

**JOB SHOP  
LAUNCH**

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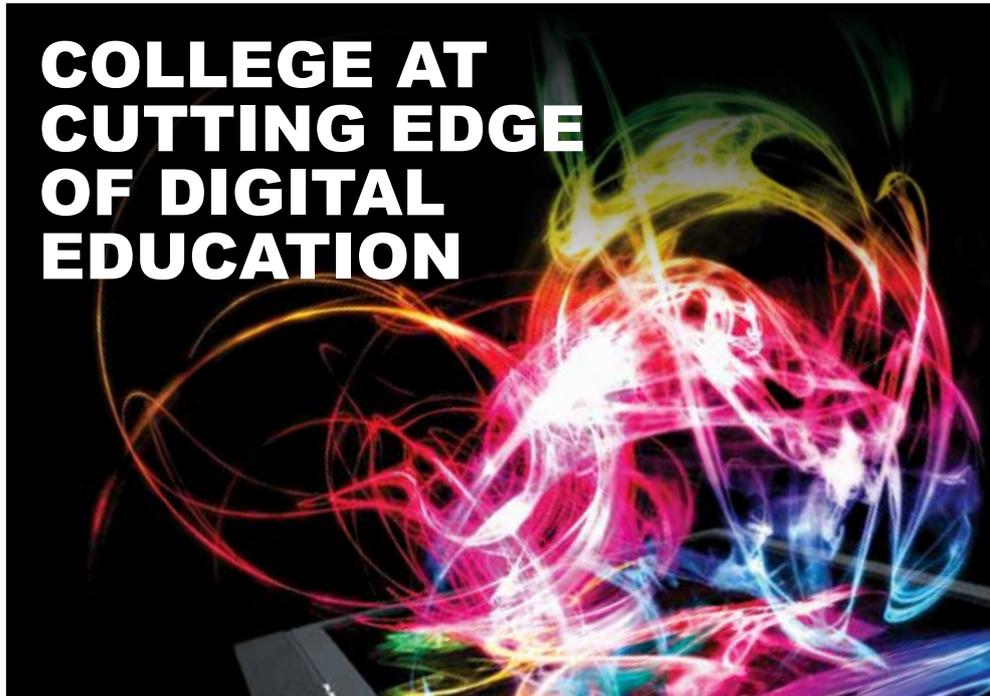
**NEW  
COURSES AND  
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**STONELEIGH  
ACADEMY  
IN TOP 100  
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SCHOOLS**

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**COLLEGE AT  
CUTTING EDGE  
OF DIGITAL  
EDUCATION**



Students have now moved into the College's new £9M Digital and Creative building, just as a new report emphasises the importance of digital literacy in education. Published by a House of Lords committee, the report, 'Make or Break, the UK's Digital Future' says that digital skills should be core subjects alongside English and Maths.

Oldham College is leading the way in ensuring that the curriculum is relevant to the labour market and students acquire the specialist skills and knowledge they need

to secure employment. With strong support from local industry, Employer Advisory Boards contribute to the planning, design and delivery of the curriculum. By providing 'real-world' challenges, mentors and work experience, employer involvement helps students to develop specialist knowledge and wider employability skills as well as addressing the skills gap.

Feedback from employers is very positive with Liane Grimshaw of SupaReal saying: "Oldham College is a great starting point

**COMING  
JUNE 2015**



Oldham College

For more information visit:  
[oldham.ac.uk/vqweek](http://oldham.ac.uk/vqweek)



for anyone who wants to get into the digital industries." Abdul Alim from Proximate & SLM Connect said: "The curriculum we explored with Oldham College allows students to be a viable and contributing partner in the workplace straight away." Anna Leyland of Steria thought: "The facilities and vision are amazing." The building is already proving popular with employers and is hosting the next regional meeting of the ITSMF (the IT Service Management Forum) the country's leading association for those involved in IT service management.



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# College News

## ENTREPRENEUR AWARDED PRIZE

Gavin Bell, a former Peter Jones Enterprise Academy student was awarded third prize in the Edge Challenge – a national enterprise competition. He developed a viable business proposal for a corporate fitness and wellbeing company which was shortlisted to the final six. After pitching to a panel in London, Gavin was invited to The Skills Show in Birmingham, where Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg awarded him with his prize of £750 to go towards developing his business.

Shazia Afzal, the College's Business Enterprise Manager, said: "Gavin moved from the Shetland Islands to study with us and was an exemplary student; he had a great business idea and passion. He deserves this recognition for his hard work, commitment and business acumen."



## NEW BUILDINGS WIN ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

Oldham College has won the international Green Apple Award for Environmental Best Practice with its two new buildings - The Digital and Creative Career College and the College's new entrance building.

Keen to maintain its strong environmental credentials, Oldham College aspired for and achieved BREEAM excellence, the world's foremost environmental assessment method and rating system for buildings. In fact, the College's new entrance building is one of five top scoring education buildings which is shortlisted for a BREEAM award.

The College also became involved in community activities promoted by the Considerate Constructors Scheme where art students painted sections of the project hoarding which won the Ivor Goodsite Hoarding Competition.



JOB SHOP

## JOB SHOP LAUNCH

During this year's National Apprenticeship Week, Oldham College's celebrations and promotions around apprenticeships included the launch of a new Job Shop. This is located in the College's flagship reception building on Middleton Road with a dedicated Recruitment team. The Job Shop provides a central location for people to check out all available apprenticeship vacancies and work opportunities, as well as seek support with applying for jobs. The team helps employers across the region fulfil their apprenticeship and recruitment needs while helping young people find an apprenticeship that best suits their skills and interests. They can be contacted on 0161 785 3586 or [apprenticeships@oldham.ac.uk](mailto:apprenticeships@oldham.ac.uk).

Apprenticeships are increasingly recognised as the gold standard for work-based training as well as for their positive impact on individuals, businesses and the wider economy. According to research, apprentices earn on average, more than £100,000 more throughout their lifetime than other employees.

Debra Woodruff, Oldham College's Vice Principal for Learning, including apprenticeships, said: "The new Job Shop brings to life our commitment to supporting our learners to achieve their career aspirations. The Job Shop and its team will help provide students with a clear line of sight throughout their time with us and support them in their progression, whether that be in to employment, apprenticeships or higher education."

# STUDENT HAS STARS IN HIS EYES

Oldham College student Nathan Simpson, appeared on ITV's Stars in their Eyes in January, performing as Michael Bublé singing Cry Me A River. Hosted by comedian Harry Hill, this popular entertainment show transforms contestants into famous singers when they perform cover versions of well-known songs. Nathan competed against singers performing as Lady Gaga, Meat Loaf, Adele and Aretha Franklin.

The 22 year old is in his second year of our Performing Arts (Acting) course but only started singing 18 months ago. He said: "Although I wasn't successful in making it through to the final it was an absolutely fantastic experience which I wouldn't have missed for the world!"



## SEWING ACADEMY BOOSTS EMPLOYMENT

Developed in order to fill the skills gap, our pioneering Sewing Academy has demonstrated a positive impact on employment in the Greater Manchester region. Working in partnership with Jobcentre Plus sites across Greater Manchester and textile manufacturers who need machinists, the Academy has provided retraining and employment opportunities for the unemployed.

Oldham College's Sewing Academy boasts excellent success rates with around 80-85% of its students going on to apprenticeships or paid employment in the textile industry. Ashton Job centre has praised the Academy for its success, describing it as their best training provider with the highest success rate overall.

Andy Shackleton, manager for Tibard, a Tameside uniform supplier said: "The Academy has played an integral part in boosting our workforce and making sure we can continue to grow as a company." Charlotte Wilde, a 27 year old single parent who works for Tibard said: "I'm so glad this opportunity came along. I wasn't very good at sewing at school but the Academy made

sure I had all the skills I needed for my job which I really enjoy."

When Lord Freud, the Under Secretary of State for Work and Pensions visited Oldham to see the success of work based academies he met with Charlotte, John Shonfeld, Chairman of Tibard and the Academy's Manager Amanda Walker.



# BRICKS RAISE FUNDS FOR DR KERSHAW'S

Staff raised funds for the College's designated local charity, Dr Kershaw's Hospice by donating money to sign the last 60 bricks of the new £6M home to the Faculty of Retail and Commercial, which opens after Easter this year.

Deputy Principal Andrew Harrison said: "This was a great opportunity for staff to make their mark on our new building, which forms part of our major redevelopment project to modernise the College's accommodation in line with growth sectors in the economy. This exciting new facility cements our commitment to students with high quality buildings, kit and equipment which support the excellent teaching and support services and ensures they have real choices about their future careers."

Members of the project team including Willmott Dixon, AHR the architect, Mace the project management team and Eric Wright FM also made corporate donations to this worthwhile cause.

Lisa Pearson of Dr Kershaw's said: "We're highly honoured that proceeds of over £1,000 came to Dr Kershaw's Hospice from this very special topping out ceremony. The Hospice enjoys a great relationship with the College and is delighted to be part of this milestone in its history."

# STUDENTS MEET MOTIVATIONAL MAESTROS



The penultimate day of term before Christmas may be a wind down time for some but at Oldham College it was a great opportunity to showcase industry speakers, reinforcing our commitment to providing insights into the real working world.

Leading music innovator Marshall Jefferson, widely known as The Godfather of house music, addressed the students' end of year assembly in The Grange Theatre. On the same day, former Oldham College student Deane Lewis returned to College to inspire hardware and networking students with his successful career

story. Completing his Cisco Certified Networking Professional certification (CCNP) puts him in an elite group of network technicians who can command high salaries and he now runs his own business which specialises in IT Infrastructure Solutions.

That same evening, PJEA student Daniel Arundel appeared on BBC's The One Show with former Dragons' Den star Theo Paphitis. Daniel was at The Teenage Market, a free platform for young people to showcase their creative talents where he spoke to Theo about his catering business and going on Dragons' Den next year.





## COUNCILLORS INSPIRE STUDENTS

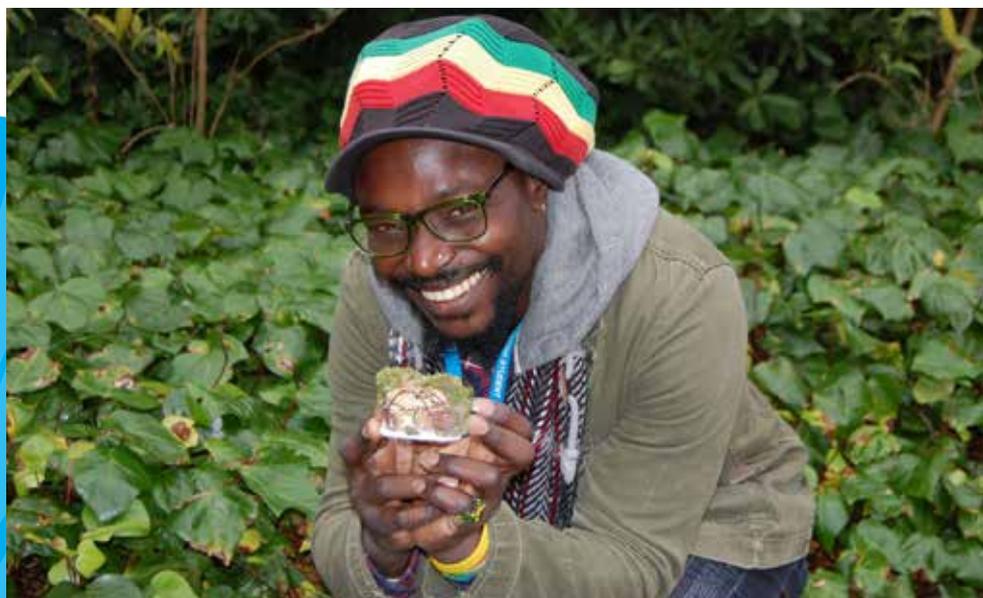
College students benefited from a visit by Councillors who were keen to encourage residents to make a difference to their borough as part of Local Democracy Week.

Approximately 50 students attended the talk by Jim McMahon, Oldham Council Leader, and Councillor Amanda Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Safeguarding, and Councillor Shaïd Mushtaq, who is also

a governor of both Waterhead Academy and Oldham College.

They talked about the significant changes taking place in Oldham and how the regeneration projects are restoring confidence in the town, helping to create a positive future and skilled jobs for young people. Students engaged in a Q&A session afterwards, agreeing that everyone benefits from Oldham being a better place.

Oldham College Student Democracy Officer, Dianne Miller who hosted the event said: "This event provided our students with a unique opportunity to speak directly to Councillors and hear more about what is going on in the town. Democracy is of paramount importance at Oldham College and all students have a voice through the Student Representative Forum."



## RANDOM BOOKS INSPIRE UNIQUE EXHIBITION

46 students on the Foundation Diploma in Art and Design worked in partnership with Oldham Library to create a collection of artwork based on randomly selected ISBN numbers. The two week project was simply titled 'ISBN' and involved students

selecting an ISBN number at random and then collecting the corresponding book from the library. They used the book as a starting point for their creative journey which could have any outcome as long as it was matchbox sized!

The responses consisted of a variety of 3D micro artworks including – mini land art, love letters from the war and a silent music box – which were exhibited in the library.

## CHINESE DELEGATION VISIT OLDHAM COLLEGE

A delegation of 11 Chinese vocational education leaders and teachers with two interpreters visited the College to gain an understanding of how vocational education is taught in the UK. They saw a variety of vocational classes taking place which included experiencing the students' stewarding skills whilst seated 'on board' our simulator aircraft.

Andrew Harrison, Oldham College's Deputy Principal said: "We were delighted to welcome this international delegation of professionals to see vocational education in practice at Oldham College and University Campus Oldham. With our very different educational systems, we both have opportunities to learn from each other and share best practice in teaching and learning." The visit was organised through Suman Education International, a UK overseas partner for the Jiangsu Provincial Department of Education (JPDE) and their CPD programme partner, Manchester Metropolitan University.

# College Family

## SINGING STUDENT SECURES AGENT



UCO Performing Arts student Cassie Lee, aged 22, secured her first professional solo singing gig after being signed up by Shout Promotions, a professional entertainment agency in Royton. Cassie's interest in musical theatre led to her shadowing Laura Purdey, Oldham College's Musical Theatre tutor, as part of her professional project. The tutor, who is also a professional singer recommended Cassie to her agent who was very impressed with the student's talent. Cassie Lee said: "I want to perform lots more gigs whilst studying at UCO. This fantastic course provides a real breadth of performing experience and I've really benefited from their industry links."



## LAUNCHING 10 NEW COURSES AND £1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS\*

In 2015-16 UCO is delighted to be celebrating ten years as a provider of university education.

UCO has had a successful, fun and memorable decade, helping people of all ages to reach their full potential and go on to flourish in their chosen career paths.

In honour of this milestone we are pleased to announce the launch of:

- £1,000 scholarships
- 10 new courses (reflecting growing industry sectors)
- A new partnership with Teesside University

**For further information and course details visit [www.uco.oldham.ac.uk](http://www.uco.oldham.ac.uk)**

**\*Eligibility criteria will apply**



## INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS

UCO's Creative Media Production Degree course has already provided students with a range of international industry opportunities including involvement in a Hollywood movie. Not only are the students in discussions with director, writer and producer Robert Chapin in LA about producing a UK episode of *The Hunted*, they have crewed for a scene in cult movie *Samurai Cop 2*.

Students also utilised the College's media production facilities to record an interview with Jamie Edwards, a master talent coach who works with elite athletes and international business executives. They also benefited from an insightful visit to local radio station, Revolution 96.2 (pictured right) which was organised by Senior Lecturer Dave Robinson who won Best Newcomer at the Staff Awards.





## UNIVERSITY BUSINESS CHALLENGE SUCCESS

A group of four UCO Business students have overcome tough competition to reach the semi-finals of the University Business Challenge (UBC). This is the UK's longest established and most recognised simulation-based competitive challenge for undergraduates. It involves students running a company as a board of directors with the aim of making the most profit.

Utilising resources such as revenue streams, cost structures, customer and market segments, they had to regularly analyse operating costs and profits whilst comparing them against their competitors. Following the significant profit the UCO team made (on paper!) they will join the top teams at the University of Bristol later in March.

Harvey Wright, UCO Senior Lecturer specialising in Business and Management studies said: "We are extremely proud of the efforts of all our students who have taken part in the University Business Challenge but particularly thrilled that one of our teams will be competing in the semi-finals of such a prestigious competition. Taking part in the UBC reflects our approach of helping students to develop the workplace skills employers are looking for."



## INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AWARD

UCO is part of a national college network, The Mixed Economy Group (MEG) which won an international award to recognise its contribution to applied research. The Gold Award was in recognition of MEG's ground-breaking research in the design and delivery of higher education programmes in FE colleges.

Debbie Bridge, UCO's Head of Campus, adds: "Our own applied research was accepted in a paper for publication in the Higher Education, Skills and Work-Based Learning Journal. UCO is always looking at new ways of engaging with businesses across the whole curriculum and we actively engage with local employers such as Unity Partnerships, Oldham Coliseum, Morgan Sindall, Guinness Trust and First Choice Homes."

UCO also made a successful bid to the Higher Education Academy to be part of their Strategic Enhancement Programme (SEP) for Embedding Employability into the Curriculum.

## STONELEIGH ACADEMY IN TOP 100 PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Stoneleigh Academy, the primary school arm of the Oldham College Family, is in the top 100 of primary schools for pupil progress, following the results of the National Curriculum assessments at key stage 2.

The Headteacher, Catharine Jones, received a personal letter of congratulations from The Rt Hon David Laws MP, Minister of State for Schools, which described Stoneleigh as "exceptionally effective in educating its pupils."

Alun Francis, Oldham College Principal adds: "This is a fantastic accomplishment and I strongly commend the hard work of Catharine and her staff. As the sponsor of Stoneleigh Academy, and as in our own post-16 provision, our aims are simple: to deliver an educational experience which helps our pupils and learners to develop their personal qualities, knowledge and skills so that they can progress in life, and into work, an apprenticeship or higher education."



# College Sport

## ART STUDENTS REWARDED FOR URBAN DESIGN

The art students behind the radical transformation of the sports hall that now hosts Oldham @Futsal Arena were rewarded and thanked by @Futsal Group CEO Frank Rodriguez.

To mark their incredible achievement, the 25 Art & Design students gathered at the Arena for a presentation and the gift of a @Futsal hoodie – as well as vouchers for a few outstanding contributors.

The students' journey began when the @Futsal CEO sent a brief to our Digital & Creative Career College; providing them with the opportunity to pitch their designs for the new Arena.

By not only beating their peers to the lucrative contract but also rolling their sleeves up and making the project a reality, the students have a rather impressive addition to their CV.

Frank Rodriguez also personally wrote a testimonial which he handed to each student; lauding their creativity, hard work and their professionalism throughout.

Jo Manship, Head of the Digital and Creative faculty said: "This project highlights our approach to vocational education which involves providing real life work experience for our students. They have created original designs, worked as a team, responded to objectives, met



deadlines and made formal presentations, all of which helps to prepare them for the working world. We are really proud of

our students and this successful collaboration with @Futsal illustrates how our approach to education is working well."

## FUTSAL FRENZY KICKS OFF WITH A BANG!

Oldham College's art and design students have contributed to a venue that's now thriving on the North West football scene. Hailed as 'the new Wembley of the North for Futsal' before it even opened its doors to the public, Oldham @Futsal Arena

has rapidly established itself as one of the places to be on the North West football circuit.

Four months on from the grand opening in November, the Arena has staged several youth Futsal tournaments taking in clubs from U7s through to U14, launched a weekly student league and hosted adult tournaments with teams travelling from across Manchester to compete. As well as the competitive element, February half-term saw a huge holiday camp in partnership with Oldham Athletic Community Trust - putting the Arena right at the heart of the local grassroots scene.

Oldham @Futsal Arena is gathering momentum with positive feedback from far and wide. After entering one of the tournaments, a Delph Primary School teacher said: "Everybody went out of their way to make the children feel welcome and comfortable. All the staff and the ref were just brilliant and the lads had a fantastic time. It was their first time playing a competitive game and thanks to the environment and friendly faces they all enjoyed it." As well as local schools, @Futsal Oldham has also been a regular destination for local football clubs. Moston Brook under 8s said: "Ref superb,

organisation superb, Futsal superb. Can't wait for the next visit" and Runcorn Linnetts under 10s commented: "Cracking event again. Very smooth and well organised."

Oldham @Futsal Arena offers a variety of affordable activities for everyone to engage in. This ranges from 5 year olds looking to learn their first Futsal skills, a junior football team seeking to gain that extra edge on the pitch, a school leaver looking to further their career or an adult looking for a kick-about with a difference.

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