

BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



JACK TURNER

Level 2 Diploma in Art, Design & Media

The Castle School

I absolutely love studying at BTC. Not only are the teachers super friendly and nice to work with, but I've also developed great friendships. Everyone makes you feel really welcome, even while they push you to excel.

I enjoy researching films and artists, then relating my findings to the coursework. Filming and editing are some of my favourite things to do, but I also

enjoy discussing the process and debating. Our lessons are fun and my tutors are very patient and supportive, both academically and with our general well-being.

The College provides all the equipment I need to be creative. It's amazing to use Premiere Pro and Photoshop, and my confidence and communication skills have grown since starting the course. Now I feel able to make the most of opportunities on offer such as applying for film courses, being a part of my friend's short films, and participating in work experience at Somerset Film. I'm so proud that I found my own work experience, have stepped out of my comfort zone and started to build a portfolio to help me in the future.

If you don't get a grade 4 in your maths and English GCSE at school, you have to re-take them at college. This is my favourite aspect about the College, as you get brilliant teachers who help you in areas where you struggle. Last year I had to re-sit maths, but was provided with extra support and I was so excited to get a grade 4, my target goal!



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



TOBY LEVER

Level 3 Extended Diploma in Art & Design

The Castle School

I am enjoying studying at BTC, it's a great environment and the College community is very welcoming. I found it very reassuring going to an Open Evening and the Welcome Day allowing me to get to know the staff and other people from my course.

One of my many favourite moments so far has been the trip to Rome where we were able to

immerse ourselves in the culture. I also love the studio space we have and the high level of support I get for my ideas when I'm working on responding to a brief.

Staff have also helped me think about what to do after College. They know I'd like to become a photographer so have given me the freedom to focus my coursework in this direction. I'd love to go straight into working as a photographer but think it's probably best to get a degree, either full-time or as an apprenticeship which gives me the best of both worlds.

I've really developed my skills and knowledge since starting College. One thing I'd say to prospective students is to be open to all parts of your course. You never know, a topic that you're not that interested in may become your passion and be very handy in the future.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST

RHEA BAYLISS

Level 2 Technical Certificate in Beauty Therapy

The Castle School

I came to an Open Evening and thought a more practical course would suit me rather than A Levels. I really enjoy studying here and have made lots of friends with similar interests which has given me more confidence. I get on well with my tutors who are always helpful and supportive while encouraging me to step out of my comfort zone.



Working with clients has also helped build my confidence. I've learned how to speak to people of all ages in a professional manner and had lovely positive feedback. It makes me feel good when a client leaves feeling relaxed and you know you've done a good job. By practicing in the College salon, I feel ready for my work experience and I have great grades.

When I complete the Level 2, I plan on staying to study the Level 3 Diploma in Beauty Therapy. The course includes massage and facial electrotherapy, which I think will give me a good chance of getting work experience at a spa. Once I have a Level 3 qualification and work experience, I'd like to become a self-employed beautician in a spa environment.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST

RYAN SKONE

A Levels (Photography, English Language & Maths)

Bridgwater College Academy

I chose BTC because of how successful it is and my friends where coming here. The staff are friendly and my tutors are great at teaching, which means I enjoy the subjects I'm studying. They give me a huge amount of support with my learning as well as any other problems, and there's a wellbeing team.

You don't usually complete work experience on an A Level programme, but I was able to work at the



BBC for a few weeks. It was incredible. I created news stories about young refereeing with Ashleigh John-Baptiste that's planned to be shown on TV and hopefully Radio 5 Live.

I've learned so much during my time at BTC. I wasn't sure what to study, so A Levels kept my options open and I've studied what I love. It's taught me how to juggle tasks to meet deadlines and given me a huge amount of confidence. When I finish College I'd like to study journalism at university or start the BBC's Journalism Trainee Scheme.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



MEGAN SELWAY

Level 3 Extended Diploma in Art & Design

Bridgwater College Academy

I went to several open days and BTC offered the best course for me. The staff were incredibly friendly and gave me really good advice. My course is taught in the impressive Arts House at the Taunton campus, and tutors and technicians are always on-hand to help.

We have small class sizes which gives me lots of time with my tutors and the atmosphere is brilliant.

I was so excited to get a Distinction in my first year and couldn't believe our College trip was five days in New York.

We have plenty of opportunities to experience what it's like to work in the industry. I spent a week photographing families and residents at Camelot Care Home, and we regularly complete live briefs for clients. This has given me the confidence to work independently on projects and develop my own ideas, knowing I have support if I need it.

My dream job is travel photography, so after College I plan on completing a degree in photography, then a Masters. The staff at College have helped me with my applications, choices and developing a portfolio, plus we practice mock interviews.

My advice is to grasp every opportunity and don't be afraid to try something new. Stepping outside your comfort zone could lead to you producing your best work.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



CHARLOTTE REID

**Level 3 Extended Diploma in Art & Design
(Design & Image)**

The Park School (Chilton Cantelo)

I came to an Open Evening and was very impressed by the students' sketchbooks. I was also attracted to the course because of the amount of photography that's included, as well as the fact that there's a lot of coursework and projects.

I love taking photos, and we have access to the darkroom and photography studio any time, plus the tutors are always able to help.

The course is divided between lessons and independent study, and I really enjoy learning new skills such as creating photograms in the darkroom. I also joined the Photography and Media Academies, which taught me new skills to use in my course projects as well as allowing me the freedom to experiment.

I didn't know anyone when I started, but I've made some really good friends. My personal tutor is great and all the staff help me achieve my best work. I've been told by several teachers that I'm a hard worker and I was really proud when my work was picked to be shown at several careers fairs.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



EMILY ALLEN

Level 3 Extended Diploma in Business & Events Management

The King Alfred's School Academy

I came to College not knowing anyone, but soon made friends and I feel so much more confident now. The facilities are great and there is a good atmosphere. The College offers plenty of help and guidance and there are a huge range of courses available, plus now that I can drive, I appreciate how much parking there is.

I was proud of myself when I received an award at the start of my second year for outstanding progress, and I'm happy with the grade I'm predicted to graduate with. The trips were really good as well. The visit to Hinkley Point C was interesting and they plan on taking us to Bristol Crown Court later in the year.

My favourite aspect of the course is the life-long friendships I have made and the work experience. I spent some time at Nationwide Building Society in my first year to learn about how the bank works and to help me decide if this would be a good career for me. I also completed 315 hours in an exam-testing centre in my first year, which led to a job! I have been working there ever since and enjoy the work I do.

I may not know exactly what I want to do after College, but with my work experience and supportive tutors, I have a lot more knowledge about running a business and feel more prepared for my future.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



HARRY MOORCROFT

**Level 3 Creative Media
(Film and TV)**

Heathfield Community School

I knew I wanted to become a filmmaker but thought there would be no courses for this around here, until I came to an open day at the College. Once I saw the green screen sets, I knew that this was the right place to learn about film and media.

It is extremely enlightening studying at BTC, as I'm constantly bouncing my ideas off and collaborating with other pupils in my class, it inspires me to

see everybody else's work, when I see something outstanding it makes me wonder if I can work to that same level.

My favourite moment is when a piece of my work has a life outside of College. Such as when I'm submitting it to a film festival and it gets in, or it wins at a film competition, seeing one of my College works making it so far reassures me that once I leave College I'll be able to continue to evolve and create wonderful work.

Back in the summer of 2018 at London Comecon, I interviewed a producer which went towards one of my tasks at College, my video of the interview was shared on the producer's social media, they then invited me to a Hollywood event which was pretty spectacular and one of the best holidays I've had.

During my time on the course my teachers encouraged me to head off to uni, stating that I had enough in my portfolio to show my quality of work. I hope to head off to university next year when the pandemic is over.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



HARVEY GRANT

Level 3 Extended Diploma in Engineering (Nuclear)

Haygrove School

I study at the National College for Nuclear where the facilities to support our learning are fantastic. It houses a virtual reality environment including a reactor simulator and multiple computer-equipped training rooms. This means we're given the most advanced training in preparation for the real working environment. The College atmosphere is friendly and welcoming but also very professional.

I'm in a small group so we know each other well and speaking to industry professionals has helped us gain further insights into the nuclear industry and the potential opportunities.

We're assessed after each unit, so it's crucial we keep on top of the workload and meet our deadlines. I appreciate this high standard as I believe it reflects what's expected of us in the real world. We're also taught the protocols expected within the nuclear industry, which means health and safety and nuclear behaviours are priority.

All students are designated a personal tutor and course leader, and I found that our experience at College is very important to them; whether I had a question regarding assignments or a concern, anything I raise is acted on immediately and effectively.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST

JON ATKINS

**Level 3 Extended Diploma in Art & Design
(Design & Image)**

Holyrood Academy

This course is perfect if you want to learn new creative skills. You'll be challenged both creatively and academically, and it's satisfying when you complete a project successfully.

After my course, I plan on studying a Foundation Diploma at College before going onto university. This extra course will help me get into my chosen university, then after uni I'd like to find a job in a big



design company, working my way up the ranks until I become a Creative Director. My tutors helped me decide the best way to achieve my end goal and ran mock interviews to prepare me.

I've learnt lots of skills that I believe will be crucial for university, and been challenged to interpret art and design in new ways, which I feel is important if you want to be successful in the industry. I really enjoy my College course.

The tutors were very helpful and always available to answer questions, plus the facilities are amazing with an expert technician on-hand. I was really proud when I achieved a Distinction for the final major project in my first year, plus my timetable gave me time to pass my driving test, so I had a great year!



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



KIAN PIKE

Level 3 Extended Diploma in Computing & Digital Industries

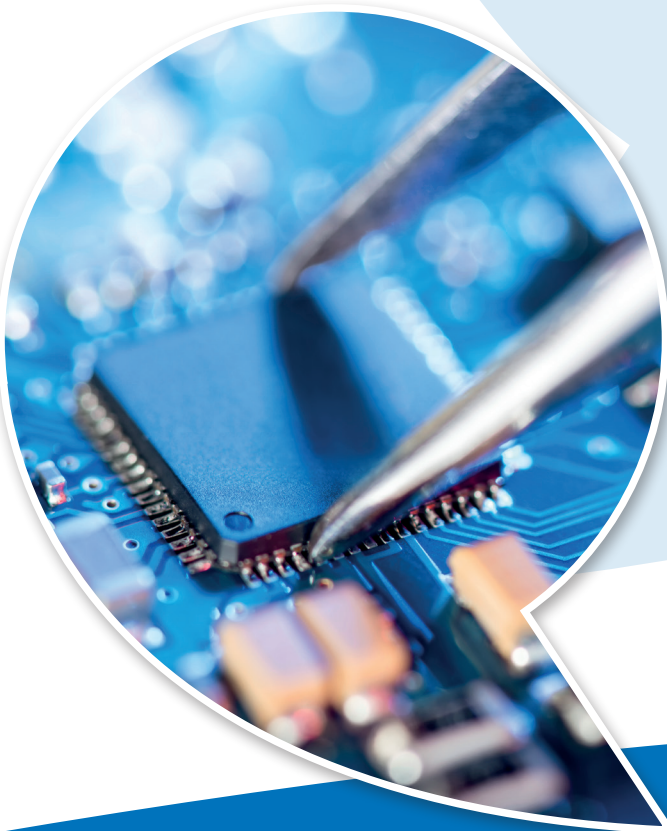
Robert Blake Science College

I started studying the Level 2 course at BTC then progressed to the Level 3. This allowed me to get to know the tutors who are really helpful and friendly, and discover which part of ICT I want to pursue. During my work experience I spent time at Robert Blake helping the younger children make websites and spreadsheets. I really enjoyed helping others learn about the subject I'm so passionate about.

I really enjoy studying at the College because of all new skills I'm learning and experiences I have, and I'm surrounded by friends. I'm also proud to be one of the students who built the gaming and E-sports club. The College was really supportive and I like to think how it will benefit the students coming after me, almost like a legacy.

The course has taught me how to set up a basic network and take apart a computer, as well as how to write reports and build websites. One of my favourite aspects of College is the comradery in the classroom. We have really good conversations and a positive vibe, and also know each other so well and help each other when someone has a problem.

When I finish my course I plan on going university to study ICT and computing either at Plymouth or UWE. Eventually I'd like to teach since I really loved being in the classroom during my work experience. For anyone unsure about coming to BTC, I'd say make sure you pick a course you're passionate about and enjoy. The computing and digital industries course is really fun, but don't think it'll be easy because it's 'computers', it's much more than that.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



LILY COMPTON-MCFARLANE

A Levels (Film Studies, Sociology & Media)

Chilton Trinity

My friends and family recommended BTC, and I was convinced it was right for me after coming to open evenings. I'm very happy with my course; my lessons are well organised and have a great routine structured for independent learning.

I'm also a member of the chess club and working towards the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). This is an additional qualification you can achieve

alongside A Levels that allows me to research and work on any subject I'm interested in. I've learned to research, reference and organise my thoughts before putting them down on paper which I believe will benefit me in the future. It's also improved my ability to condense information, evaluate sources, meet deadlines and write in an appropriate, professional manner. I feel far more confident when writing essays or presenting than I did when I started.

I'm also a member of the College Student Union and work as a Heart, Body and Mind Officer. I organise, support and participate in events and was recently a part of the Remembrance Day service, Children in Need and Raising & Giving day at College. This role has helped me work within teams, develop my leadership skills and strive to successfully achieve a fundraising goal.

After College I'd like to study media at university and believe my choice of subjects has been the perfect combination. There's been a correlation of overlapping theories and ideas which have allowed me to gain a deep understanding of theoretical ideologies and advance a distinctive set of skills for working in the media industry.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



MAISY DAY

A Levels (English Language & Literature, Early Modern History, Psychology)

Haygrove School

Friends and family members who studied at BTC recommended the College, but ultimately it was the links the College has with universities that convinced me to enrol. I chose to study English language and literature, early modern history and psychology, and the fourth element of the A Level programme is made up of an enrichment activity. That can range from something calming and relaxing to active and dynamic, or you could

explore your own hobbies and meet others outside your course. I chose to complete the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), which is an extra qualification that earns an additional 28 UCAS points. The EPQ allows me to explore my personal interests and research a topic in detail, while meeting students on other courses.

I really enjoy the subjects I've chosen which makes it easier to complete my essays and exams to the best of my ability. My subjects involve both coursework and exams, and the library has space for me and my friends to revise and research. The coursework has helped me improve my time management while the exam element demands I become more succinct and specific within my essays.

I've learned more than just facts. College has taught me how to write a decent personal statement and become a responsible adult. My tutors are always available if I need extra help through one-to-one tutorials or feedback on essay drafts. I plan on studying English and history at uni then re-evaluate my plans when I graduate. I'm quite interested in education, particularly after volunteering in a primary school over the summer.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



MEGAN SUTTON

Level 3 Diploma in Childcare & Education

Heathfield Community School

I came to an Open Evening to find out more about my options, and the College felt very welcoming and a great learning environment. There was a talk about my course, which made me excited about my future and gave me the confidence to pursue a career in the early years industry.

I come to College three days a week and the rest of my week is in the workplace. I've worked in two

nursery settings and a school, and I love the mix of classroom learning and on-the-job training. You learn so many practical skills while on your work placement that you couldn't learn from a textbook, and the College lessons provide the theory of good practice in early years settings.

My greatest achievement so far is being offered interviews from all the universities I applied for, then being offered a place at my first choice. My tutors helped me write my personal statement and supported me all the way to achieve the grades I need to attend the university. My plan is to study primary education and become a school teacher, then travel the world to help children have a better chance at an education.

My advice is to get ready to work hard to achieve your goals, but make sure you have fun while doing it. Working with children who look up to you is so rewarding, so be ready to achieve the best you can and work with your tutors, as they're all there to help you.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



NICOLE HAMPSTEAD

Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport

Kingsmead School

I decided to study at BTC after coming to a taster in the summer. I was really impressed by the College and how well they ran the sessions. Now I'm a student, I enjoy the mix of assignment workshops and lessons, plus I really like my tutors. They're helpful, and regularly check we're on track with our work. We study in small groups which means I can concentrate and complete my work before my deadlines.

I'm proud to have achieved the highest possible grade in every piece of work I've been set and getting into the College netball team. I also completed several work experience placements, including one at the Blackbrook Leisure Centre where I ran various activities for a range of ages including teaching basic badminton and tennis skills.

I've become far more confident since starting College and my communication skills have improved. Being part of the netball team is both fun and I enjoy being part of the team. We achieve different goals and targets every week, plus I like the exercise and getting out of the classroom. The assessments and assignments also helped boost my confidence through planning and leading coaching sessions. Even though I was out of my comfort zone, I had to look and sound professional.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



OLIVIA WHITE

Level 2 Diploma in Barbering

Huish Episcopi Academy

I really enjoy studying here. I heard great things about the College and my cousin studied here. It's a friendly environment with great resources and passionate tutors who make the difference.

I get involved in some great events at College. This year we entered the Barber Bash and last year I worked on the College fashion show.

They really helped boost my confidence and improve my skills by encouraging me to work with different people.

After College I'd like to work in a barber shop, expand my knowledge by studying hairdressing then open my own shop. All the things I've learned and done at College has prepared me, and my tutors have been supportive, understanding and given me advice on my future career and how to progress.

My advice for anyone interested in studying the barbering course is to go for it - you won't regret it. Keep your head down in the first year, work hard and you'll fly through the second.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



RACHEL PARKINSON

A Levels (History, English Lit/Lang, Photography)

Huish Episcopi Academy

I chose to study at the College because of its great reputation. My older brother also studied here and was impressed by the amount of tutor support, so when I visited an Open Day I was excited to see it for myself. The first stop was the photography facilities which are so expansive and exciting that I knew this was the college for me.

The environment at BTC is faultless. Everyone is friendly and willing to help, whatever the issue. The wellbeing services are also great and can help you with problems at College or at home. It's easy to make friends with classmates due to similar interests and partnered work. I found College a great place to find lifelong friends.

My greatest achievement was gaining four unconditional university offers out of five. One of the offers was for my favourite course at Falmouth University, so I was extremely excited to accept. I couldn't have done it without my photography teachers. They helped me during the interview process and made brilliant suggestions while I put together a portfolio tailored for five different interviews.

After College, I'm going to Falmouth University to complete a degree in press and editorial photography. My dream is to become a photojournalist, travel the world and use visual stories to illustrate my adventures.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



ROSHAN ADVE

International Baccalaureate

Court Fields School

It is an intense course and also fun, engaging and interesting. I've become really close friends with my classmates and regularly take part in enrichment activities such as helping to raise money for charities, trips and competitions. The College has an incredibly friendly atmosphere, with mutual respect between peers and between student and staff, which I found very different from school.

I really love the freedom and self-dependence that going to College has led me to cultivate. You're expected to meet deadlines and be motivated to learn outside lessons, plus be responsible for yourself and punctual, as opposed to in school where often we had our hands held until our GCSEs.

In my first year I made a documentary on deaf awareness around the College. I was proud to be contributing something to the wider world by raising awareness about an important issue while being supported and encouraged by my tutors and fellow classmates.

All the staff are incredibly friendly and respectful. In particular, my Course Leader and Tutor motivates me every single day with her warm, friendly and cheerful attitude, her high level of engagement and the how much she cares about us. Being able to choose a course you're genuinely interested in, and being around people who are equally passionate has provided me with an environment to develop in a safe and accepting space.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



CONSTANTA SILVIANA BANU

International Baccalaureate

Priory Community School

Studying the IB at BTC has encouraged me to become more independent in my studies and considerably more confident in my skills and aptitudes, while enhancing my global awareness. The most amazing aspect was building my ideas and competences in a setting where culturally diverse people were present, where they helped me expand my thought process in a multi directional way.

The IB is widely recognised as being quite challenging. However, the environment provided by the right staff, resources, along with the well-being team has helped the two years of the programme pass in no time. I also enjoyed taking part in extracurricular activities, such as volunteering as an Ambassador, and Clubs & Societies Officer, as well as helping out with student rep training and charity events which have developed me both personally and professionally.

With the appropriate guidance provided by the tutors, I have applied for five universities and successfully received conditional offers from all of them. Recently I found out that I have been accepted at the University of Manchester to study the MSci Cognitive Neuroscience and Psychology course. I am really looking forward to the wonderful opportunity I received which will be a turning point in my life.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



ZOE STANBURY

Level 3 Extended Diploma in Agriculture

Huish Episcopi Academy

BTC has a great reputation and being a member of Somerset Young Farmers allowed me to meet lots of past students who told me about their experiences. They all recommended the College and said the facilities are some of the best in the South West. Studying in such a modern environment is incredibly important if we're to become the farmers of the future in such a

fast-moving industry that's modernising and becoming more efficient and effective.

One of the reasons behind the high standard of lessons is the knowledgeable staff who all have relevant industry experience. This makes sure our lessons are always informative and engaging in a range of skills such as lambing, milking and crop husbandry. Shane brings his experience on arable farming to our machinery operations and our crop production lessons, while Dan worked on a large sheep farm and for a farm advisory company, so is knowledgeable about business management, animal health and livestock production.

There's also a range of enrichment activities available such as rugby, football, hockey and equestrian which give us the chance to make friends with students on other courses. I'm a member of the College Equestrian team and have met students studying equine, sports coaching and forensic science.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



ADAM HOLMAN

Level 3 Extended Diploma in Agriculture

Stanchester Academy

I've always wanted to study agriculture and assumed I'd go to an agricultural college. That was until my friends and I came to a taster at BTC. I was stunned by the facilities on the farm and felt I could learn a lot here.

I like the balance between practical and theory, and get on really well with my tutors. My timetable also gives me time to take part in social activities

and complete my assignments. I particularly enjoy the weeks when we have farm duties and stay in College accommodation. This gives me a chance to get involved in the day-to-day running of a working farm plus I have more time with my mates.

For my work experience, I went to a local dairy which was so successful that they offered me a part-time job. Now I work there as a Stockman and attend College for the rest of the week. I'm learning lots plus have money to run my car.

After College I'd like to further my studies either at uni or a Level 4 apprenticeship. I'm eager to learn more about the industry and develop my skills specifically with livestock, then manage a dairy herd.

My advice to anyone thinking about studying agri at BTC is to go for it. College life is great, but you need passion and 100% commitment. Working in agri is a hard lifestyle and will be difficult if you don't love the industry!



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST

CHARLIE BEVAN

Level 3 Extended Diploma in Uniformed Public Services

Robert Blake Science College

The College was highly recommended to me by friends and family, and I've found it a wonderful place to study. The tutors support my ambitions and aspirations, plus my timetable is a great balance between four days in College and one day of coursework. The environment is warm and calm, and we have lots of help on-hand from our tutors, as well as the student support and wellbeing teams.

My course includes various trips. Some of the most fun and enjoyable have been a week at Sealyham in Wales for a range of adventurous activities and visiting the Royal Air Arms Museum. I'm interested in joining the RAF and possibly pursuing a police role within the forces, but still have some research to do.

I feel this course has made me aware of my options and the range of roles within the various public services, and given me the skills I need to succeed.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



EMMA HARDING

Level 2 Diploma in Women's Hairdressing

Holyrood Academy

I came to an open day and as soon as I walked into the hairdressing salon it just felt right, as if I was meant to study here. I love the course and enjoy every minute, especially all the friends I've made. My tutor is very helpful and always there for me and my peers, whether it's College-related or a personal issue.

My highlight so far has been preparing for the hair show. I created a whole book on the process, using all the techniques I've learnt to create an incredible hairstyle. The show will be amazing. It's really built my confidence and will allow me to show off all my new skills.

When I finish College, I'd like to work on a cruise ship. I could be doing my dream job of hairdressing while travelling the world then maybe one day, own my own salon.

My advice to anyone wishing to study this course is to never give up. The skills you learn may seem hard at the start and you might feel like you'll never succeed, but the more you practice the better you become. It's not an easy course, but if you have the passion and determination for hairdressing, you'll succeed.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST

FRANK HIBBERD

Level 3 Diploma in Light Vehicle Maintenance & Repair

King Arthur's School

I chose to study at BTC as I heard good reviews about the course I was intending to take compared to other colleges. I came to an open evening to see the impressive automotive department and meet the staff, but the facilities became one of the main reasons I signed up. We study in a professional environment and I feel like we're being prepared for jobs in the real world.

My favourite moment of College so far has been completing Level 2, knowing I was qualified to progress onto the Level 3 course. It made me feel really good about myself.

During the Level 3 qualification, we complete over 300 hours of work experience. I worked at my local garage and the experience really helped me understand the theory they taught me at College. I love getting hands-on, so my favourite aspect of College is the practical lessons. I prefer to learn by trying things rather than sitting in a room staring at textbooks.

The staff at College have been very helpful and understanding. If I have any problems with my course, I feel that I can talk to them and they are all very approachable and supportive.

After College I plan on finding full-time employment in the automotive industry, and I'm hoping it'll be at my work experience placement. My advice to anyone thinking about college is to simply go for it, because you won't regret it.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



LEONIE YEADON

Level 3 Diploma in Health & Social Care

Huish Episcopi Academy

I knew I wanted to study Health & Social Care but was unsure where. My careers advisor encouraged me to visit a range of colleges, but I felt the most comfortable and welcome at BTC, plus it has the best reputation for its health courses.

When I met my tutors I was so excited to start learning. It's such a supportive and community-focused environment, and everyone goes above

and beyond to help me. I was nervous when I started, because none of my school friends were on the same course, but I soon made friends.

I attend College three days a week, which leaves one day for coursework and the other for a work placement. This is a perfect balance; I have the structure of the College environment with support from staff and students and access to all the resources, as well as the chance to play a vital role within a working team, putting my knowledge into practice and gaining experience.

One of my proudest moments is finishing my first year with Distinction*, it was such a boost to my confidence. I also had outstanding feedback from each of my placements, even after being a little nervous to work in different settings. Getting such positive feedback encouraged me to step out of my comfort zone, developed my practice and made me more independent.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



MADDIE KENNARD

A Levels (Biology, Psychology, PE)

Crispin School

I chose BTC because it offers the subjects I wanted to study and there are great extra activities. My timetable is flexible so I have lots of free time to take part in sports and complete any work I've been given.

Our lessons are much longer than at school, but it soon becomes the norm. You're also given lots of autonomy and are expected to complete

independent study, but there are quiet areas in the library and A Level Study Room to help you focus.

When I started, I was made to feel very welcome and I had no trouble settling in. I've made lots of new friends as well as maintaining previous ones, and joined Team BTC's netball squad and Honours Academy. I received a sports scholarship to cover my expenses, and found being active helped my physical and mental health. Being Vice-captain this year also developed my leadership and social skills.

I can't tell you how shocked and proud I was to receive an offer to study experimental psychology at the University of Oxford. It's one of my greatest achievements and has both motivated me to excel and built my confidence. I couldn't have done it without my tutors who encouraged me to apply then guided me through the process. They're always willing to go above and beyond and constantly challenge me.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



MADISON SIMMONS

Level 3 Extended Diploma in Engineering (Nuclear)

Haygrove School

It was definitely the right decision to study at BTC. I travel to Cannington campus three full days a week and enjoy the workshops where we gain practical, hands-on experience. I was also really proud of myself when I achieved a Distinction on my first assignment.

All my tutors are great teachers. They made me feel welcome and supported, answer all my

questions and have always been available to help me with my assignments. My advice to anyone starting college is to make lots of notes, and make them as easy to understand as you possibly can. And, most importantly, give yourself plenty of time to write your assignments, don't leave them until the last minute and get stressed.

I've learned so much to help me succeed in this industry, from health and safety laws to engineering principles. When I leave College, I'd like to secure a Degree Apprenticeship in the nuclear engineering sector, and eventually become a fully trained and qualified Nuclear Engineer.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST

RHEA BAYLISS

Level 2 Technical Certificate in Beauty Therapy

The Castle School

I came to an Open Evening and thought a more practical course would suit me rather than A Levels. I really enjoy studying here and have made lots of friends with similar interests which has given me more confidence. I get on well with my tutors who are always helpful and supportive while encouraging me to step out of my comfort zone.



Working with clients has also helped build my confidence. I've learned how to speak to people of all ages in a professional manner and had lovely positive feedback. It makes me feel good when a client leaves feeling relaxed and you know you've done a good job. By practicing in the College salon, I feel ready for my work experience and I have great grades.

When I complete the Level 2, I plan on staying to study the Level 3 Diploma in Beauty Therapy. The course includes massage and facial electrotherapy, which I think will give me a good chance of getting work experience at a spa. Once I have a Level 3 qualification and work experience, I'd like to become a self-employed beautician in a spa environment.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



THOMAS PAGON

Level 3 Diploma in Countryside Management

Westhaven School

I chose BTC because of its reputation for supporting students and because the Cannington campus is relatively small. I came to an Open Day and the staff were very friendly, professional and approachable.

I've enjoyed being introduced to a broad range of topics which have helped build my knowledge and sparked new interests. I particularly enjoy

surveying, hedge laying, coppicing for woodland management, fencing, checking for cattle, brush cutting, and building paths and steps.

The College invited external speakers to enrich our studies, and I really benefitted from the talks given by industry experts from the Forestry Commission, the British Association for Shooting & Conservation and Ego Machinery.

My confidence has also grown, and the course has given me an incredible introduction to the sector. The course allowed me to network with people in the industry which led to really good practical experience that looks great on my CV.

My plan is to study a degree in British wildlife conservation at the Royal Agricultural University then eventually get a job as a Ranger or Warden for a conservation organisation. I'd like to work to improve the countryside, and the plants and animals that it supports.



BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST



TOM LEE

Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport

Holyrood Academy

Each week at College we have two, one-hour practical lessons, and I'm also a member of Team BTC so play plenty of sport. In my first year, I was honoured to win Players Player for the development squad. I was so proud to be recognised by my teammates for having the best season and felt I'd developed both on and off the pitch.

I love the mix of theory and practical lessons, and work experience is an important part of the course. Since starting, my confidence and leadership abilities have developed and now I'm able to step up when needed. I've helped at football tournaments, refereed games and introduced rules to make the game safer for all ages. I also worked at Blackbrook Leisure Centre helping children play volleyball, tennis, badminton and table tennis.

When I leave College, I'd like to study sports coaching at Gloucestershire University and gain more experience. I'd like to become a Sports Coach or Teacher because I'm passionate about the subject and want to pass on my skills to other younger athletes.

