



St Helens College

NEWS

March 2018

ST HELENS COLLEGE TOPS A LEVEL PROGRESS TABLES IN MERSEYSIDE

St Helens College has been recognised in the Department for Education A level performance tables as the best General Further Education College in Merseyside for A level progress.



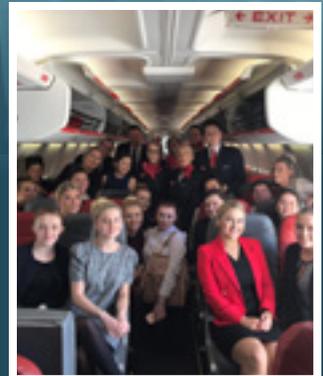
Supporting Visitor
Economy Week



Celebrating
National Apprenticeship
Week 2018



TV Debut for Connecting
Classroom to Career
Ambassador



Students Take to the
Skies with Jet2.com

SEE INSIDE FOR
THE FULL STORIES

Welcome from our Principal

We have had an incredibly busy start to the year with lots of exciting trips, competitions and events. A real highlight was recently being recognised by the Department for Education A level performance tables as the best General Further Education College in Merseyside for A level progress, a result which we are extremely proud of.

This edition of our College newsletter highlights exceptional student successes and achievements, overseas adventures, musical extravaganza's, visitor economy week, apprenticeship celebrations and much more.

With Easter approaching, we understand that this is a busy time as you prepare for your upcoming GCSE exams, however, we hope that you find the stories in this newsletter inspirational as you start to think about what career you would like and what spectacular things you are capable of.

I look forward to meeting you at an Interview Event or on Experience Day.

Anne Pryer
Principal of St Helens College



St Helens College

St Helens College Tops A level Progress Tables in Merseyside

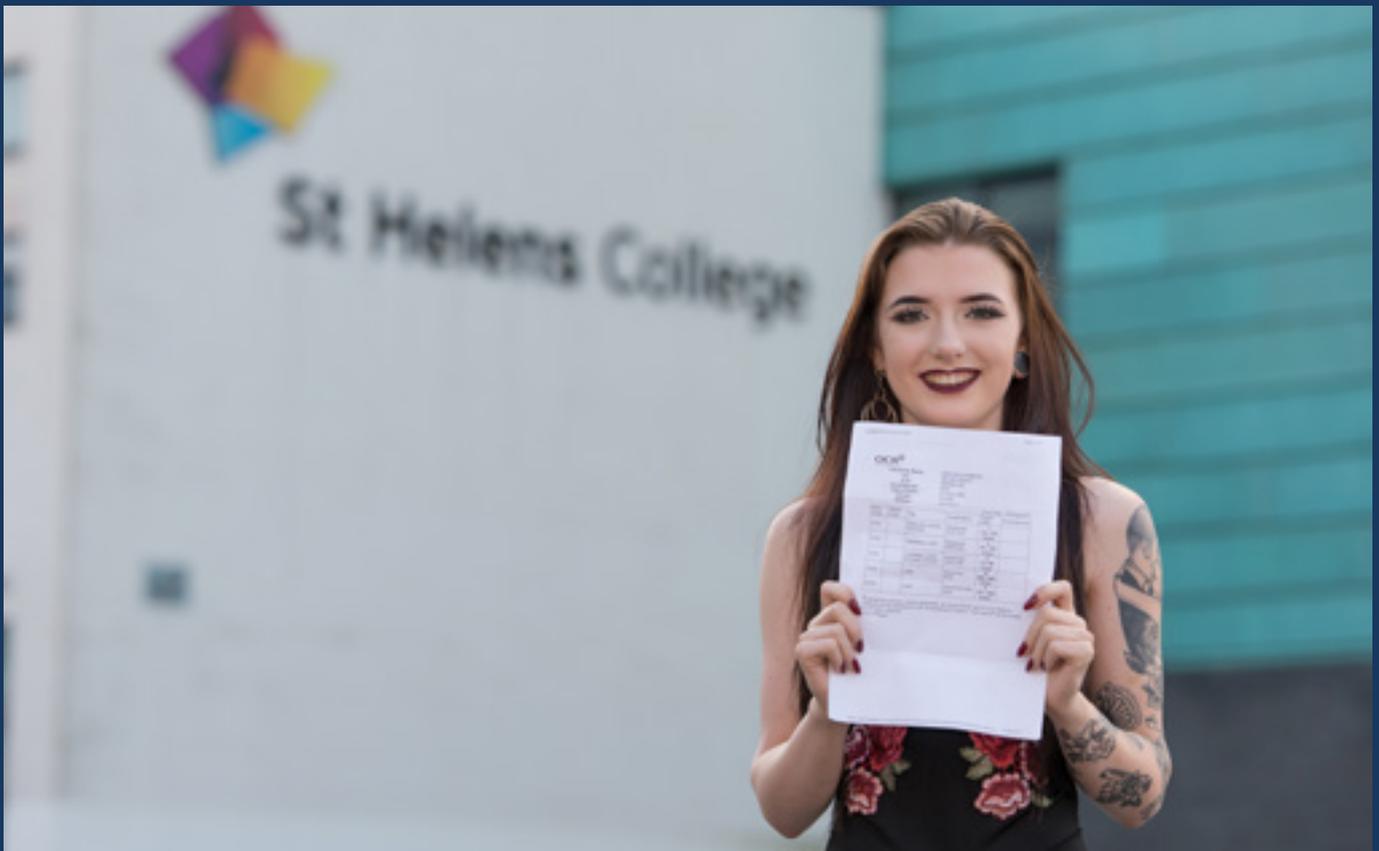
St Helens College has been recognised in the Department for Education A level performance tables as the best General Further Education College in Merseyside for A level progress.

The report demonstrates the impressive progress students make after completing their GCSEs at high school through to the end of their A level studies at St Helens College's A Level Academy.

This result follows the recent success on A level results day with the A Level Academy boasting an outstanding 100% pass rate in Mathematics,

History, English Language, English Literature, Sociology, Psychology and Religious Studies.

Anne Pryer, Principal of St Helens College, said, "What these results highlight, is the fantastic progress made by students upon joining the A Level Academy. We pride our offer on smaller class sizes with intensive support from outstanding, academic tutors, which we believe contributes to the success of our students. We are delighted at this result, being recognised as the top A level provider for progress in Merseyside."



Visitor Economy Week 2018

St Helens College participated in a variety of exciting activities and events in support of Visitor Economy Week.

The annual celebration, which took place from 8th to the 11th February, brought together staff and students across a range of departments including Catering and Hospitality, Travel and Tourism and Hairdressing and Beauty, to highlight some of the fantastic career opportunities that exist within the thriving tourism industry which generates £4.1bn, playing a vital role in the city region's economy.

To launch the week, Travel and Tourism students undertook a two-hour Mandarin lesson with tutor, Jie Wang, and participated in a 'Chinese Culture Masterclass', having a go at calligraphy writing and learning about the origins of Chinese new year and Chinese cooking.

The department also welcomed three successful Cabin Crew alumni, who have progressed on to established airline, Jet2.com Hannah Price, Leah Winstanley and Faye Harnick shared their own experiences and industry tips with aspiring Cabin Crew students.

The celebrations continued with staff and students attending The Prescott School's annual Careers Fair, showcasing their skills across a range of interactive activities including styling, makeup, nail tutorials, live cooking, pancake tasting, interactive flight evacuation demonstrations and airport operation games.

Catering and Hospitality students teamed up with Liverpool FC to host a successful guest chef dinner at Colours Restaurant, where students cooked and served a six course menu alongside the club's Senior Chef, Chris Marshal and their hospitality team.

Visitor Economy Week concluded with a celebratory dinner at The Richmond Hotel in Liverpool, where catering staff and students prepared and created a delicious desert and petit fours which was served to special guests.





Celebrating National Apprenticeship Week

In support of National Apprenticeship Week 2018, we celebrated the outstanding successes of our current apprentices, promoting apprenticeship opportunities to young people and showcasing how 'Apprenticeships Work.'

A whole host of exciting activities took place throughout the week, from 5th March to 9th March, from our Apprenticeship Team providing apprenticeship information sessions to young people at several schools across the borough to a 'Smart Meter Interview Marathon', hosted on a ship berthed in the Albert Dock in Liverpool.

In addition to planned activities, Civil Service Apprentice, Nathan Holland, Dental Nurse Apprentice, Faye Boland, Painter and Decorator Apprentice, Adam Knowles and IT Apprentice,

Matthew Burton, featured across the College's social media platforms, to encourage others to follow in their footsteps and choose an apprenticeship.

St Helens College currently offers apprenticeships in over 20 different sectors, ranging from engineering, life sciences and health to business, logistics and computing, and has over 700 apprentices with high profile employers; including Thermo Fisher Scientific, Pilkington Family Trust and Bagnalls Painting and Decorating.

Find out more about apprenticeships with St Helens College at www.sthelens.ac.uk/apprenticeships.





“St Helens College is where I opened up my opportunities”

St Helens College IT apprentice, Nathan Holland, is making his way up the career ladder, gaining impressive work experience in Cincinnati, USA and rubbing shoulders with high profile clients.

Driven Nathan, from Warrington, has completed the first 12 months of his level 3 IT, Software and Telecoms Apprenticeship and has since secured a level 4 Civil Service Apprenticeship with the Department for Work and Pensions.

Nathan prefers to learn through practical participation and with support from St Helens College, he gained an apprenticeship as a Software Test Engineer with ICC Solutions Ltd. Working as part of a team of seven to ensure software was easy to use and bug-free, Nathan carried out test cases and had to ensure all testing was recorded for future reference.

Spending four days a week in the workplace with ICC Solutions building his skills and experience and one day a week at College, broadening his knowledge, Nathan said, “Receiving support from the tutors and my assessor made all the difference when balancing my assignments at College with my practical experience at ICC Solutions. Once I started to get used to organising my workload and spending my time effectively in order to stay on track, that’s when I really felt that I was achieving the best results.”

He added, “I really enjoyed the Project Management unit of my apprenticeship as it enabled me to learn something new outside of our core IT units and how this transferrable skill can be used across a variety of sectors, not just IT.”

During his apprenticeship, Nathan had a unique opportunity to represent ICC Solutions in Cincinnati, USA, for one week, providing software test solutions to American clientele. His highlights from the trip include socialising with colleagues after work, experiencing business travel and gaining insight from professionals who have worked in the sector for many years.

Nathan said, “An apprenticeship is a really great way to progress in your career and get paid at the same time. It’s the best way of learning for those who are not necessarily suited to a classroom environment and can enable you to gain qualifications that can take you on to university.”

Upon completion of his level 4 Apprenticeship which is equivalent to degree level study, Nathan hopes to undertake the Civil Service Fast Stream, an accelerated career path to higher management and leadership across a variety of departments in the Civil Service from finance, data and technology to the Diplomatic Service and Houses of Parliament.



Connecting Classroom to Career



Classroom

Level 3 IT, Software and Telecoms Apprenticeship

Career

Civil Service Apprentice, Department for Work and Pensions

Joined us from

Great Sankey High School



Watch Nathan's film at
sthelens.ac.uk/Nathan

TV Debut for Connecting Classroom to Career Ambassador

Cameron James Stephenson, St Helens College Engineering alumni and Connecting Classroom to Career ambassador, recently featured in a five-part Channel 4 series, *The Biggest Little Railway in the World*.

Alongside a group of model steam train enthusiasts, led by Dick Strawbridge, Cameron participated in the building of a 74-mile track from Fort William to Inverness along the Great Glen Way, to carry a 7lb miniature steam engine named, 'The Silver Lady.'

Cameron, from Wigan, has always been an avid steam train enthusiast, captivated by road, rail and stationary motive power. This passion combined with the knowledge and skills that

he has developed from his level 3 Advanced Diploma in Engineering at St Helens College, has enabled him to launch his own successful heritage engineering restoration business, C.J.S Engineering.

Speaking of the success of the project and Cameron's involvement, Love Productions Producer, Charlotte Armstrong, said, "Cameron was a key part of this project, combining great engineering know-how with loveable cheeriness. His determination and commitment to the project was unwavering and he was great fun to film with."



Students Experience Smoke-filled Cabin Fever

Level 2 Diploma in Air Cabin Crew students had an exciting opportunity to experience a simulated aircraft emergency situation at Thomas Cook's training centre in Manchester.

The intensive training day enabled students to tackle a smoke filled cabin, safely extinguish a fire within the toilet section of a plane and operate doors in an emergency situation.

Jenny McGill, Travel and Tourism Curriculum Leader at St Helens College, said, "Our cabin

crew students had a fantastic day at the training centre. This gave them a crucial insight into emergency procedures on board an aircraft and reinforced the knowledge that we provide in the classroom at St Helens College."

She added, "The travel and tourism industry is very competitive, which is why it's so important that students have the opportunity to get involved in training such as this, to better prepare them for their career ambitions."



“St Helens College gave me the chance to explore the world”

Travel and Tourism alumna, Olivia Hurst, is jet-setting around the world with luggage in tow after securing an exciting career with the UK's biggest airline, British Airways, as Cabin Crew.

Olivia's career has already taken her to some amazing destinations around the world, from Seattle, Boston and Philadelphia to Thailand and Cape Town. Her most recent trip was to Nairobi, where despite only spending 24 hours there, she had the opportunity to visit an elephant orphanage and giraffe centre.

After completing her GCSEs at The Deanery High School, Olivia pursued her passion for travel by joining the level 3 Extended Diploma in Travel and Tourism at St Helens College. Olivia felt a more vocational study route would be beneficial for her as it would give her dedicated time to study the one subject that she had a real passion for.

Using the skills and knowledge that she had developed at St Helens College, and with support from her tutors, Olivia successfully passed an online assessment for a position as Cabin Crew with British Airways. This led to a successful interview in London.

Speaking about her success Olivia said, “The

College have always been helpful and supportive in helping us find employment and notifying us of any new positions which become available. They have all worked in industry and have amazing links. Their advice and insight is invaluable.”

Olivia began her vigorous 6-week training programme throughout the summer to gain her wings at the British Airways training base at Heathrow, gaining an understanding of the general procedures and theory behind airline safety. The training successfully left her with a Cabin Crew Attestation (CCA) qualification, valid for up to 5 years and recognisable across various aviation companies.

With the basics under her belt, Olivia commenced an additional four weeks British Airways New Entrant Training, from exploring aircraft safety, security and handling emergencies when airborne to customer service and aircraft conversion.

Now that Olivia has settled into her new role, she fully intends to explore other progression opportunities with British Airways and hopes to visit many more exciting destinations both short and long haul.



Connecting Classroom to Career



Classroom

Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma in Travel and Tourism

Career

Air Cabin Crew, British Airways

Joined us from

The Deanery High School



Watch Olivia's film at
sthelens.ac.uk/Olivia

Students Take to the Skies with Jet2.com

Our level 2 Diploma in Air Cabin Crew students took to the skies last weekend with airline, Jet2.com, travelling to Alicante as part of a unique opportunity to participate in a cabin crew familiarisation flight.

Students had the unique opportunity to assist on one of Europe's best low cost airlines, who fly to over 50 sun, city and ski destinations across Europe and beyond.

The trip was organised by tutor, Richard King, who has worked in the industry for a number of years, including a role as a Senior Trainer at Jet2.com. Using his valuable industry contacts, Richard managed to arrange this unique flight familiarisation opportunity.

Starting out their day at Manchester Airport, students were taken to visit the crew rooms where they received a talk from one of the Senior Safety Managers at Jet2.com. From here, the students proceeded to boarding, where they were met by Base Cabin Crew Manager, who allowed the students to board the aircraft first, so they could watch and be involved with customer boarding.

During the flight, students were involved with a number of Cabin Crew roles. Students assisted with customer bags on board, holding public address announcements, assisting with customer scratch cardsales, taking part in in-flight galley training, as well as assisting with the cabin crew turnaround duties in Alicante, ready for the returning flight.

The adventure didn't end there, as the students got to stay in Alicante for two nights so they could experience what a night stop would be like for operating Cabin Crew. Whilst in Alicante, the students went sightseeing, visiting the City of

Elche - the World Capital of Palm Trees as well as experiencing the local culture.

The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all and proved to be a huge success. Tutor Richard, commented, "The students were great and have all said how much they have benefited from the experience."

Students Charlotte Richardson and Chloe Robinson were on hand to capture the fantastic weekend, seeing the takeover of our College social media platforms, where they kept us up to date with their daily activities.





Students Explore West End Stage

Our Performing Arts students recently visited the birthplace of famous actors and playwrights in the bustling hub of London's West End.

They watched two critically acclaimed musical performances of 'Girl From the North Country' written by award-winning playwright Conor McPherson and 'The Play That Goes Wrong',

winner of Best New Comedy at the Laurence Olivier Awards.

Both performances explored themes of physical comedy and musical theatre, complementing the topics that the students are currently exploring on their course.



Extreme Makeover

Performing Arts students recently sat in the makeup chair to undergo an extravagant transformation for their satirical performance of 'The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui', based on the work of German playwright, Bertolt Brecht.

Level 3 makeup students created each look based on a design brief, which enabled them to put their imagination and skills into practice and contributed to their overall portfolio of work for their media makeup unit.



A Level Academy Students Analyse Oscar Pistorius Case

First and second year A level Law students welcomed The University of Law in Chester to the A Level Academy recently, to participate in an industry workshop.

The workshop, which ran alongside the students' criminal law units, gave them a valuable insight into the legal industry and career opportunities after university.

During the workshop, students had the opportunity to put their skills into practice by conducting analysis of the, Oscar Pistorius case. Students received a high level breakdown of the case, including witness testimony, a reconstruction of his apartment, along with statements, times and movements during the night of the incident.



World Book Day

To celebrate national World Book Day, staff and students at St Helens College dressed up as their favourite character from a much loved book, took part in a 'Where's Wally?' treasure hunt around the Town Centre Campus and entered into a fancy dress competition.

Throughout the event, Childcare Tutor, Rachel Summerskill, scooped 'Best Dressed' for her elaborate witch costume from children's story book, 'Room on the Broom' and our students took part in fun, book themed activities throughout the day.

“St Helens College was a straight fire shoot to university”

A Level Academy alumna, Shannon Heaton, is pursuing her passion for law and psychology by choosing to progress on to a degree at The University of Manchester, to prepare for a career in the criminal justice system.

Shannon, from St Helens, has always enjoyed academic study such as researching topics and completing extra reading around her classes at school, so after completing her GCSEs at Rainford High Technology College, she joined the A Level Academy at St Helens College to study A levels in Law, Psychology and Sociology.

Speaking about her experience at the A Level Academy, Shannon said, “Studying at the A Level Academy has developed my confidence and independence. You can just be yourself and I couldn’t have been made to feel more at home. Most importantly, my tutors are some of the nicest people that I have ever met and the relationship that you develop with them, is really beneficial when you are trying to excel in an environment. They push and motivate you to be the best that you can be.”

On A level results day, Shannon achieved two A*s and a B, exceeding her predicted

grades and securing a place at her first choice university, The University of Manchester to study Law combined with Psychology. She hopes to take advantage of their work placement schemes and also the opportunity to study abroad.

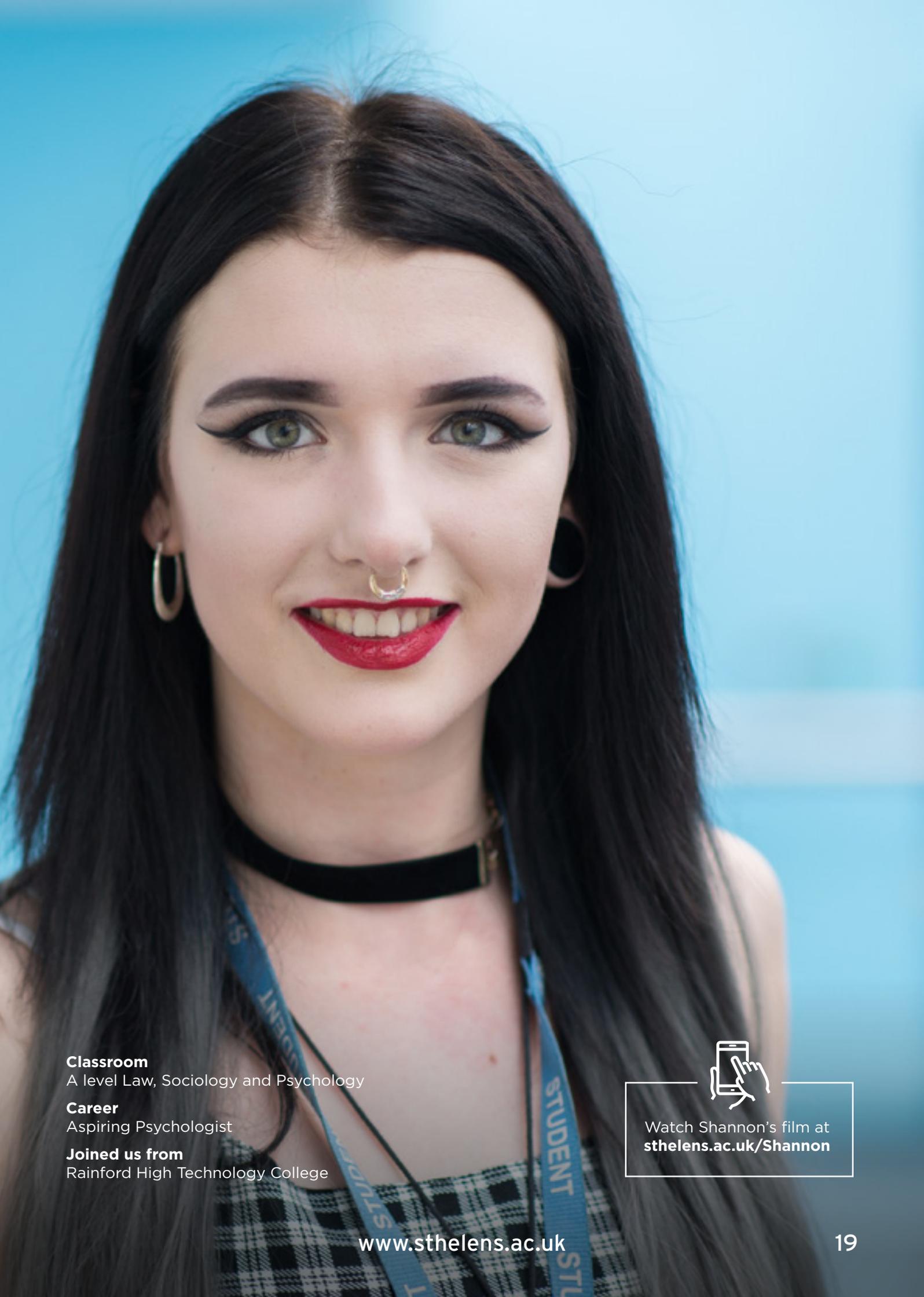
Shannon’s interest in law developed further after participating in the annual Behind Bars Conference with College, where she had the opportunity to discuss sentencing and reform with ex-offenders and gain an insight into the UK justice system and prison rehabilitation.

She added, “Studying A levels is much more than gaining analytical skills and research skills. It’s also about developing your personal growth too such as understanding how to communicate with others and having the ability to stand alone and tackle things independently. Most importantly, it’s about developing the confidence to speak out and believe in yourself.”

Whilst Shannon is busy preparing for university life in September, she will complete work experience with Merseyside Police, at her local police station in St Helens. Her day-to-day tasks will include shadowing Police Officer’s in the community and understanding the daily administration processes at the station.



Connecting Classroom to Career



Classroom

A level Law, Sociology and Psychology

Career

Aspiring Psychologist

Joined us from

Rainford High Technology College



Watch Shannon's film at
sthelens.ac.uk/Shannon

Photography Inspired by Manchester

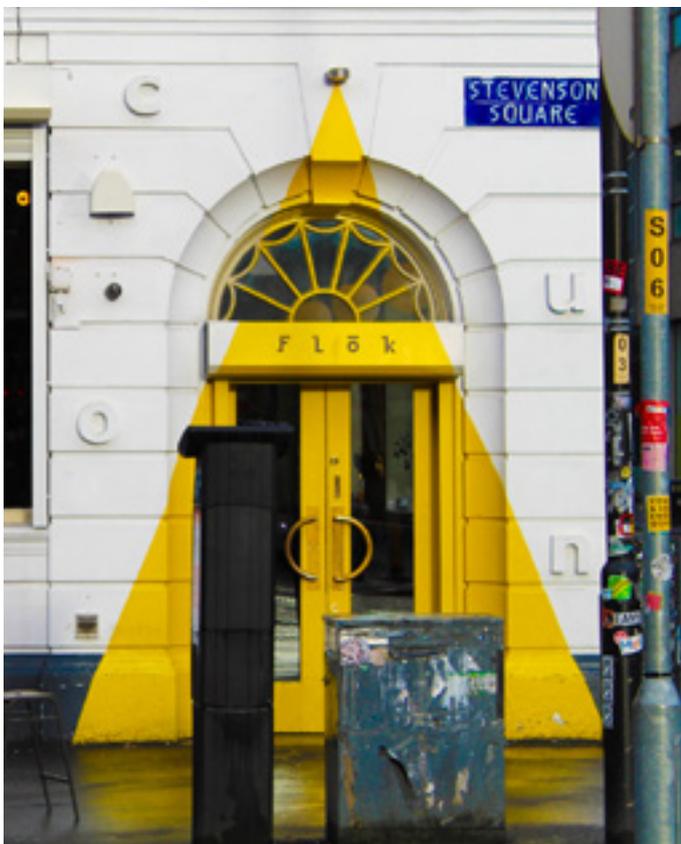
Level 3 Photography students explored Manchester recently, shooting both film and digital street scenes, street portraiture, textures and shapes, as part of their assignments.

During the trip, they also visited highly acclaimed exhibitions at the Whitworth Art Gallery to gain inspiration, including works of art by John Stezaker and Raqs Media Collective.





Charlotte Abrathat



Liam Cox



Mason Littler

Graphic Design Student Wins Police Competition

Merseyside Police Officers have embarked on Operation Jinli, a Force initiative designed to counteract knife crime.

Police Officers collaborated with our level 3 Graphic Design students, working together on a live brief to produce a set of posters, to encourage young people to speak openly about the dangers of carrying weapons and the consequences.

The winning design went to student, Andrew Tickle, whose artwork concept was based on highlighting, that with knife crime, there is more than one victim. Andrew, said, "I really enjoyed being a part of this project and creating my pieces. It's not just about the victim but the families and friends who are left behind."

Andrew will see his poster displayed across the borough as Merseyside Police integrate it into their campaign.



Industry Upcycling Initiative with Bagnalls



Painting and decorating students received generous donations of materials and painting supplies from industry link, Bagnalls. The donations included industry specification equipment such as paintbrushes, rollers, 200 tins of various paints and 40 standard rolls of unused wallpaper.

Painting and Decorating Tutor, Terry O'Keefe, said, "This generous donation is extremely welcome and will really contribute to what the students are covering within the curriculum at the moment. It is really important that students are familiar with industry products as this really prepares them for their future careers."

Creative Writing Competition Sparks Students' Imagination

A national creative writing competition 'Stranger Sagas,' has fuelled the imagination of our young writers, seeing a number of mini-sagas written by students across St Helens College, being selected for publication in a young writer's anthology.

The competition saw over 20,000 entries from schools and colleges across the country. Thirty of our students, from various courses, including GCSE English and A level English, who entered the competition have successfully been selected for publishing - a fantastic achievement for our students to celebrate.

A Level Academy student, Katie Moffat, currently studying A level English Language, English Literature and History, was one of the lucky students to have her work picked for publication. Her involvement with the competition came about

through her English Literature A level, where she was able to utilise her love for writing with the techniques she had learnt on her course.

Katie, who aspires to be a journalist, produced a crime murder mini saga, taking inspiration from the many books she's read and writing her story from a victim's perspective with a cliff hanger ending to build suspense.

She said, "I was so pleased to be involved with the Stranger Sagas competition. To have the opportunity to have my work published in a book is a real achievement for me. It'll be great to include on my CV as well as on my university personal statement."

The Stranger Sagas book will be published in April.



• 2018 •

EXPERIENCE

• DAY •

WEDNESDAY 4TH JULY 2018
10.00AM - 2.00PM

Come along to our fun, free taster day! You will take part in interactive, sample lessons in your chosen subject get to know your tutors, make new friends and experience life as a St Helens College student.

• **BOOK NOW** •

To let us know that you are coming, please book your ticket
Visit: www.sthelens.ac.uk/experienceday Call: 0800 99 66 99



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