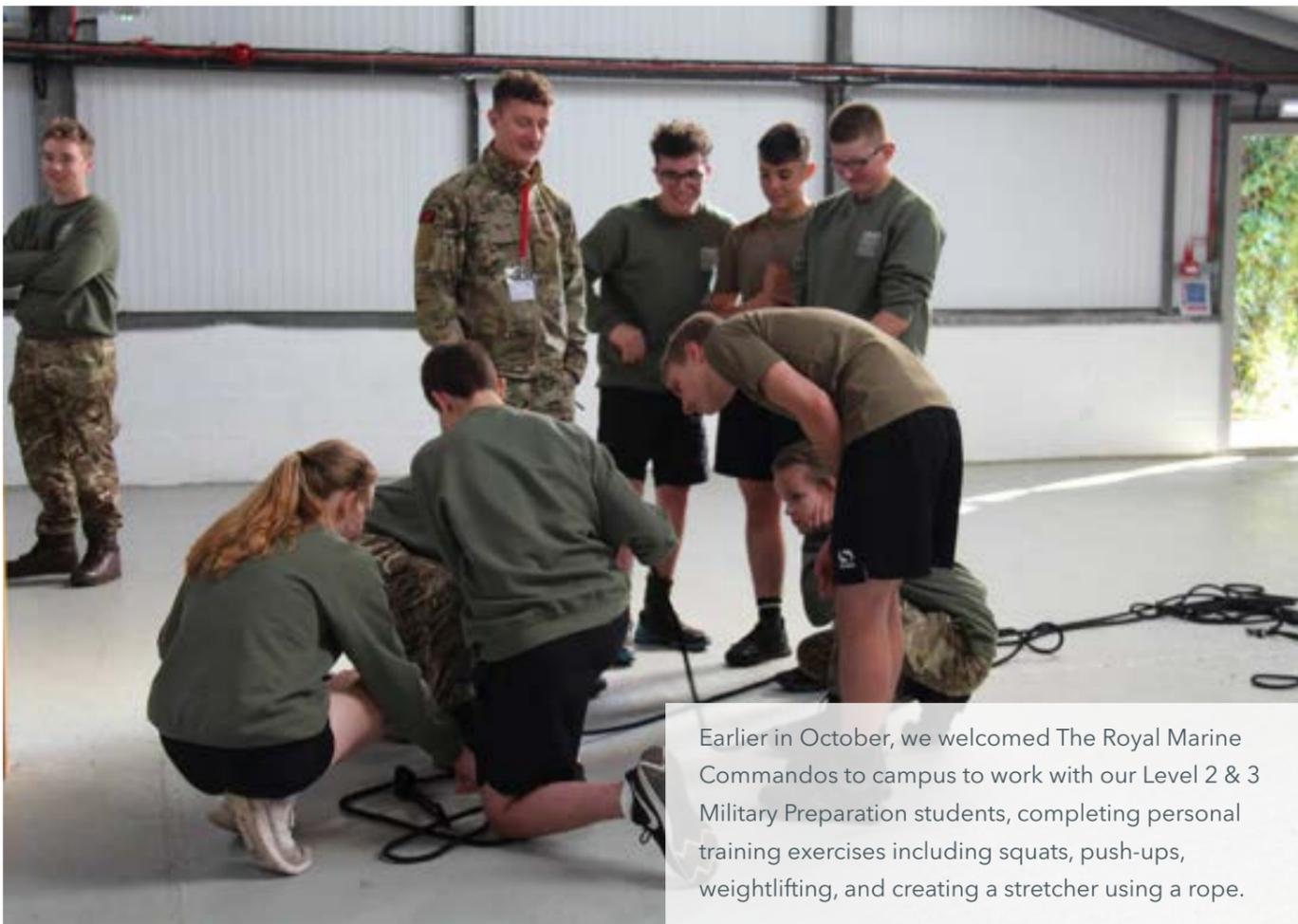


We were delighted to welcome the Royal Navy onto campus earlier this term to develop teamwork, collaboration and communication skills with our learners. This was a great opportunity for our Level 3 Protective Service and Military Preparation students - thank you!

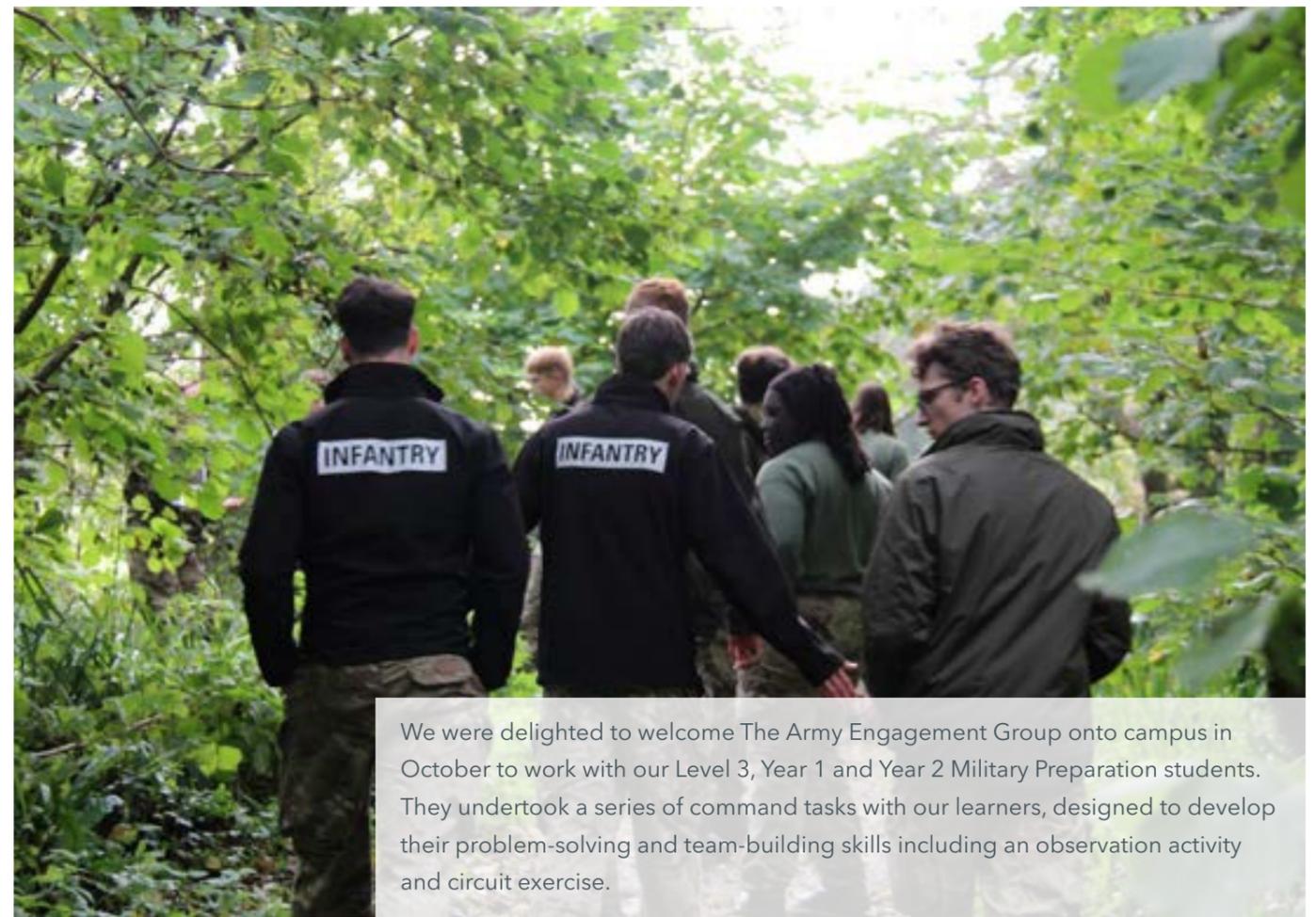


Our Level 3, Year 2 Military Preparation students recently visited The Isle of Purbeck as part of their Expedition unit, which was a fantastic opportunity to develop their team building, navigation, communication, and fitness skills. The trip involved walking and navigating from a drop-off point back to their campsite.





Earlier in October, we welcomed The Royal Marine Commandos to campus to work with our Level 2 & 3 Military Preparation students, completing personal training exercises including squats, push-ups, weightlifting, and creating a stretcher using a rope.

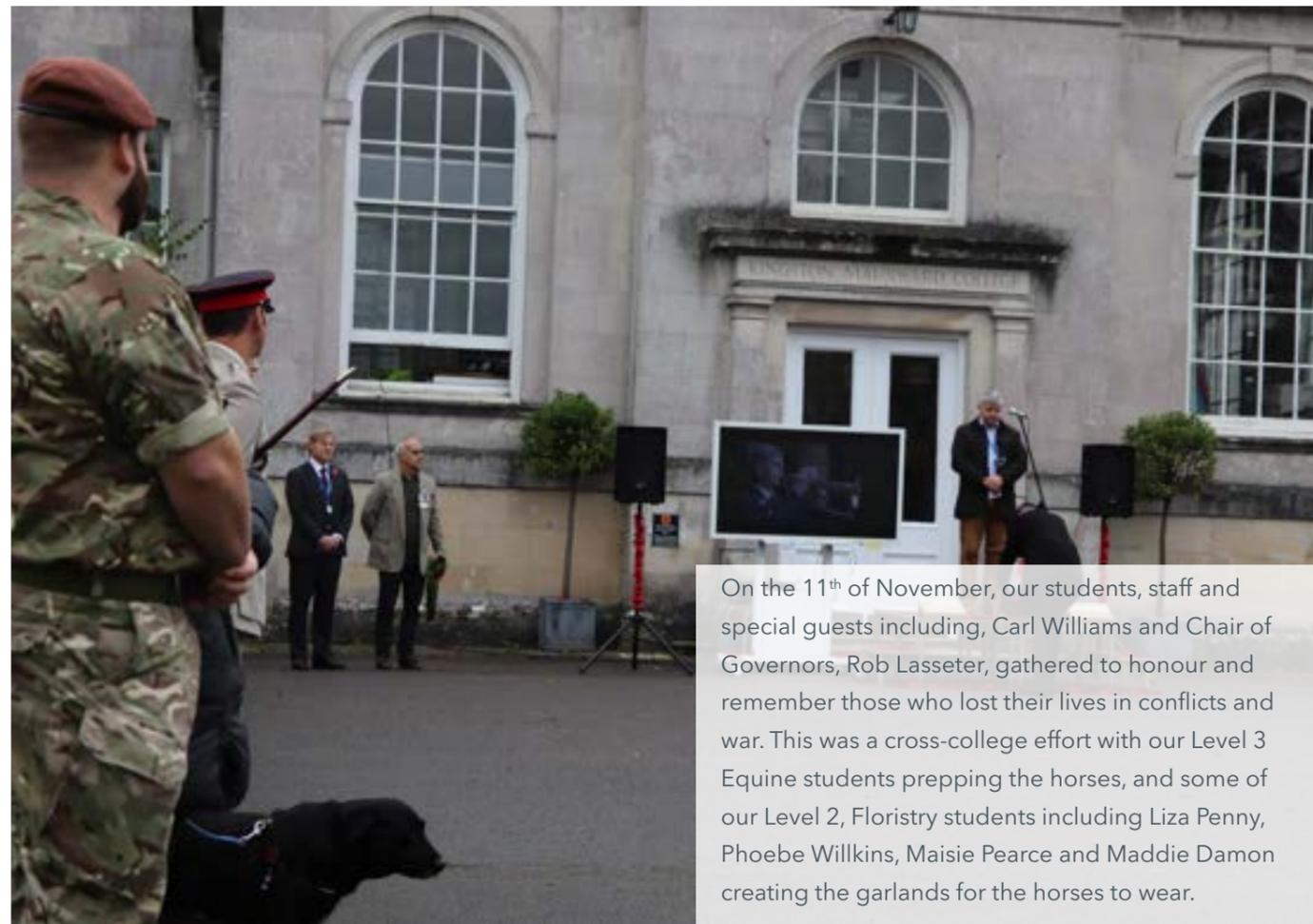


We were delighted to welcome The Army Engagement Group onto campus in October to work with our Level 3, Year 1 and Year 2 Military Preparation students. They undertook a series of command tasks with our learners, designed to develop their problem-solving and team-building skills including an observation activity and circuit exercise.





Our Level 2 & Level 3, Year 1 Military Preparation students completing some raft building.



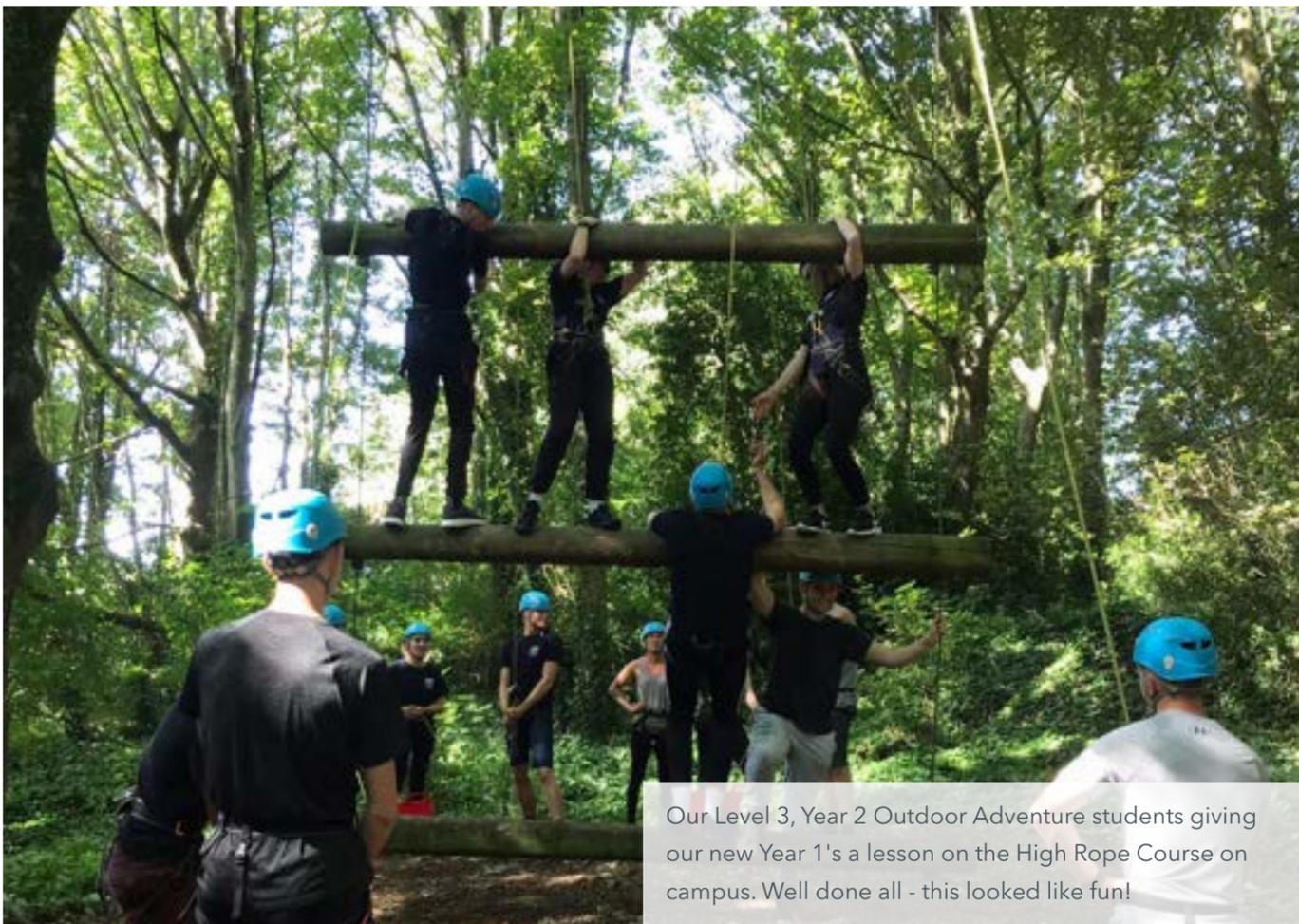
On the 11th of November, our students, staff and special guests including, Carl Williams and Chair of Governors, Rob Lasseter, gathered to honour and remember those who lost their lives in conflicts and war. This was a cross-college effort with our Level 3 Equine students prepping the horses, and some of our Level 2, Floristry students including Liza Penny, Phoebe Willkins, Maisie Pearce and Maddie Damon creating the garlands for the horses to wear.



We captured our Level 3, Year 1 Uniformed Protective Services students canoeing on the lake - at least some of them managed to stay dry!



Earlier in September, our Level 2 Outdoor Adventure students visited West Bay for a canoeing journey along the River Brit.

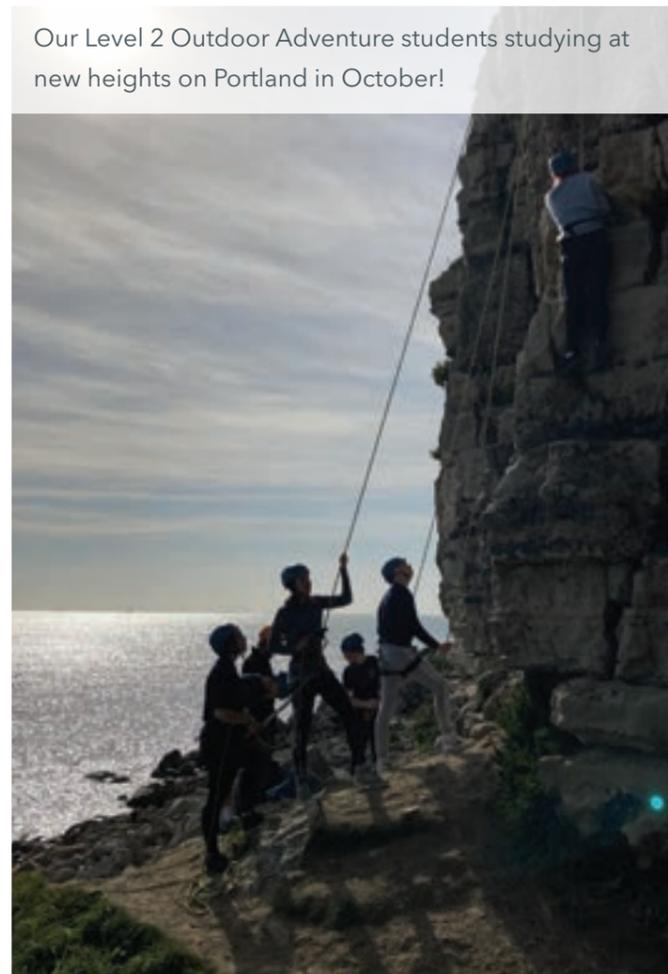


Our Level 3, Year 2 Outdoor Adventure students giving our new Year 1's a lesson on the High Rope Course on campus. Well done all - this looked like fun!





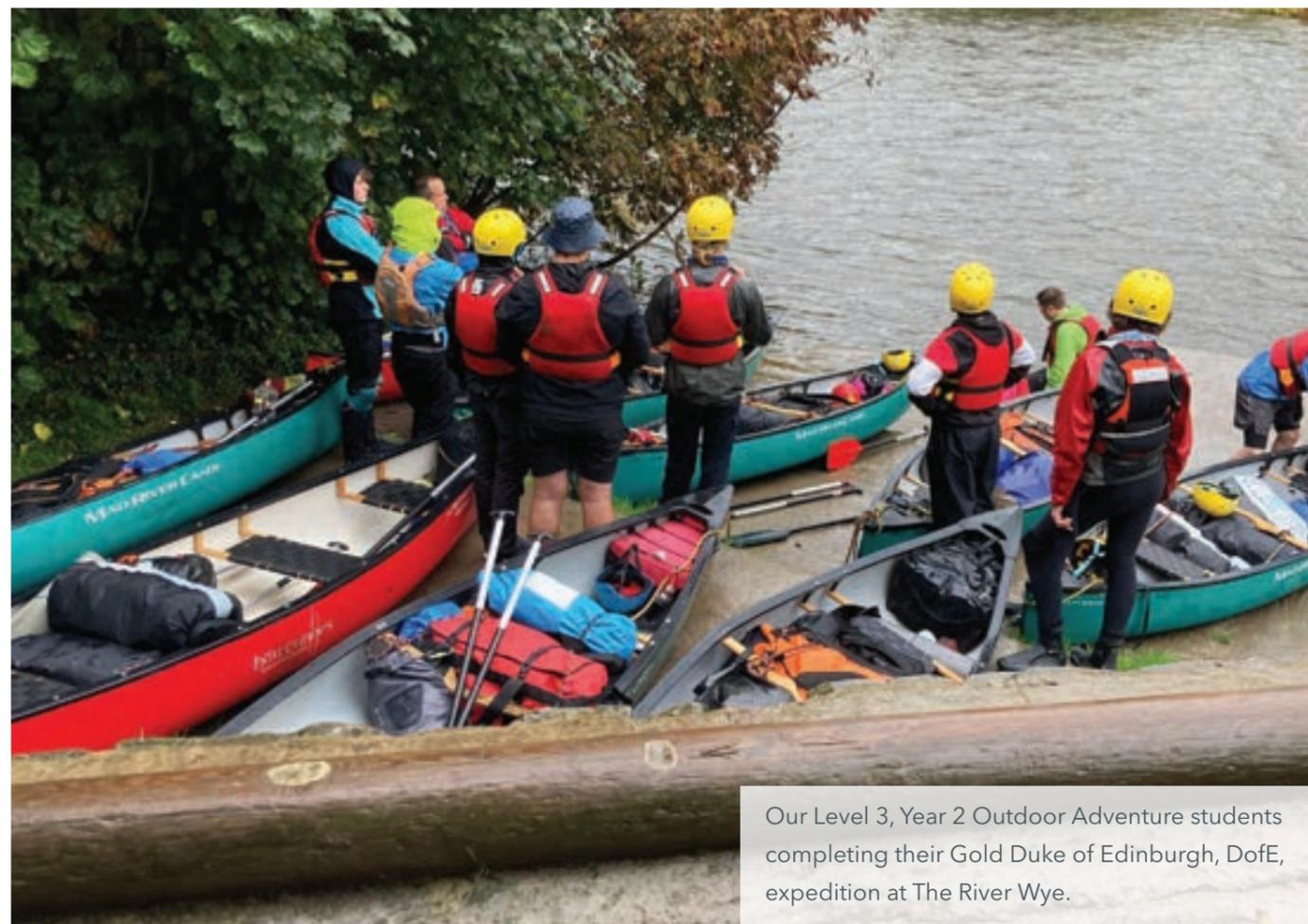
Our Level 3, Year 2 Outdoor Adventure students' prepping for their Gold Duke of Edinburgh, DofE with some night navigation earlier this term!



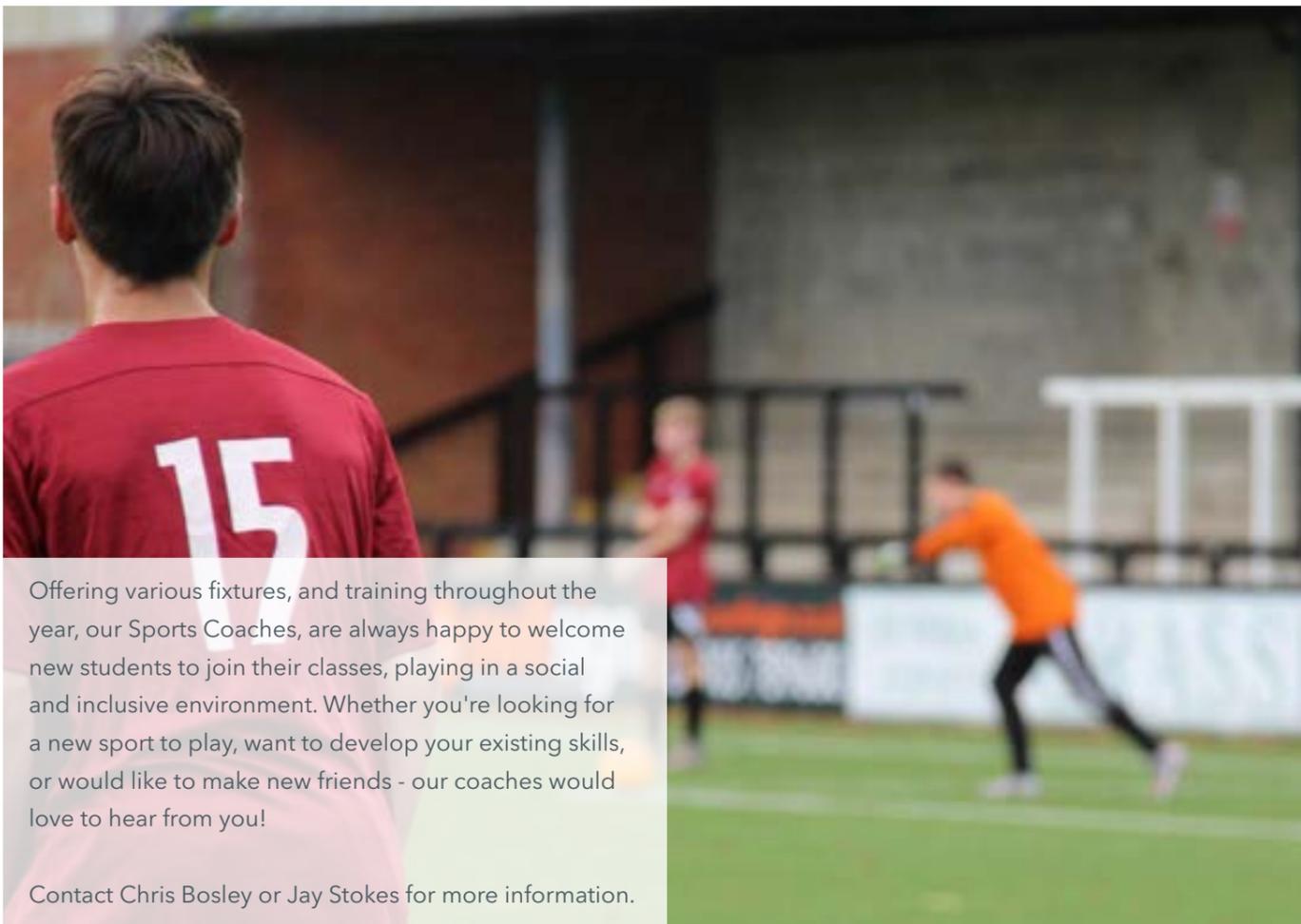
Our Level 2 Outdoor Adventure students studying at new heights on Portland in October!



Our Level 3, Year 2 Outdoor Adventure students ran a Low Ropes session for our Entry 2 Foundation Learning students yesterday.



Our Level 3, Year 2 Outdoor Adventure students completing their Gold Duke of Edinburgh, DofE, expedition at The River Wye.



Offering various fixtures, and training throughout the year, our Sports Coaches, are always happy to welcome new students to join their classes, playing in a social and inclusive environment. Whether you're looking for a new sport to play, want to develop your existing skills, or would like to make new friends - our coaches would love to hear from you!

Contact Chris Bosley or Jay Stokes for more information.



Men's Rugby Fixtures:

19th January, 2nd March, 9th March, 30th March.

For more information contact Rugby Coach, Jay Stokes.



Women's Football Fixtures:

1st December, 8th December, 12th January, 26th January, 9th February.

For more information contact Sports & Fitness Coach, Chris Bosley.



Men's Football Fixtures:

15th December, 5th January, 19th January, 26th January, 2nd February, 16th February, 16th March.

For more information contact Sports & Fitness Coach, Chris Bosley.



Our Skills for Working Life Entry 3 Foundation Learning students on our climbing wall in November.



Our Skills for Working Life Entry 3 Foundation Learning students on our climbing wall in November under the expert tutelage of Adam Goddard.

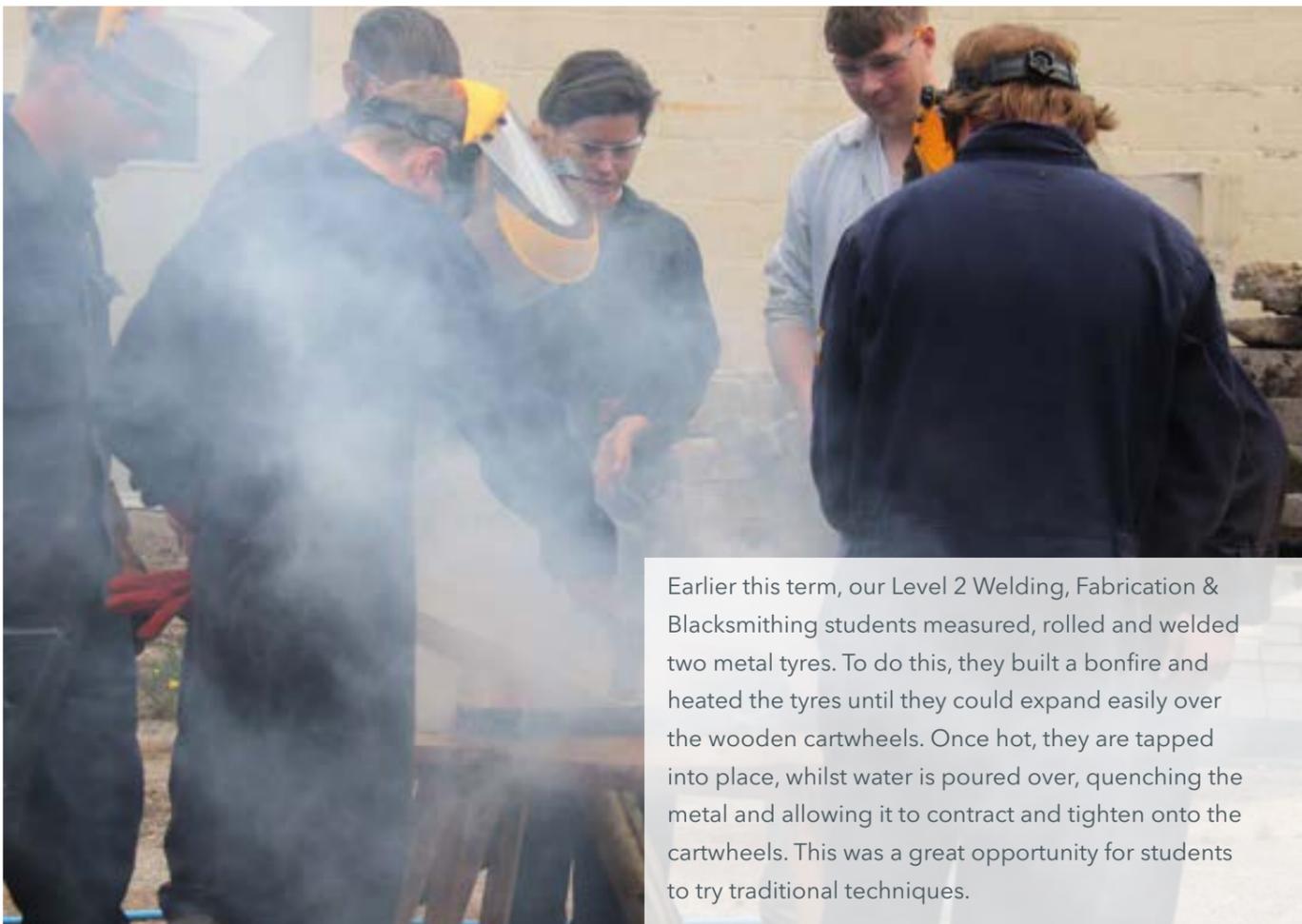


One of our Foundation Learning students, Felix, hanging in the treetops earlier in November!



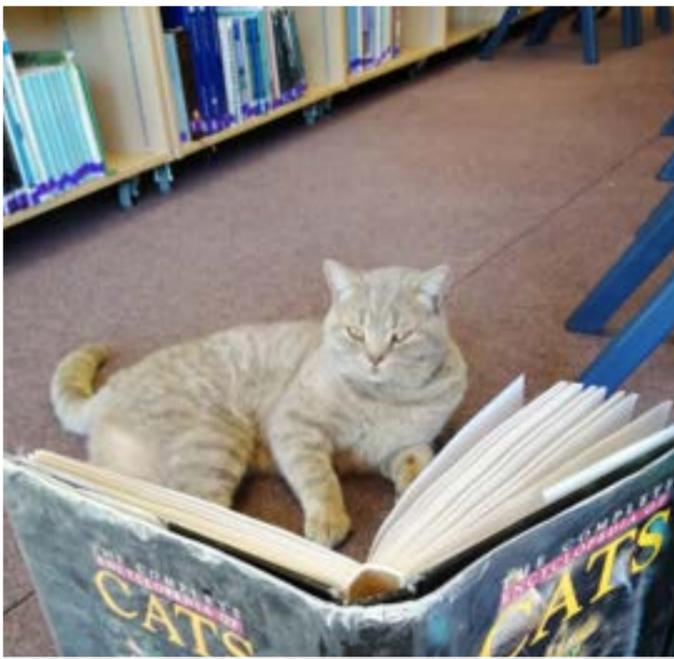


We would like to say a huge thank you to Men's Shed for building our cart which is situated outside The Estate Shop at Kingston Maurward. The wheels were constructed in conjunction with our Welding, Fabrication & Blacksmithing students and was a fantastic opportunity for all involved, and a great example of our College and commercial enterprises working together.



Earlier this term, our Level 2 Welding, Fabrication & Blacksmithing students measured, rolled and welded two metal tyres. To do this, they built a bonfire and heated the tyres until they could expand easily over the wooden cartwheels. Once hot, they are tapped into place, whilst water is poured over, quenching the metal and allowing it to contract and tighten onto the cartwheels. This was a great opportunity for students to try traditional techniques.





We've had a visit from a very unusual guest this Autumn, with four paws, a fluffy tail and a very confident demeanour. 'Wolfie' is a cat that lives on the outskirts of the campus who occasionally saunters into the building to check everything is in order. Students have been delighted to see him and he is always very affectionate if a little noisy at times!



Running up to Halloween, our display in the foyer took a closer look at microscope slides that were Halloween themed and quotes in literature that would give you the chills. Visitors to the building were able to look at photographs of microscope slides and try to guess what they were. Examples were pumpkin pollen, frogs' lungs, and a cockroach wing.



Rainbow Support Group is up and running again on Tuesday lunchtimes in LRC 21 and via the Teams page. We look forward to meeting those who attend and running some fun and informative activities. The club is for students, so once everyone has settled in, we will discuss what everyone would like to see in the lunchtime drop-in sessions and across campus in general.



We celebrated Black History Month with significant literature from around the world and paying tribute to a variety of people who have contributed to the black community and civil rights movements. Posters of these inspirational people were put at the end of the shelving in the library and on Moodle to remind us of their achievements.

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