

Edinburgh College Magazine

Summer 2019



History makers

Find out more on page 3

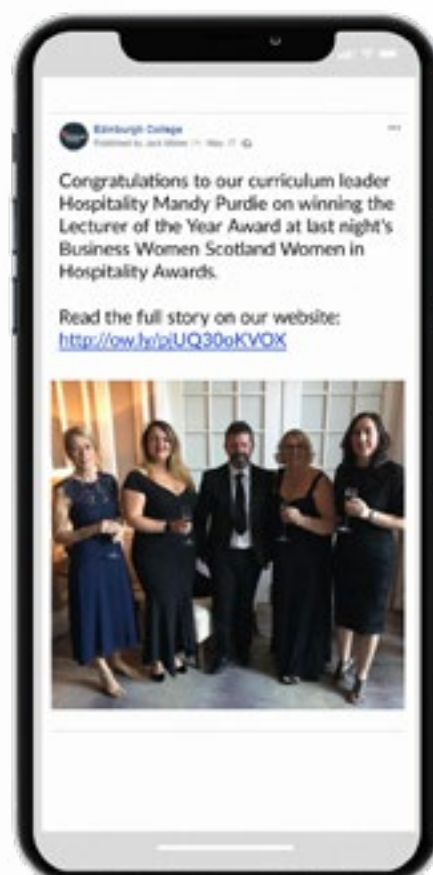
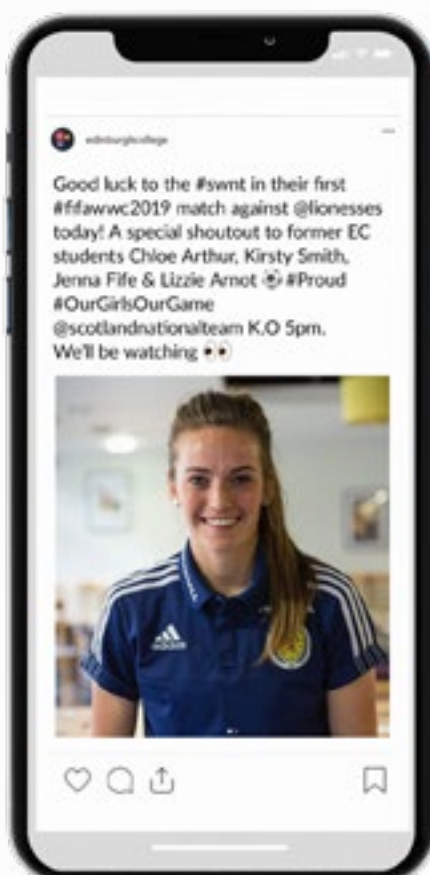
Keeping you up to date with the latest news
from across Scotland's largest college.

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A spotlight on social

Here's a snapshot of some of our most popular recent social media posts...



Welcome to the first edition of our Edinburgh College magazine.

In this edition you'll get a snapshot of just some of the creative and innovative work happening across Scotland's largest college.

You'll hear from our inspiring students, dedicated staff members and industry partners about the work we're doing in Edinburgh, wider-Scotland and across the world.

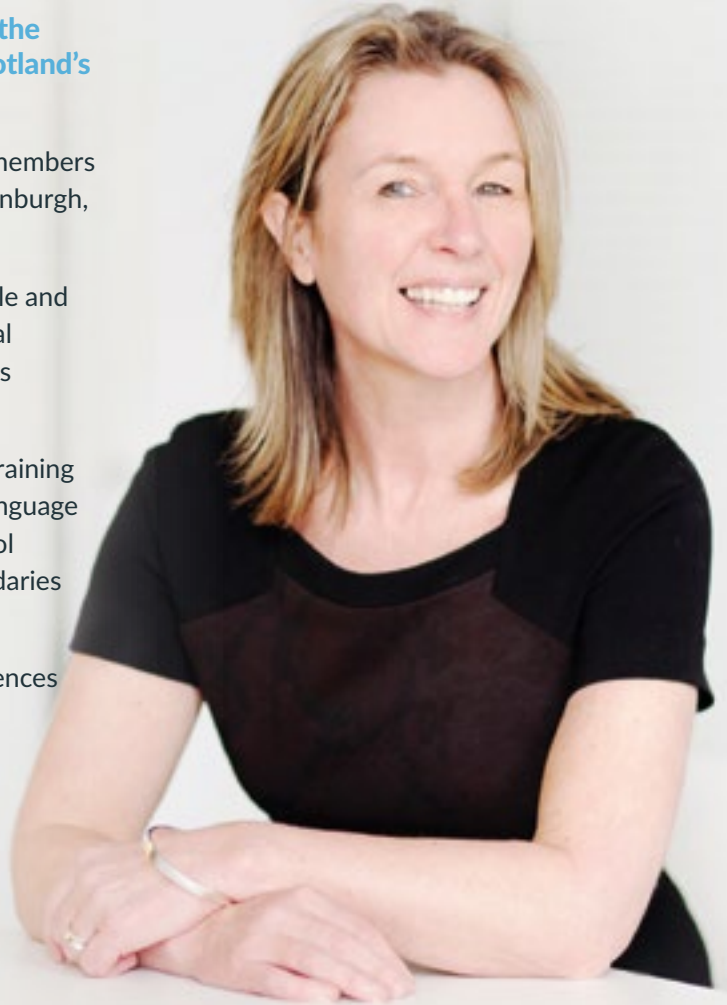
I hope this magazine gives you a real insight into the scale and reach of our College and how we're educating the capital (and beyond) as part of our mission to become Scotland's pre-eminent college.

From inspiring the next generation of care workers; to training the current engineering workforce; delivering foreign language provision across Scotland; through to encouraging school pupils to day dream – we're a College that pushes boundaries and encourages our students to do the same.

Through this magazine, we're proud to share the experiences of our staff and students with you. Happy reading!



Audrey Cumberford
PRINCIPAL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Front cover

History makers

Men's football team
crowned Queen's Park
Shield champions



Our men's football team made history by becoming the first ever college side to lift the Queen's Park Shield after winning a dramatic penalty shootout in the final of the competition.

The team faced a tough task against University of Edinburgh in the 98th running of the final which was originally only ever contested by Scotland's four ancient universities.

The prestigious shield, open to every university and college in Scotland, was contested during a tense penalty shoot-out after the teams couldn't be separated after 90 minutes - a fitting way to settle the first ever college versus university final.

The College's John Robertson was the hero as he slotted home the winning penalty which saw his team steal the shootout 5-4 and seal a historic triumph for the College.

Star students recognised at Prize Giving 2019

More than 100 students gathered with around 400 family, friends, staff and guests to celebrate their outstanding work over the 2018/19 academic year at the College's annual Prize Giving ceremony.

The event honoured the achievements of further education students across the whole curriculum. Students received awards from the College's four faculties – Creative Industries; Engineering and Built Environment; Health, Wellbeing and Social Sciences; and Tourism, Hospitality and Business.

This year's ceremony, the College's biggest yet, saw prizes awarded to its outstanding FE students as well as Schools College Partnership students.

For the first time this year, School pupils from Ross High School were awarded the title of SCP Events and Hospitality School of the Year, whilst Castlebrae Community High School were presented with the SCP Excellence Award in Hospitality.

Prize Giving celebrates the academic achievements and dedication of students, as well as the commitment many have to juggling home life and work to succeed in their studies.

“Prize Giving is the perfect opportunity to recognise the exceptional talents of our students. Each of our winners was nominated for their outstanding approach to learning and we were thrilled to be able to celebrate their success with their family and friends.

Whatever the award winners choose to do next, whether that be continuing their studies, or gaining employment, I'm confident they will thrive and I wish them all the best for the future.

Audrey Cumberford
PRINCIPAL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Here's just some of our wonderful winners



Read more stories from our inspiring students at

 edinburghcollege.ac.uk/news



Read more stories from our inspiring students at



The College's focus is on the two targeted skills gateway projects – Data Driven Innovation (DDI) and Housing, Construction and Infrastructure (HCI).

Through the Edinburgh and South East City Region Deal, the College is working together with the UK and Scottish Governments, Edinburgh City Council, East Lothian Council, West Lothian Council, Midlothian Council, Fife Council, Scottish Borders Council and other partners across the private and public sector to make Edinburgh an even better place to live, study, work, visit and invest.

The College's focus is on the two targeted skills gateway projects – Data Driven Innovation (DDI) and Housing, Construction and Infrastructure (HCI).

The HCI project provides an opportunity to capitalise on the current strength of the construction sector along with additional proposals for increased housing building and retrofitting to create a skills pipeline. Through the project we'll strengthen our links with the construction sector to provide increased opportunities for our students, help to reduce skills shortages and ultimately create inclusive employment pathways for people within the region. The project includes specific measures to challenge the gender gap

in employment within the Housing, Construction and Innovation sectors – a challenge that the College is well-equipped for and is ready to embrace.

We're set to play a key role in transforming Edinburgh and its surrounding area into the data capital of Europe through the Data Driven Innovation project. Its aim is to train 100,000 people in data skills over the next decade, from data analyst specialists to jobs that will evolve to require data skills at their core. This aligns with the College's ambition to tackle the digital skills gap and will help to provide opportunities in the emerging data economy for disadvantaged communities across the City Region and will address gender inequality in the tech sector.

The project will focus on making a career in the digital and data world an accessible and realistic possibility for everyone – addressing gender inequality in the sector and giving those furthest from mainstream education an opportunity to gain skills which are set to be at the core of many future jobs.

Vice Principal: Innovation, Planning and Performance and City Region Deal lead for the College Jon Buglass said: "As we are moving into a fourth

industrial revolution it is essential now more than ever that we are equipping people with the skills needed to thrive in ever-developing industries.

"Edinburgh College is excited to be an integral part of these projects within the City Region Deal which will provide our students and communities with opportunities to gain knowledge, skills and understanding that will enable them to contribute to the growth and development of our region.

"As a provider of education and training to the people of Edinburgh, the College will ensure we align our future curriculum development to the City Region Deal and its projects to support the ambition of accelerating growth, tackling inequality and deprivation and building on the strengths of our region."

Its aim is to train 100,000 people in data skills over the next decade.

Data Driven Innovation project



“ Our business partners are increasingly tapping into our talent pool consisting of around 26,000 students and over 1,200 professional staff to help solve the challenges they face. ”

Audrey Cumberford
PRINCIPAL AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

College launches Skills Report 2019

As Scotland's largest college and the only one serving the capital and wider region we have a responsibility to deliver vocational, technical and professional education qualifications and skills training to a region that accounts for over 12% of the population of Scotland.

As part of our mission to work with industry to grow and develop a modern workforce which meets the future skills needs of the region, we published our inaugural Skills Report earlier this year.

It is essential now more than ever that colleges work closely with industry partners to better understand the skills and development needs of the current workforce, and to help shape the workforce of the future.

Our Skills Report 2019 is part of our continued commitment to work with industry partners to build effective relationships, to reskill and upskill

employees, and to build a pipeline of highly skilled and qualified staff.

Principal and Chief Executive Audrey Cumberford said: “Edinburgh College has growth ambitions and a determination to be the ‘go to’ partner for businesses, playing a central role in the economic ecosystem in our capital city and wider region. The findings of the Skills Report tell us that many of the businesses we support recognise and experience similar challenges. Our partners are finding it harder to: recruit and attract talent; fill vacancies; recruit people with skills not just for job roles of today but for the future; keep up with the upskilling and

reskilling requirements of their current staff; prepare for the future when trying to cope with day-to-day pressures and priorities; and know how to exploit new and emerging technologies to enhance products, services or core business operations.”

Edinburgh College aims to continue to be part of the solution – the College of choice for training and developing the workforce.



Advanced Higher French

Lansdowne Prize awarded to students by the Franco-Scottish Society



Tres bien! Boosting modern language provision across Scotland



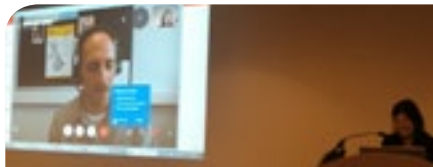
We're ensuring students and pupils across Scotland can achieve their dreams with our sector-leading offering of Modern Languages.

TES Scotland reported a 10% drop in entries to National 5 French between 2017 and 2018. Add to this, a relative lack of provision of Modern Languages in schools across Scotland where some languages may only be offered at certain levels, if at all, and some pupils may not be able to take them up due to timetable clashes, meaning they have to make tough decisions with regards to their subject choices.

We're helping to address the decline through an innovative online delivery model, offering online delivery of French, German, Italian and Spanish at National 5 and Higher to part-time students and school pupils across Scotland. Advanced Higher courses in

French and Spanish are also taught along with a SCQF 3 Gaelic programme.

We host the content for each course on our virtual learning environment, Moodle, where students have access to numerous language resources and activities focused on NQs language objectives.



We are the only Scottish college to offer online courses in five languages.

Of course, to gain a modern languages qualification, students must show competence in reading, listening, grammar and vocabulary; writing and translation and speaking practice. And, in the case of Advanced Highers, a specialist

study unit must also be completed.

Our online delivery of Modern Languages has spread far and wide, with students from Aberdeenshire, Borders, Edinburgh and the Lothians, Fife, Highlands, Lanarkshire and the Isle of Lewis, currently enrolled.

These online courses have also led to some exceptional results, not least in Advanced Higher French where College students have won the Lansdowne Prize, awarded by the Franco-Scottish Society to the candidate who achieves the best mark in the country, in the last two years (2017-2018).

Tain Royal Academy pupil Adam said: "The course content was interesting. Moodle allowed for work to be easily located and organised into sections, making end-of-year revision far easier to plan, as well as ensuring simple student/teacher communication. The use of email and Skype allowed for constant contact to exist and I never felt isolated.

“ Overall, the online aspect of the learning was, for me, equal to school-based learning. I feel that I have developed greatly due to the enjoyable way in which the course was delivered. ”

Adam TAIN ROYAL ACADEMY PUPIL

CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



Daydream Believing - inspiring creativity at every age



Daydream Believers began as the brain-child of two Edinburgh College Graphic Design students and has since developed into an effective partnership between employers, teachers, lecturers and student ambassadors which encourages young people to become collaborators, problem solvers and creative thinkers.

The programme has gone from strength to strength and has transpired into an initiative which is helping to develop the creative workforce of the future across Scotland.

It focuses on working to embed strong employer engagement at each stage of young people's journeys through education and into employment in the creative industries – bringing the real world into the classroom. It puts context to essential skills, giving insights into different roles and sharing the challenges

and resources industry partners work with on a daily basis. Edinburgh College works with industry partners and secondary schools to create space in the curriculum to allow pupils' metaskills to flourish. The programme shares resources, insights and expertise in a simple, efficient and creative manner. Its aim is to up-skill our teachers to coach and facilitate experiential ways of student learning based on play, passion, context and purpose.

Daydream Believers has been recognised as best practice by the SQA and Education Scotland.

In September 2018 we launched a pilot programme of engagement involving a weekly one-hour timetabled class for S2 pupils. Six schools in Edinburgh signed up to be part of the pilot. Each school was teamed up with an industry partner and

an Edinburgh College Creative Student Ambassador.

Daydream Believers programme lead and Edinburgh College Design lecturer Helena Good said: "We want to inspire our young people to build new things and to create meaning in today's networked world. Daydream Believers is about creating possibilities and thinking big. It is an exciting example of what happens when education and industry connect to bring about real change. We all need to keep dreaming and encourage our creativity to flourish."

The next step will see the roll out of a free online resource for teachers including lesson plans, teaching materials and resources which has been created in partnership with employers, teachers, lecturers and student ambassadors. The goal is to make these materials available to any educator looking to introduce these skills into the classroom and improve future outcomes for their pupils.

“ At its very essence Daydream Believers gives the pupils access to the ‘real world’ experience in a teaching context which leads through to practical applicable skills that span the breadth of many more areas of their education. ”

Helena Good EDINBURGH COLLEGE DESIGN LECTURER



ENGINEERING & BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Shortlisted

The Herald Higher Education Awards 2019 - Innovation category



Engineering from a distance



Studying Mechanical Engineering opens up a world of possibilities and often leads to lucrative job offers in a wide range of different sectors with the potential to work in some far-removed locations.

And, at a time when technology is constantly evolving and organisations continue to rely on workers to be at the other end of a phone call and on to a chopper within minutes, we're working to ensure the engineering workforce can continue to consolidate its learning, remaining trained to the demands of the sector.

The course, the only one of its kind in Scotland, is delivered online using Desktop Sharing Technology, allowing effective two-way communication

between students and teaching staff. Lectures are delivered twice per week via a two-way Desktop Sharing Technology system, usually in the evening. The system allows conversation between the entire student group and lecturer, so sessions are fully live and interactive.

We are the first FE College in Scotland to offer an Enhanced Distance Learning course in HNC Mechanical Engineering.

Students study 12 units throughout the two-year course and each teaching session is live recorded in full HD. If a student can't make the class due to work

or other commitments, they can watch live recordings of the class, ensuring they don't fall behind. Students can attend class from anywhere with a good internet connection – at home, work, abroad, anywhere. Currently the College has students enrolled from all across Scotland who work in remote environments including offshore oil and gas platforms. Sean Wall, who works as a maintenance team leader said: "I think the interactive element of the course is the best aspect, where you can show us on the screen how to do the work.

I also like the fact that if you miss a class, which I did at the start, then you can catch up in your own time [using the recordings] and don't miss out. I can't think of any improvements I would make on the course to be honest."

“ For me the course is going well. The technology is brilliant. Running the course as you are is great for people like me working full-time without the option of day release. It enables me to gain a qualification to accompany my experience without any inconvenience to my employer. ”

Chris Kerr MECHANICAL ENGINEER



Inspiring the next generation of care workers



We're inspiring the next generation of care workers by giving local school pupils the chance to experience real work looking after younger children, several years before they'd usually do work experience.

Careers in Care was designed to give pupils an insight into the wide variety of roles available in the care sector, encourage them to develop the skills needed to fulfil the roles and give them real-life experience of working in a professional care environment.

The course, delivered by Edinburgh College lecturers, focuses on introducing pupils to the possibility of a career in care at an early stage. It was developed in response to the Scottish Government Blueprint for 2020: The Expansion of

Early Learning and Childcare in Scotland, which will see a rapid national expansion in the childcare sector to meet increased demand.

254 local school pupils have learned about the skills required to work in the care sector and have gained valuable work experience.

Careers in Care programme

Edinburgh College Childhood Practice lecturer Angie Thomson said: "With the government's increasing commitment to ensure that all children get the best possible start in life, there has never been a better time to begin developing and inspiring the next generation of

care workers. A career in care can be so rewarding and the course aims to educate young people about the career options available to them."

As part of the course, pupils attend College one day a week and are given an opportunity to use the skills they learn during a one-day work placement at a local nursery at the end of the course.

During their work placement, the pupils observe nursery workers and work alongside them to provide care to nursery children. Through the course, pupils are able to experience what it's like to be a college student, learn about the qualifications needed to get into the sector and to develop skills that will provide a solid base for whichever career they choose in the future.

“ The Careers in Care programme delivered by Edinburgh College has been fantastic for our pupils, it has provided our P6s' with an invaluable real-life experience. Not only did the course give our pupils an insight into the care sector, it also helped them to develop many other key skills which will support their future development and ultimately better equip them for life outside of primary school. **”**

Lindsey Barley WALLYFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL DEPUTE HEAD TEACHER

Our International team has been broadening its focus by working with partners, delivering courses and welcoming students from across the globe.

Our work has been expanded from traditional student recruitment into bespoke programmes for student groups, teachers and professionals, and offering consultancy work for countries looking to improve their vocational education sector.

The map is a snapshot of some of our most recent work across the globe.



We were one of the first institutions in the UK to be awarded a contract to train Panamanian English language teachers, as part of the Panamanian Government's Panama Bilingüe programme. The programme aims to achieve a step change in English language competency in Panama by upskilling up to 10,000 teachers in English language and pedagogy. The programme was launched in 2014 by President Juan Carlos Varela Rodríguez and is run centrally through the Panamanian Ministry of Education (MEDUCA).

So far we've welcomed over 350 English Language teachers to Edinburgh in 18 cohorts, including in-service elementary and high school teachers, who follow 8-week programmes, and pre-service elementary school teachers, who follow 16-week programmes.

We expanded our work in Panama more recently by partnering with Scotland's Rural College to conduct a feasibility study for the development of an agriculture and land-based curriculum for a new agricultural institute in the country, as well as supporting curriculum development in other subject areas for a new technical vocational institute.

USA/ Canada

We were honoured to be selected as the host for the annual Panama Bilingüe conference 2018, which brought together delegates from FE and HE institutions across the UK, the USA and Canada.

Cuba

In 2016 Edinburgh College welcomed a group of 10 teachers from the Hello English Language School in Havana to participate in a bespoke 2-week teacher training programme.

Guatemala

Members of our International team visited Guatemala to meet potential new partners and explore future opportunities.

Costa Rica

Members of our International team visited Costa Rica and held meetings with the Ministry of Education to explore opportunities for future partnerships.

Colombia

In November 2018, we were selected by the British Council to deliver a two-week teaching methodology course for 20 teachers from across Colombia.

Brazil

In 2018, we were selected by the Brazilian Ministry of Tourism to offer a bespoke Tourism, Hospitality and English language course for ten Ministry-funded Brazilian students as part of a UK-Brazil partnership training initiative.

China



We've been working with educational departments in China since 2004, delivering bespoke English language teacher training programmes, as well as courses designed to prepare candidates for Cambridge ICELT (In-service Certificate in English Language Teaching) and TKT (Teaching Knowledge Test).

In autumn 2016, July 2017 and July 2018, our tutors delivered bespoke training courses to cohorts of 100 teachers in Guangzhou including four weeks of online tasks completed by distance learning, and four weeks of face-to-face training in Guangzhou.

Saxony

We welcomed a group of 20 English teachers from the Saxony-Anhalt region of Germany for a one-week teaching methodology and culture course.

Russia (Bryansk)

For several years, we have welcomed groups of students from Bryansk, Russia to study on our annual Summer School.

Switzerland

Members of the International team represented Edinburgh College at the EAIE conference in Geneva in September 2018.

Japan

We designed and delivered a bespoke English and Airline Operations course for a group of 10 students from a Technical College in Japan.

Uzbekistan

We're currently working with the British Council to provide a series of teacher training programmes both in Edinburgh and in Tashkent.

Azerbaijan

In early 2019, we worked with the British Council in Azerbaijan to provide a professional development and capacity building programme for a group of fifteen pre-school teachers from Azerbaijan.

Armenia

We welcomed a group of 12 experienced primary and secondary English teachers from Armenia in 2018 to study a one-week intensive teaching methodology course.

Ghana

Staff visited Ghana to discuss potential partnerships in Technical Vocational Education and Training.

Italy

We welcomed two groups of students from Italy for a bespoke English and Design course.

Spain

Since 2006 the ESOL team has delivered English Language reinforcement and CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) programmes to over 500 teachers from bilingual primary schools in Spain, sponsored by the Madrid Regional Government (Comunidad de Madrid).

Egypt

Over two-years our Tourism team developed and delivered customer care and green hotel sustainability training to industry trainers in Cairo and Hurgada in partnership with the Egyptian Tourism Federation (ETF) and the British Council.



HNC Social Services - Wallace

Forty-five-year-old Wallace tells us how his HNC Social Services course is enabling him to change career and pursue his dream of becoming a mental health nurse in memory of his late son.



Before moving to the UK, I was born and lived in Zimbabwe. I had studied a diploma in Metal Engineering in Africa but struggled to find the right kind of work in that area. In 2002, I moved to Bournemouth where I worked as a bus driver before heading north to Edinburgh (to follow my name-sake William Wallace) and continued my role in public transport. I enjoyed bus driving but it was never really what I wanted to do.

In 2016 my son was taken ill and passed away. At that point in my life, I was lost. Losing a child is the worst kind of pain, I felt that I didn't want to carry on. I was no longer interested in going to work – what was it all for?

Before he died, my son had dreamed of being a doctor and I have no doubt he would have made a wonderful practitioner. Inspired by him, and by the medical professionals who treated him

during his battle with illness, I decided to pursue a career in healthcare. I want to help people, like they helped me and my family during the worst time of our lives.

In January 2017, I came to Edinburgh College to study Access to study in Health, Wellbeing and Social Science. After this, I went on to study NC Health and Social Care and I'm now studying a HNC in Social Services. Beginning my studies showed me that there is light at the end of the tunnel. My lecturers have been so supportive and encourage me to focus on what I want to achieve in life rather than look at what is behind. Their support has enabled me to get through hard times and to continue working towards my goal.

When I finish my course, I'd like to go on to study Mental Health Nursing at university and become a mental health nurse. I dream of travelling back to Africa to educate people about mental health and help as many people as I can.



Edinburgh College is where my life began again after a very tough period.

Age isn't anything but a number. No matter what happens or where you are in life, with dedication and the right support, you can achieve your goals.





Advanced Higher French - Kate

Seventeen-year-old Kate Baird tells us how she's learning more than just a language through studying Advanced Higher French at Edinburgh College while she's still at school.



I'm currently a pupil at Balerno High School, as well as an Edinburgh College student. I've always known I wanted to continue my studies in French and when I discovered Higher French wasn't an option at my school, I knew I just had to find another way to do it. When I saw it was offered as an SCP (Schools College Partnership) course at Edinburgh College it was a no brainer for me. The course was added to my school timetable which meant I could attend College part-time, as well as school. I come to College twice-a-week on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon.

I've now progressed onto the French Advanced Higher course and I'm learning more than just a language – I'm really enjoying finding out more about French culture, as well as the French language as part of my course. College is a really different environment to school, you have a lot more freedom and responsibility for your work. There's a mix of people who attend and you meet plenty of interesting people. None of my school friends are in my

College class but I've met lots of others who I wouldn't ordinarily have the chance to meet if I continued just studying at school.

As someone who wants to go to university, College is a great stepping stone to getting there. Jumping straight from school to university would have been a big thing for me to do. Coming to College has really helped me to build my confidence and communication skills. My lecturers encourage me to speak French whenever I can to make sure I'm constantly learning and developing.

Edinburgh College has given me an opportunity to do a course I've been wanting to do for a very long time. What's next for me? I have applied to study French and Business at university next year and really hope that language will be a big part of whatever I do for the rest of my life.



One day, I'd like to use my qualifications to be an interpreter or translator for the United Nations. That would be pretty cool.



Read more stories from our inspiring students at

Here's just some of the most recent fantastic achievements of our students and staff

edinburghcollege.ac.uk/news



TACKLING POVERTY

We hosted a conference at our Granton Campus to discuss ways to tackle poverty and inequality in Edinburgh and wider-Scotland.

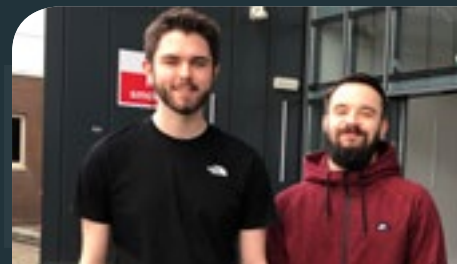
edinburghcollege.ac.uk/combat-poverty-conference



GTCS VALIDATED

We received validation from the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) in recognition of our policy and guidance for staff professional learning and development.

edinburghcollege.ac.uk/gtcs-validation



TOP FILM SUCCESS

Two of our Broadcast Media students won a national one-minute film competition organised by the Scottish Parliament to celebrate 20 years of devolution.

edinburghcollege.ac.uk/winning-parliament-film-comp



GEARING UP

Our Automotive students played a key role in supporting a Scottish team to get track-ready, converting a Citroen C1 road car into a race car fit for competing at Fife's Knockhill circuit in the Scottish C1 Cup.

edinburghcollege.ac.uk/life-in-the-fast-lane



LET'S GLOW

Our Creative Industries launched the sixth annual Glow Festival at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery, kicking off three-months of unique performances and exhibitions taking place at venues across the capital.

edinburghcollege.ac.uk/glow-festival



AWARD WINNERS

Our Hair and Beauty students won 15 medals at a regional heat of the Association of Hairdressers and Therapists (AHT) competition held at Granton Campus.

edinburghcollege.ac.uk/hair-beauty-competition

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