

BCoT hospitality students and staff thought carefully about their menu to ensure there would be something suitable for everyone. Guests were served with a choice of Cauliflower and Dal Curry or Chicken in Mushroom sauce, with roast potatoes, vegetable pilau rice, salad and poppadums.

“This was a great opportunity for our students to think about how they could accommodate different religious and dietary needs into one menu, whilst still producing delicious food,” said Course Director, Vicki Quilter. “And, as always, they did an excellent job of representing us at the event, too.”

Fancy being a guest speaker?



Becoming a guest speaker at BCoT is a great opportunity for you to gain experience in public speaking and raise the profile of your company. This could even be used as a way to attract new employees or promote apprenticeship vacancies.

If this is something you would be interested in, please contact alumni@bcot.ac.uk for more details.

Create Your Future for 2017

Whether you are seeking qualifications to go on to university or need professional accreditation for your career or just want to learn something new. There is so much on offer at BCoT at times to suit you.

With a wide range of part-time, professional and access courses starting January 2017, come along to our event on 9th January 5-7pm to see what's on offer.

Alternatively, visit www.bcot.ac.uk/jan-courses for more information.

Are you an employer looking to recruit an Apprentice?

In the Spring term we have an Apprenticeships Fair on Monday 13th March, 4:30-7:30pm, and we would love it if you could attend!

To book yourself a table and find out more about this event, please call **01256 306588**.

Save the date

BCoT turns 70!

On the **24th June** we will be holding our big 70th birthday bash, so please save the date for now and information will follow very soon!



Other opportunities to visit us

We have a number of events coming up so why not bring someone you think would benefit from a course at BCoT, or come and help us out as a valuable member of our Alumni? Upcoming events at the College:

- **Open Evening**—Monday 13th February 2017, 4:30-7:30pm
- **Open Evening**—15th May 2017, 4:30-7:00pm
- **Apprenticeships Fair**—Monday 19th June 2017, 4:30-7:30pm



Thank you for reading this terms newsletter, have a fantastic Christmas break and we will see you in 2017!



To offer your help or contribute in any way to this newsletter please email daniel.rose@bcot.ac.uk.

Stay in touch with us on social media:



BCoT Alumni Association

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BCoT Alumni Newsletter

Issue 5: Autumn Term 2016



Dear Alumni,



Welcome to your first newsletter of the new academic year, we hope you had a great Summer and Autumn.

This newsletter will reflect some of our highlights of the Autumn term so far, profiling former students and looking ahead to the Spring term and what to look forward to.

We hope you enjoy reading our stories, there are tons more available on our website (www.bcot.ac.uk).

We hope you enjoy it!

Nicole, Dan and the BCoT team

New Construction facilities unveiled

October 2016

The Construction Department at BCoT held a special event to launch the opening of its new facilities on the College's North site.

The event was attended by the Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane, Cllr Jane Frankum, as well as employers, staff and students.

In his welcome speech, BCoT Principal Anthony Bravo said the new facilities were going to “provide much needed training to meet the shortage of skilled people in the Construction industry.” He spoke about the many opportunities for students both now and in the future, particularly with the Manydown development where thousands of new homes will be built.

He added:

“This is a chance for young, skilled professionals to get involved in a huge community project where they could actually start and finish their career. This will have a real economic impact in this region and I am delighted BCoT are now able to maximise the opportunities for young people and the local industry.”

The Mayor was charged with cutting the hazard tape to mark the official opening of the facilities. She and her son, Tony Frankum, were then taken on a tour of the department which included:

- The Ariston room, where £10,000 worth of equipment has been donated by heating and plumbing specialists Ariston
- The Interior systems workshop sponsored by Nevill Young

Sarah Harris from Nevill Long, who sponsor and supply of all the materials for the Interior Systems at BCoT, said:

“We are pleased to be part of a programme teaching the next generation of industry specialists. With the current shortage of skilled workers, these students can be assured of a really solid future career with great earning potential and prospects.”

Amiri Construction, who built the new facility, were in attendance at the event, and Contracts Manager, Simon Powell was delighted with the final product.

“This was our second project for BCoT. We are particularly pleased to create a facility that will allow students to develop their construction skills and knowledge before entering an industry that is in need of qualified, motivated and skilled tradespeople.”

Gareth Yeomans, Head of Faculty for Construction, said:

“This event was an opportunity for the College to showcase the industry-standard facilities we now have available for our students. The investment has been made to ensure we are meeting the demands of the industry, both locally and nationally. There has never been a better time for a young person to train and learn the skills they need for a successful and lucrative career.”





to involve the students and help to develop event catering and the Restaurant at BCoT and build on the great reputation both have.”

Danielle believes joining the College was one of the best decisions she has ever made.

“At first I was nervous because of the age gap between myself and the other students. Despite this, everyone was so welcoming and I bonded well with my fellow learners, making many friends and gaining lots of transferable skills,” said Danielle. “No matter what age you are, you can always go back into education and BCoT is a great place to do that.”

University dream becomes a reality

October 2016

A student from China who studied at BCoT has fulfilled her lifelong dream of going to university in the UK.

Wenjing Sun, who arrived in England four years ago speaking very little English, chose to study first ESOL then Level 3 Business at BCoT after attending an Open Day and being inspired by the staff and students she spoke to. “I realised that I could study a Level 3 programme and gain both the technical qualifications and employability skills I would need for entry to university, and my future career,” said Wenjing.

Now studying a Business Management degree at the University of Winchester, she says her time at BCoT was invaluable in preparing her for higher education.



“The programme at BCoT provides a really broad understanding of business organisations and how they work. Our units covered areas such as Marketing, Accounting and HR, with a real focus on enterprise. We were able to put the skills and knowledge we learnt in the classroom into real life practice through the Young Enterprise scheme where we set up and developed our own businesses. As a result of this, I now approach my studies at university with a real confidence in my own knowledge and abilities.”

Wenjing says that when she first came to the UK, her motivation was to become proficient in her understanding of English and gain the skills necessary to progress to

university. Her ambition now is to successfully complete her degree and then get the best job possible in Industry.

“I am determined to be as successful as I can. My time at BCoT taught me that anything is possible if you work hard and know where you want to go. I am now realising my dream and feel confident that my future career will take me on a very exciting journey.”

Public Services students take part in Ministry of Defence workshop

November 2016

Public Services students recently took part in a fast-paced crisis management scenario at a workshop held by the Ministry of Defence.

BCoT students were given the task of building an action plan to manage an international crisis, which imagined residents of the UK trapped and unable to leave the country. Split into groups, the students took on various roles from the Prime Minister to Home Secretary as they formulated a plan ready for a final ministerial press conference. The groups then presented their strategies one by one, outlining the reasons why they made certain decisions.

The workshop, run by Andy Gillman MBE, is part of the Ministry of Defence’s award-winning outreach programme. In his fortieth year at the MOD, Andy has been working on the programme since 2001, inspiring and motivating students all over the UK.

“The scenario fits in very well with their curriculum and gives them a greater understanding of the different roles involved. It also promotes citizenship and British Values, which I know the College supports,” said Andy.

James Booty, Course Director for Public Services, was very impressed with the workshop and the way students all took active roles.

“The session has helped the students to develop a number of transferable skills such as team work, note taking and confidence, which will help with employability. It was fantastic, and their contributions will be put towards the practical element of their course.”



Blown away by Andy’s charisma from the start, student Javan Else took on the role of the Home Secretary during the workshop.

“It was such a positive experience, I learnt so much about the different roles and enjoyed every minute. Andy has a great deal of experience and the fact he shared it with us was very inspiring.”

Inter Faith Week celebrated in style

November 2016

To celebrate Inter Faith Week, The Restaurant at BCoT was delighted to host a dinner for Basingstoke faith leaders.



Now in its eighth year, Inter Faith Week is a national opportunity to celebrate the good work done by the UK’s many faith-based groups and to celebrate their diversity and commonalities. The aim of the week is to promote good inter faith relations across communities and encourage a greater understanding between those with religious and non-religious beliefs.

In Basingstoke, Inter Faith Week was marked with a Faith Leaders walk and the dinner at BCoT, amongst other activities.

Organised by Islam Jalaita, Basingstoke & Deane’s Community Development Officer for Diversity, The Restaurant at BCoT were pleased to be asked to host this special dinner. The event brought together 26 leaders from across Basingstoke communities, including the Albirr Mosque, the Hindu Society, the Nepalese community, the Basingstoke Gurdwara, the Telugu Association, the Turkish community, Holy Ghost Roman Catholic Church and the Town Chaplains. The Mayor of Basingstoke & Deane, Councillor Jane Frankum, and Chief Inspector Matthew Reeves of Hampshire Police were also pleased to attend.

Former student sees view from the other side of the desk

September 2016

“I joined BCoT thanks to the great impression left on me at an Open Evening and now I am a member of staff, I couldn’t be happier,” says former student, Danielle.

Joining the College as a mature learner, she studied Level 2 Culinary Skills, before completing Level 3 in Professional Cookery.

Priding herself on her ability to organise events and create exquisite baked goods, Danielle has always been passionate about the Hospitality industry.

“I have a number of years’ experience in the industry as I used to work in Safari Hotels in Mauritius, Zambia and Zimbabwe, where I grew up. My family and I made the move to the UK fourteen years ago – where my first job was serving at the Wellington Arms in Stratfield Turgis.”

Danielle’s natural talent and refreshing approach to tasks was noticed mid-way through her Level 3 course, as she was approached by her lecturer asking if she wanted to take up the event catering role at the College.



“When asked, I was ecstatic; unemployed at the time, I instantly said yes and got going,” said Danielle.

The role deals with catering for external events, such as hosting tea parties and various celebrations throughout the year. In addition to this, the College have a contract to supply all event catering to the Mayor’s Office of Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, which includes everything from light buffets to three course meals.

Excited for her future, Danielle cannot wait to work with the new learners.

“I am finally back doing something I enjoy. I cannot wait

