

Year Book

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[Click to enter](#)



Year Book 2018 • 2019

Contents

Principals welcome

Our colleges

Senior Leadership Team

Apprenticeships

Governors

Higher Education

Road to recovery

Sporting success

Future focused

In other news

Year Book 2018 • 2019

Welcome to our Year Book which gives us an opportunity to review a challenging but successful year for BMet.

I joined BMet a month into the 2018/19 academic year and what a year it has been!



My first few weeks coincided with our Ofsted visit in October 2018.

While we were pleased with our rating as good for our delivery of apprenticeships, adult learning programmes and personal development and welfare, the Ofsted report did highlight there is further work

to be done and we are already getting on with a clear plan to tackle those areas that we need to focus on.

Pleasingly, the rating did not deter staff and from day one I have been impressed with their determination and zeal to provide the very best outcomes for our students.


The year included many highlights for us, winning an award for best internal comms campaign at the CIPR Awards, our HE graduation, and a summer recruitment campaign that

saw us beat our enrolment targets – to name but a few. A round up of the year should include the disaggregation of Stourbridge College – not a decision that was taken lightly and I fully understand and empathise with the initial public reaction. However, I was pleased there were no compulsory redundancies and that the overwhelming majority of Stourbridge College students transferred across to Dudley College of Technology and Halesowen College.

Over the year our students received a number of accolades, Daniel Millington from James Watt College was named Apprentice of the Year and we also hosted our very first end of year student celebrations and awards across the three Birmingham colleges.

On my first day in role I was delighted to open our A Level Centre at Sutton Coldfield College and equally thrilled with the record breaking results achieved by students this summer on A level results day.



We are always keen to remain fully rooted in our community and have had a number of influential community leaders come into the college to inspire our students. 


We are always keen to remain fully rooted in our community and have had a number of influential community leaders come into the college to inspire our students. Most recently Ziauddin Yousafzai – father of Malala Yousafzai, the youngest ever Nobel Prize laureate – came into Matthew Boulton College and gave a motivational talk to our students.

These accolades, high profile visits and achievements underline that the college is a fantastic place for our students to study at and to realise their future ambitions. Our courses really do lead to careers.

I hope you enjoy reading about the many highlights of the 2018/19 academic year.

Cliff Hall, Principal



The year included many highlights for us, winning an award for best internal comms campaign at the CIPR Awards, our HE graduation, and a summer recruitment campaign that saw us beat our enrolment targets – to name but a few. 

Our Senior Leadership team



Cliff Hall
Principal



Louise Jones
Deputy Principal



Martin Penny
Finance Director



Patrick Geary
Assistant Principal,
James Watt College



Jan Myatt
Assistant Principal,
Matthew Boulton College



Anna Jackson
Assistant Principal,
Sutton Coldfield College



Sue Hopewell
Director of Quality



Alison Jones
HR Director



Suzie Branch
Business Development Director

Our Governors



Sir Dexter Hutt, Chairman of
the corporation



Cliff Hall, Principal and Chief Executive
of Birmingham Metropolitan College



Professor Prue Huddleston



Veronica Docherty



Peter Croom



Michele Larmour



Hilary Smyth-Allen



Simon Thompson



Angela Myers



Iqbal Mohammed



Asha Devi



Tracey Pearce, Staff Governor



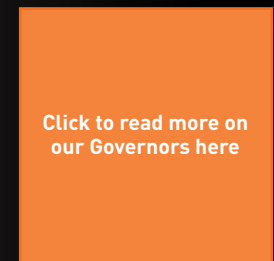
Sam Coles, Staff Governor



Ritik Sharma,
Student Governor



Connor Curtis,
Student Governor



[Click to read more on
our Governors here](#)

Road to recovery

The 2018/19 academic year saw the launch of the BMet improvement and recovery plan.

The plan clearly outlines how we swiftly and energetically plan to address our two key priorities:

- Improvement of teaching, learning and assessment (TLA) to improve outcomes for students and to achieve good at our next Ofsted inspection.
- Reinstate strong financial stability in order to repay government debt, service our bank loans and to reinvest in the student experience.

We are already making excellent progress on this. We have launched a TLA framework that has helped our teachers considerably and after our recent Ofsted monitoring visit we were notified that we are making reasonable progress. Our next Ofsted inspection will be within the next 18 months. Our banks are also satisfied with our recovery plan and the progress we are making.

Future focused

As we reflect on 2018/19 it's also time to plan for our priorities for the 2019/2020 academic year.

Priorities for the 2019/2020 year ahead for BMet

1. Our number one priority is to provide the best teaching, learning, guidance and support for our students in 2019/2020. If we can achieve greater consistency across a reshaped BMet we are confident that we can see our Ofsted grade rise when we are next inspected.
2. Pushing forward with our improvement and recovery plan to achieve greater financial stability. We are working hard on this and paying back our loans and borrowing. We have growing support from our funders and regulators.
3. Ensuring everyone who works at BMet feels able to contribute to the momentum we are trying to build, and can take pride in the success we are delivering.
4. Making sure we continue to look outwards to Birmingham and beyond and that we continue to build those very important relationships.
5. We are also in the process of looking at our strategy for the next three years – part of which will see an invigorated mission and new set of values. This is an important piece of work for us as it will help to solidify on the recent improvements made and will help to focus our minds on our future ambitions. This in turn will help to ensure that we deliver the right courses for our students so that they can go on to fulfil their ambitions. Watch this space!

Our colleges

We were pleased to have appointed three new Assistant Principals in January 2019. Their focus is to build reputation, grow student recruitment, improve the student experience and quickly address areas for improvement in teaching, learning and assessment at each of the colleges.



Patrick Geary
Assistant Principal,
James Watt College



Jan Myatt
Assistant Principal,
Matthew Boulton College



Anna Jackson
Assistant Principal,
Sutton Coldfield College

Click here to read some of the highlights from each of the colleges

James Watt College

Matthew Boulton College

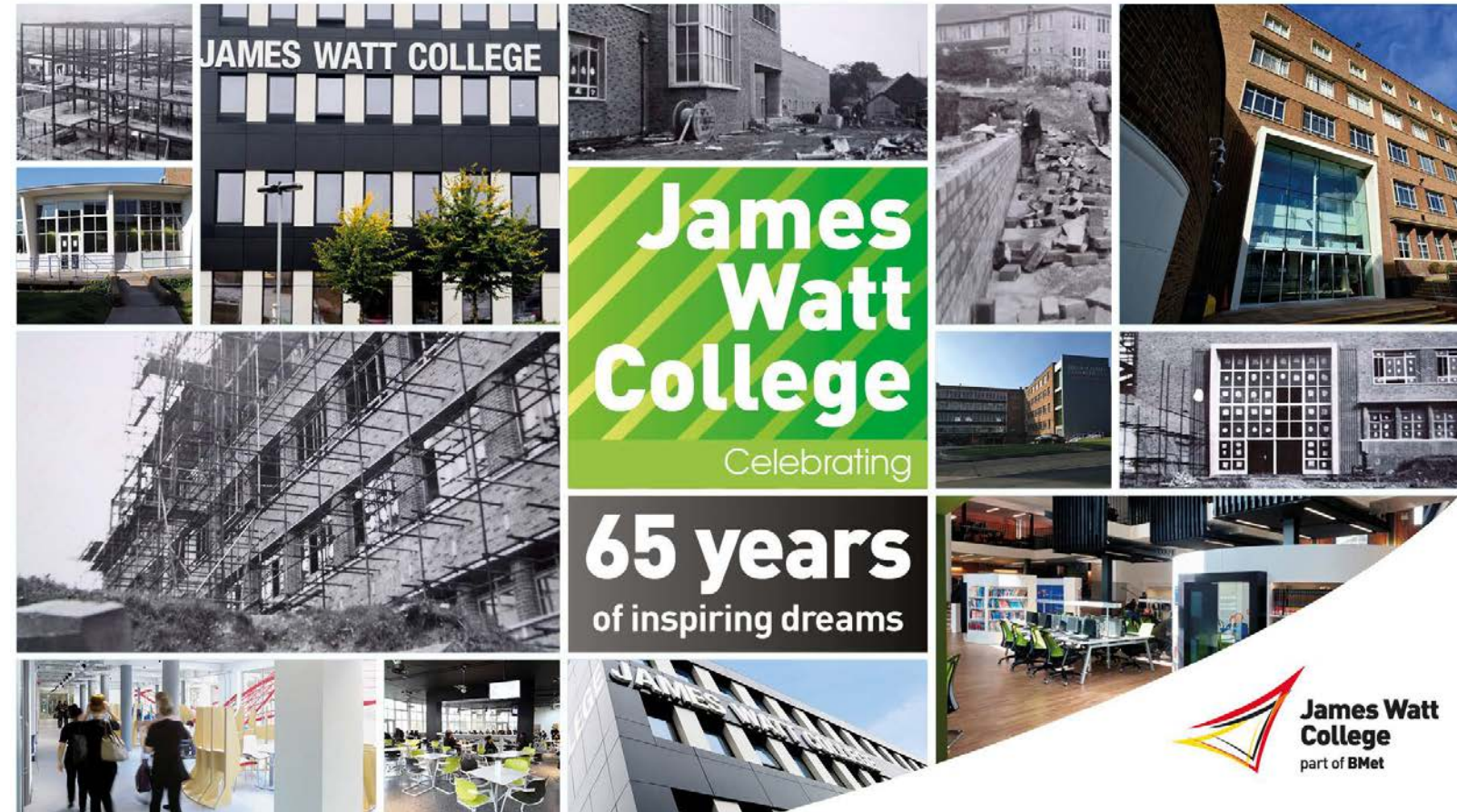
Sutton Coldfield College

James Watt College

James Watt College Celebrates 65th Birthday

Wednesday 19th June 2019 saw James Watt College turn 65!

CLICK FOR MORE >



James Watt College

James Watt College has been a fixture in north Birmingham for decades, since it was opened as Brooklyn Technical College on June 19 1954.

It was in 1992 that Brooklyn Technical College became known as North Birmingham College, which was the only college north of the city offering construction courses at the time.

Plans for the dissolution of North Birmingham College were submitted to Parliament on May 19th, 2003.

The plans were approved and on August 01 2003, North Birmingham College was dissolved and all its property was transferred to Sutton Coldfield College.

Matthew Boulton College and Sutton Coldfield College began collaborating on providing courses, with plans to merge coming about.

The merger was approved in June 2009 by the Secretary of State, creating Birmingham Metropolitan College. It was through this merger that James Watt College received its current name.

Whether known as Brooklyn Technical College, North Birmingham College, Sutton Coldfield College or James Watt College, this building has served to educate and nurture thousands of young minds over the last 65 years.

2019 is an important year for the college as it is also the 200th anniversary of the passing of James Watt, the inventor, engineer, and chemist that the college was named for.

Patrick Geary, Principal of James Watt College offered up his thoughts on both of these occasions by saying: "It is an honour to be a leader in a college with a rich heritage that is very important to this community.

"It gave the college the opportunity to celebrate its own history, while commemorating the man whose creativity and innovation embodies the same spirit we hope to inspire in our students.

"65 years of helping students to achieve their goals is definitely something worth celebrating and we hope to continue for many more."



Having the chance to acknowledge both the history of the college and the man it was named after is really delightful.



Who was James Watt – and why is he famous?

As part of a celebration of our heritage we dedicated a walkway at James College to the man behind our name. The corridor gives some fun and interesting insights into James Watt.



Did you know?

- James Watt is believed to be one of the most important inventors of the early part of the industrial revolution
- The unit of power, the Watt, is named after him
- He introduced the word horsepower to describe an engine's power output

Come along and see the wall for yourself! Our next open event is on Wednesday 26 February.

[<BACK](#)
[MORE>](#)


James Watt College

Blazing the awards trail

James Watt College apprentice, Daniel Millington is a true trailblazer at Hydraforce Hydraulics Ltd.

He won a National Apprenticeship Award for Rolls Royce Advanced Apprentice of the Year, the British Education Award for England’s Vocational Student of 2019 and been a runner-up award for EEF (Engineering Employer’s Federation) Apprentice of the Year for the Midlands.

“My apprenticeship and education has been a fantastic journey and has allowed me to accomplish some fantastic things, it’s the best decision I ever made!” he said.



He works within the manufacturing engineering department at Hydraforce Hydraulics Ltd, a Birmingham based manufacturer of hydraulic valves and manifolds. His role involves transferring and introducing new products for the business. This has led to him setting up new production lines, which has in turn created more jobs for the local area.

“My engineering apprenticeship has not only got me into a field I’m passionate about, it’s also developed me on a personal level,” Daniel continued. “I’m gaining a degree level qualification, invaluable hands on experience and work within a vital role which has enabled me to travel overseas on projects.”

As part of his apprenticeship, Daniel spent a day a week at BMet. This led to him gaining a Level 2 performing engineering operations, followed by Level 3 manufacturing engineering qualifications. He has since progressed on to a foundation degree in manufacturing engineering.

The coolest teacher on the planet?

Being a chart-topping DJ and music producer definitely puts Paul Morrell in the running for the title.



The release of a new original single, Up In Flames featuring Amanda Wilson and a remix of Ava Max’s smash hit single, Sweet But Psycho in 2018 are just some of the projects the media lecturer at James Watt College has been involved in.

And when he’s not absorbed in music, Paul teaches a media course that he says is ‘fun’ and which gives students access to some of the best resources in the city. This includes mac suites, state-of-the-art cameras, along with programming and editing software which is used to help students venture into the worlds of journalism, photography, directing, broadcasting and graphic design.

See a feature on Paul in [Birmingham Living](#) magazine.

Find out more about media courses at James Watt College by clicking here:

Media courses

Construction career boost for female jobseekers

With women representing just 14% of the UK’s construction workforce (according to the Office of National Statistics), BMet has come up with a way to tackle the disparity head on.

Bridge into Construction, a women-only programme, was launched at Erdington Skills Centre to train jobseekers for careers in plumbing and the wider construction industry. An information event about the course was held at the Centre on Tuesday 6 November 2018.

Centre Manager, Tony Holder said: “The number of women of all ages signing up for construction qualifications with us has been increasing year on year, which is fantastic to see. Our information event showed how it’s a welcoming, inclusive industry and working environment, with opportunities for people to take on many different flexible roles.”

The initiative was supported by Women into Construction (WiC), the Department for Work and Pensions and Birmingham City Council.

Work opportunities unearthed for trainee archaeologists

A mum of two from Washwood Heath, a teenager with Asperger Syndrome and a 58-year-old who was out of work for several years are now on the pathway to an exciting career in archaeology.

Just a year ago, the trainees had no idea they could get the opportunity to become archaeologists.

Now they are playing a pivotal role in the delivery of Britain’s new high-speed railway by supporting the most extensive archaeological dig currently underway in Europe.

The ten trainees, aged 18 to 58, came through the WMCA’s Construction Gateway programme, funded by £5m from the National Retraining Fund.

Following an initial six-week training programme, delivered in conjunction with BMet, a number of the trainees went on on to be directly employed by archaeology and built-heritage specialists, MOLA Headland.



James Watt College, Assistant Principal, Patrick Geary, said: “The programme was designed to widen community participation in the HS2 build, so it’s fantastic to see how well these trainees – all from different backgrounds – are doing.

“Everyone that came through our programme is in a position to continue their training via courses in archaeology, construction and the built environment which will further boost their chances of securing long-term employment.”

Read a selection of some of our James Watt College student success stories

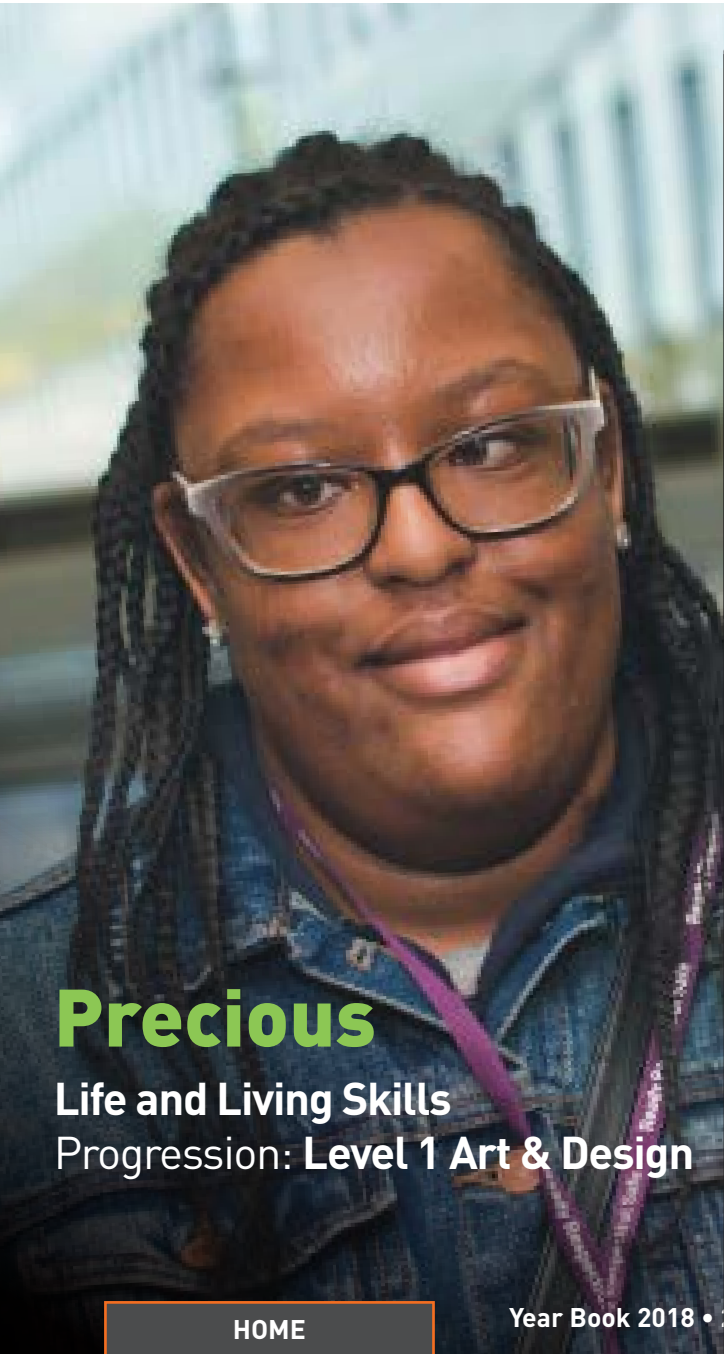
Case studies



<BACK

MORE>

James Watt College case studies



Precious
Life and Living Skills
Progression: Level 1 Art & Design


“I’ve had a fantastic time whilst learning a range of new things!”

“I definitely feel that James Watt College has catered for my needs. The support I have received here is invaluable and I have had a fantastic and fun time, whilst learning a range of new things that will be helpful in my future.

“This college has really built my confidence and I know that an exciting and interesting career awaits!”

HOME

Year Book 2018 • 2019



Daniel
Engineering Apprenticeship
Progression: Engineering Degree & Advanced Apprentice of the Year, National Apprenticeship Awards Ambassador for the West Midlands

“My apprenticeship got me into a field I’m passionate about!”

“My educational journey has been fantastic and has allowed me to accomplish some fantastic things. Coming to James Watt College, is the best decision I’ve ever made!

“My engineering apprenticeship has not only got me into a field that I’m passionate about, it’s also developed me on a personal level.

“I’ve been able to gain a degree level qualification, invaluable hands on experience and work within a vital role.”

<BACK

Apprenticeships

In other news

Matthew Boulton College

Father of international human rights advocate celebrates student success



Students at Matthew Boulton College experienced a truly inspiring celebration when they were joined by Ziauddin Yousafzai – father of Malala Yousafzai, the youngest ever Nobel Prize laureate – at their Student Star of the Month awards on Friday 15 November 2019.

The event, which was held to coincide with a student-led Cultural Exchange Day, highlighted the huge achievements of learners – many of which originate from around the world.

Mr Yousafzai, co-founder of the Malala Fund which invests in education programmes to provide support to enable girls to gain access into schools “so that they can reach their full potential” and author of “Let Her Fly”, presented all nominated students with certificates and a gift. The winner also received a specially designed plaque to reward their accomplishments.

The college’s annual Cultural Exchange Day, which took place alongside the awards, is a student-led event to raise awareness of the traditions and practices of other cultures in the college and around the world.

Among other things, the vibrant day showcased food, fashion, music and performances by college learners based on their cultural heritage.

Speaking of the special event, which attracted more than 200 people Mr Yousafzai said:

“It was an honour and pleasure to come to this amazing institution. The quality of education is amazing at the college and is a true reflection of Birmingham – in terms of diversity and cultural difference.

“The students inspired me and made me proud to be a brummie!”

The student awards and the student Cultural Exchange Day are important dates in the college’s diary. The awards seek to recognise the hard work, determination and success of students – many of which have been chosen by their tutors for going the extra mile. The Cultural Exchange Day is an opportunity for students, including

James Watt College

Matthew Boulton College

Sutton Coldfield College

Stourbridge College



ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages), to highlight and promote their cultural heritage.

Among other things, as well as speaking about the importance of education, Ziauddin spoke about Malala’s experiences, passions and what Birmingham means to them both.

Jan Myatt, Assistant Principal at Matthew Boulton College – part of Birmingham Metropolitan College (BMet) said:

“We think that it is very important to celebrate our student success at every opportunity. Furthermore, combining two significant occasions was a great chance for us to showcase student accomplishments, whilst also promoting cultural diversity and inclusion around the college and in the world at large.”

“Malala is a perfect role model to our students as a whole within BMet, as is her father. People around the world know and admire Malala for being a Pakistani activist for female education and the youngest recipient of a Nobel Prize. Likewise, Mr Yousafzai is an education activist in his own right.”

BMet has a modern and progressive approach to student development and enrichment. Events like the student awards further highlight such importance and focus for the further education institution, alongside the desire to promote student success and achievement.


[CLICK FOR MORE >](#)

Matthew Boulton College



Birmingham Lord Mayor joins college students for charity event and Black History Month celebrations

Matthew Boulton College students, studying English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), had the chance to practice their verbal skills on Wednesday 16 October with the Lord Mayor.

Councillor Mohammed Azim visited the college as part of Black History Month and to take part in a Macmillan Coffee Morning.

The aim of the visit is to give ESOL students a unique and personalised insight into British life – with a focus on the political landscape and systems that are around them, whilst also informing the mayor about the opportunities that are available at the college.

The mayor, who is of Pakistani origin, also spoke to students and staff about diversity and inclusion – which resonates with the college's values of being Ready, Respectful and Safe.

He also had the opportunity to have a tour of the college, which will included a visit to the college's Black History Living Museum – featuring the achievements of African Caribbean key figures, stars and heroes in our near and distant history.

Speaking of the mayor's visit, Matthew Boulton College Assistant Principal, Jan Myatt, said:

"We were delighted that the mayor took time out of his busy schedule to spend the day with us.

"Having a respected councillor, as well as being the Birmingham Lord Mayor, at our college, who has worked hard to achieve a lot in his career, was a fantastic opportunity for us as he is someone who our students can relate and aspire to.

"The mayor's experiences inspired and motivated our students to strive for big things and to reach their goals!" To find out more about the Matthew Boulton College student enrichment and ESOL programmes offered at the college, please visit: <https://www.bmet.ac.uk>

Celebrating student success

Matthew Boulton College showcased its best and brightest at their end of year student awards celebrations in June 2019.

The awards recognised and honoured the achievements and high level of work of Matthew Boulton College students with categories over six disciplines. The night's final award was the Assistant Principal Exceptional Achievement Award.

The winners on the night were:

The winner of the award in the Science category was HE Podiatry student, Farzeen. His tutor, Wajid Hussain, praised his growth as a student and his inquisitive nature.

The winner of the Ready Respectful Safe award was a student called Mohammed. He was described as a "role model for RRS values every day in college."

The winner of the award in the Commercial Services category was a student called Hosai. As a single mother Hosai has overcome many obstacles and in recognition of all she has achieved was given the award.

The winner of the award in the category of Early Years and Health was a student called Mohammed. His commitment to excellence during his time at Matthew Boulton College has been exemplary.

The winner of the English, Maths, ESOL, and Foundation Learning Award was a student called Musharraf. Her hard work and dedication in her studies paid dividends as evidenced by splendid results.

The winner of the Creative, Digital, Business, and Professional Award was a fashion student called Jack. Jack's perseverance with his work led him to secure a Distinction grade across both years and as a result was the clear winner in this category.

The winner of the Assistant Principal Exceptional Achievement Award was a student called Maryam. Maryam attained the highest score for Applied Science in the entire BMet college group and was deemed a more than worthy winner for this award.

Jan Myatt, Assistant Principal at Matthew Boulton College, had this to say in regards to the celebration of excellence that took place: "I was absolutely floored by what our students were able to achieve this year.

"All the nominees and award winners should be exceptionally proud of themselves and the work that they put in to reach this point.

"We here at Matthew Boulton College want to say a huge congratulations to everyone that was nominated and those that won awards, and we wish everyone the utmost success in their future endeavours."

[<BACK](#)
[MORE>](#)

Matthew Boulton College

BMet was delighted to host the FE Good Practice Symposium at Matthew Boulton College

BMet was delighted to be hosting the Further Education Good Practice Symposium from C-Learning at Matthew Boulton College on Wednesday June 19 2019.

The conference was a must attend event in the world of FE as the topics covered are extremely relevant to the future of FE and the education sector as a whole.

David Price OBE, author of Amazon bestseller 'OPEN: How We'll Work, Live and Learn in the Future' was the opening keynote speaker for the symposium.

David Price OBE is an author, speaker and trainer. He delivers training and advisory work globally on some of the biggest challenges facing business, education and society. David has taught for 30 years across community, adult, and the wider School sectors, and has held senior leadership positions in Further Education.

Rachel Jones, IT Director at BMet, opened the symposium, had this to say regarding the event: "It was an honour to open the symposium, especially with all the great minds in attendance.

"Leaders and influencers from across the education spectrum were at this event where changes in technology for the next generation and the impact of that were discussed.

"The education sector is in a unique space as the impact of digital technology continues to grow, and the symposium is a brilliant way of looking at the challenges and opportunities that will come about."



Students give hope to those struggling with mental health

Students from Matthew Boulton College took part in an exciting industry led project judged by Amazon bosses in March 2019.

Students from the college competed alongside 58 students from across the country.

The 16-18 year old students undertook an eight-week challenge – which was run by the Career Colleges Trust in partnership with AWS, Samaritans, London Sport, Marylebone Cricket Club and UK Active.

The live project brief – given to the students from BMet, Barking & Dagenham College, Coleg Gwent and Westminster Kingsway College – was to develop an innovative digital solution to promote the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of young people.

A Matthew Boulton College student came up with the concept of a hope box to help people struggling with their mental health. The idea was deemed to be a winner and all the students were set the task of designing a hope box. The Samaritans are now considering taking the project idea further.

At the final, students gave impressive presentations about their group's solution. Each student reflected on their personal performance during the project – highlighting areas they found challenging and the parts they most enjoyed.

Many students explained that their confidence had grown throughout the project and time management was frequently flagged as a challenge. The judges found the sharing of students' own personal experience of mental health issues very moving and inspiring.

The standard was very high all round, but a team from a London college was chosen as the overall winner for their 'Hope Box' solution. The innovative design impressed judges, as did the group's genuine desire to give hope to people who may be struggling with mental health issues. Commenting on the project, Farhan, studying at Matthew Boulton College, said: "This project gave me the opportunity to learn new things, especially about managing my time and working to deadlines!

Jan Myatt, Assistant Principal at Matthew Boulton College, said: "We are delighted that our career college students took part in this project. The future of Further Education lies in colleges and employers working hand-in-hand to design new and exciting curriculum that meets the individual needs of the employer and provides our young

people with the technical and professional skills they need to be successful in the workplace.

"Projects like this one help to take the college experience to the next level and help to ensure that our students are work ready when they leave us."

Matthew Boulton College via the Careers College provide specialist vocational education for 16-19 year olds in the Professional Services, and the Digital and Creative sector, with leading employers in the region feeding directly into the curriculum.

Matthew Boulton College runs the only accredited Careers College across the West Midlands.

[Click here to find out more.](#)


Read a selection of some of our Matthew Boulton College student success stories

Case studies

<BACK

MORE>

Matthew Boulton College case studies



My apprenticeship will open doors!

“Everything you’re taught is linked to different job roles and the career paths you can follow. The talks you have from different companies and people working in marketing, HR, finance and business inspire you!

“My apprenticeship is a good opportunity for me. It will open doors and is a route towards me working in a banking environment.”


Anisha

Level 3 Business Studies

Progression: **Business and Professional Career College apprentice**

HOME

Year Book 2018 • 2019



“The university route is not for everyone!”

“The apprentice route really suits my career aspirations. I don’t think university is for everyone.

“The fact there are different apprenticeships programmes available, is very helpful for those individuals that like the idea of combining both academic and practical skills.”

Ubaid

Level 3 Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEx) Course & Apprentice of the Year

Progression: **Moving on to Level 6 to qualify as a Chartered Legal Executive Lawyer**

<BACK

Apprenticeships

In other news

Sutton Coldfield College

New A Level Centre launched in Sutton Coldfield



Students and staff gathered to celebrate the launch of the new A Level Centre at Sutton Coldfield College on Monday 01 October 2018.

The centre was officially opened by Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP for Royal Sutton Coldfield. Commenting on the A Level Centre, he said: "I am very pleased to open the new Sutton Coldfield A Level Centre. This is a brilliant new facility which will provide high quality A level education.

"It is great to see Sutton Coldfield College continue to invest to ensure students not only have the best possible education, but also benefit from a fantastic learning experience at the same time."

Sutton Coldfield College is renowned for its wide choice of A level programmes and the new centre has enhanced the learning opportunities delivered to hundreds of 16-19 year-olds across the area.

BMet College receives record top-class A Level results

Students at Sutton Coldfield College were in good spirits after achieving widespread excellent A Level and AS Level passes in the summer of 2019!



This is the best ever A Level results year for the college, as of the 99% record passes, forty per cent of learners achieved high level grades of A*, A and B – with a 100% pass rate in 12 out of 16 subjects.

Hard work certainly paid off for over one hundred learners aged 16 plus who studied courses ranging from biology to media studies at the college's flagship Sutton Coldfield



College A Level Centre. The results mean that the students were able to progress onto higher education or choose from a range of career opportunities.

19 year-old Danish, was ecstatic after achieving two A*'s in Psychology and Sociology and a B in English Literature. Following his good results, he now studies Sociology at the University of Warwick.

He said: "My results mean the world to me and this is one of the best experiences in my life.

Simone, 18, is now studying at Newman University in Selly Oak Birmingham, as a result of obtaining the grades she needed in English Language/Literature, Drama and Psychology.

Speaking of her achievement, she said: "It means a lot to me because I am one step further to reaching my goals and I thank the college for helping me get to where I am now!"

18 year-old Haris, gained three B's in Philosophy, Law and Psychology and was keen to study philosophy at the University of Birmingham. to study Philosophy.

He said: "I am so ecstatic about my results, as at times I really doubted that I would do well. Now I have peace that things are looking up for me and that I am one step further to achieving my goals." BMet offers a very wide range of A and AS Level courses and provides a variety of options to suit a diverse range of people.

This year also marks a special year for BMet, as it is the first time that students studied at the year-old A Level Centre located at Sutton Coldfield College.

Speaking of the college's positive results, Sutton Coldfield College Assistant Principal, Anna Jackson, said: "We were as delighted as the students to discover the fantastic results that were achieved.

"At BMet, we pride ourselves on preparing students for higher education and for the world of work. For many people, the world is now their oyster and we look forward to hearing about their bright and rewarding futures."

Specialising in A levels only, a wide range of subjects from maths and science to drama and media are taught by a team of specialists at Sutton Coldfield A Level Centre, who are actively involved in academic research and development.

[CLICK FOR MORE >](#)

Sutton Coldfield College

College students inspired by nationally-celebrated British poet for World Mental Health Awareness Day

Students and teachers at Sutton Coldfield College gained a unique insight into mental health through literary rhyme and verse in October 2019 when they were treated to a vibrant performance by widely acclaimed British poet, Hussain Manawer.

Hussain, who is also a celebrated writer, actor and currently one of the biggest UK advocates of mental health, came to the college ahead of the annual Mental Health Awareness Day held on October 10.

Over 100 attendees got the opportunity to learn about the complex psychological disorder – that includes anxiety, depression and bipolar and affects 1 in 4 people every year in the UK – through Hussain's personal and captivating spoken word delivery.



Students and staff at the show were treated to an exclusive full musical band show by one of the UK's biggest mental health advocates. An opening inviting discussion about mental health with students followed, with opportunities for questions and answers.

Speaking of the rewarding opportunity, Anna Jackson, Assistant Principal at Sutton Coldfield College, part of Birmingham Metropolitan (BMet) College said: "We feel extremely privileged at the college to have the opportunity to be entertained by such a celebrated national talent, who has a fresh new take on mental health and how it affects young people today.

"Many of our students, and indeed staff, have an interest or passion for poetry and spoken word – and having Hussain express himself to our audience in his own way, resonates with our ethos to promote creativity within our students and in our curriculum.

"In addition, linking his captivating performance to such an important cause is an added benefit to our students and employees alike, whose feedback was wholly positive. Our college realises the ever growing mental health struggles that young people face in this current climate and we have a commitment to supporting people as best we can."

After his performance at Sutton Coldfield College, Hussain said: "It was a pleasure to attend the event today and it was a very rewarding experience for me and the band. "The energy here was special. These students have great potential, watch what happens when it's unlocked! Big up Sutton Coldfield College!"

Best and brightest recognised at college awards ceremony

Sutton Coldfield College proved it is bursting with talent at its end of year student celebrations in June 2019.

The awards recognised the outstanding contribution students make to the Sutton Coldfield College student experience.

Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell, Member of Parliament for Sutton Coldfield, oversaw the night of celebration. He said: "I was delighted to join the staff and pupils of Sutton Coldfield College for their student celebration and to present the last award of the evening – the Assistant Principal Award. Congratulations to all pupils on their personal achievements.

"Further Education Colleges like Sutton Coldfield College play a vital role in the community and are able to transform lives for the better."

James Watt College

Matthew Boulton College

Sutton Coldfield College

Stourbridge College

The award categories were across eight categories with the final award of the night being the Assistant Principal Award.

The winners in each category were:

- Ellen in the A Levels category presented by Paul Dudbridge, Hanover Pictures
- Theo in the Creative, Digital and Foundation Learning category presented by Peter O'Brian, Applio Ltd
- Rebecca in the Business & Professional category presented by Jane Smith, Department Director
- Sidra for English and Md Abdun Noor for maths in the English & Maths category presented by Jane Smith, Department Director
- Franalio and Kim for the Special Awards category presented by Jackie Jacques, VP Finance UK&I BPO, DHL Supply Chain & Charlotte Wright, Relationship Manager (West Midlands) Career Ready
- Farah for STEM and Caitlin Kennedy for Childcare & Education in the Science, Leisure, Care and the Public Sector category presented by Staff Sgt Matthew Albrighton
- Euan for Sportsman of the year and Katie & Alissa for Sportswomen of the year in the Sports category presented by Staff Sgt Matthew Albrighton
- Ubaid in the Sutton Coldfield College Apprentice of the Year Award category presented by Suzie Branch, Business Development Director at BMet.
- Theo in the Assistant Principal Award presented by Anna Jackson & Rt Hon Andrew Mitchell MP

Anna Jackson, Assistant Principal at Sutton Coldfield College, had this to say about the awards: "The evening really was very special for everyone involved with the college, as we celebrated the success of our brilliant students. They all worked so hard and it is right that we took a moment to celebrate their success.

"Our awards focused on students who identified as worthy of a special mention because of their achievements, their contribution to the college and to the wider community.

"I wish our winners and all of our students the very best in their future careers or in continuing their further education."



Read a selection of some of our James Watt College student success stories

Case studies

<BACK

MORE>

Sutton Coldfield College case studies



“It feels like one big family!”

“Sutton Coldfield College was a great environment and I really enjoyed it. It was challenging to begin with, but there was an excellent foundation of support – making it much easier as time went on.

“Everyone including the security team, the reception staff, library staff and the teachers are just so pleasant. It feels like one big family instead of a student and tutor environment.”

Farah

Access to Science

Progression: **University of Nottingham to study Master’s in Dietetics and Nutrition**



“It was like a supportive community!”

“It was great, I learned so much. Everyone was nice - it was like a community because everyone was so supportive of each other.

“The teachers were very helpful in all areas - in the creative side of things, the practical side and the written side as well. I think everything was very well organised and well looked after. I really enjoyed my time at Sutton Coldfield College.”

Jaime

Acting & Musical Theatre

Progression: **Actor** (Productions include “Motown The Musical” in the West End)

Stourbridge College

In May 2019 we made a significant announcement that was to change the makeup of BMet.



Halesowen colleges by the start of the new academic year in September 2019.

This autumn a sale was agreed with Old Swinford Hospital. We are very pleased to have worked with Old Swinford Hospital to enable the Foundation to purchase the Stourbridge College land and buildings. It is important for us that this acquisition has the backing of Dudley Council and many other stakeholders in the local community. Continued use for education has been secured and we wish every success to Old Swinford Hospital and their partners in this new chapter of the development of the site.

To read the initial announcement

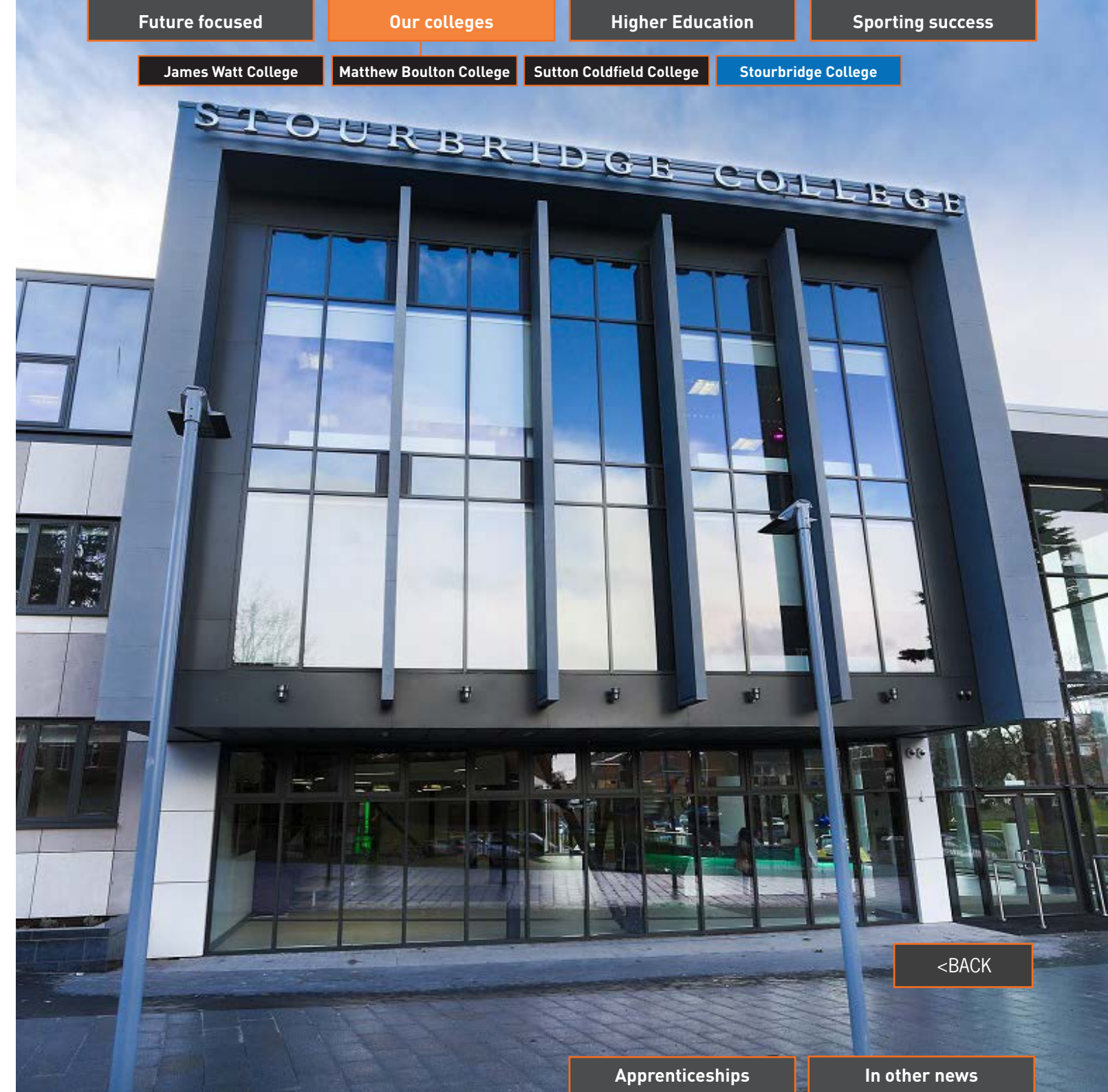
[CLICK HERE >](#)

We announced changes to further education delivery in Stourbridge and the Black Country.

The announcement came following a three month review led by the FE Commissioners team and ultimately saw BMet transfer its Black Country provision to the two locally based colleges.

Under the transfer Dudley College of Technology and Halesowen College committed to no loss of entitlement for any learner or employer currently engaged with BMet in the Dudley Borough.

The change to day to day operations of the college saw Stourbridge students transferred to Dudley and



[<BACK](#)

Our Apprenticeships

BMet waxed lyrical about the benefits of apprenticeships



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BMet waxed lyrical about the benefits of apprenticeships to mark the 12th National Apprenticeship Week held in the first week of March 2019.

In the spirit of the theme of the week, the college blazed a trail, encouraging people of all ages and backgrounds to take up an apprenticeship.

A jam packed week saw the college release poems, videos, competitions, case studies and run a live virtual event showcasing apprenticeships.

Speaking about apprenticeships, Cliff Hall Principal at BMet, said: "We have always supported National Apprenticeship Week. It's a great, focused way, to put apprenticeships firmly and positively under the spotlight.

"The theme of this year's National Apprenticeship Week is to "blaze a trail" and we want to encourage apprentices to share their stories with us in the hope of inspiring others to follow the path they have taken."

Kick starting the week will be the release of a poem written about apprenticeships for BMet by local poet Seunfunmi.

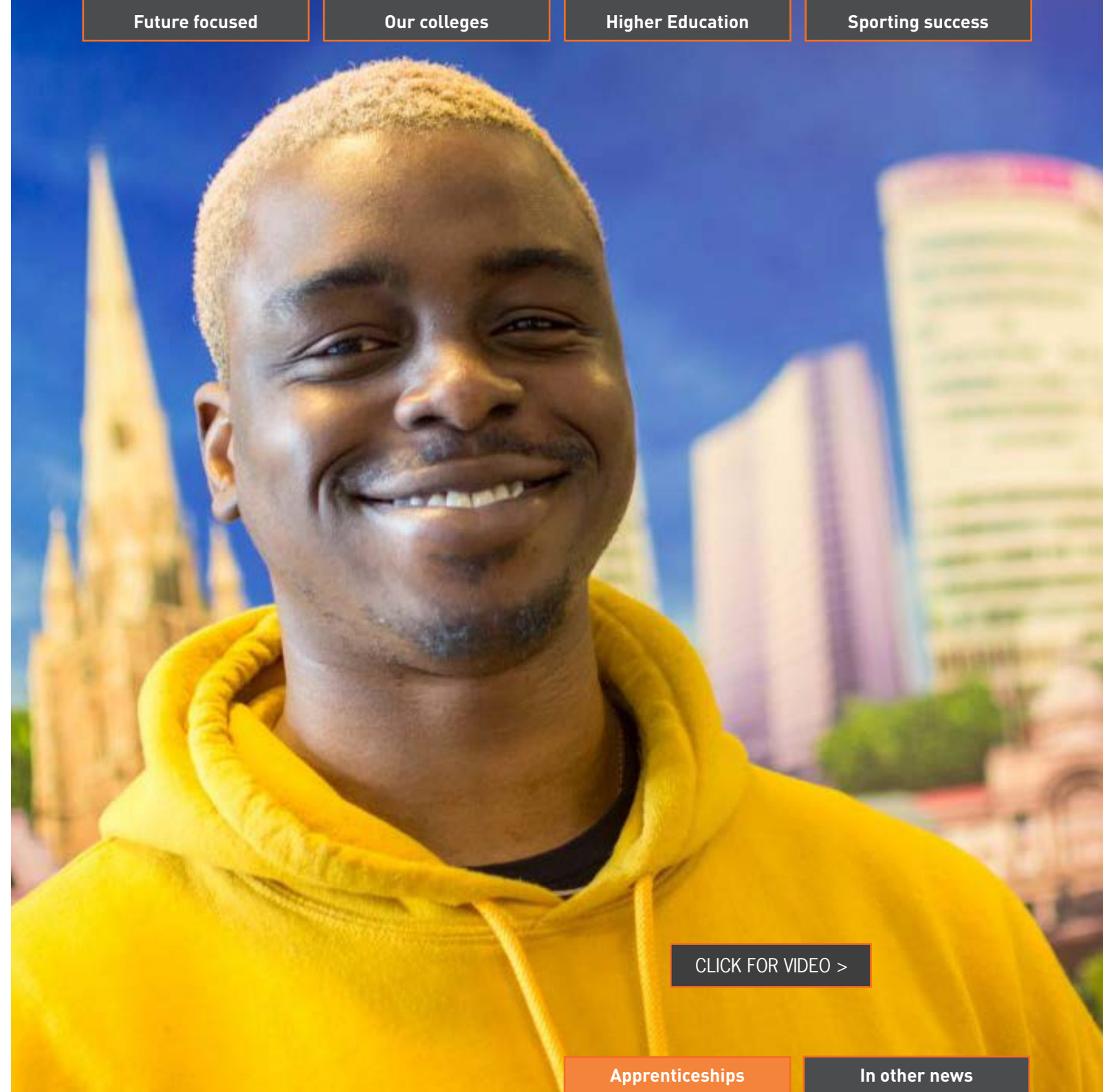
The passionate poet will give an exclusive performance to students at Matthew Boulton College on Monday 04th March.

Seunfunmi worked with the BMet apprenticeship team to give him the inspiration to scribe the poem.

Throughout the week BMet also shared case studies of their real life apprentices to motivate and inspire budding apprentices to apply for live vacancies with the college.

The college also turned citizen broadcaster and invited people to send in poems and videos on the benefits of apprenticeships.

In the first for a college in the region, BMet rounded off the week with a live apprentice virtual event where budding apprentices and employers alike were able to ask any questions.



[CLICK FOR VIDEO >](#)

Higher Education

Alumni showcased at 2018 Higher Education awards

BMet's 2018 Alumni Awards were presented to early years professional, Faraza Anderson and structural engineer, Asha Devi.

The former Sutton Coldfield College and Matthew Boulton College students received their awards at BMet's Higher Education Awards ceremony at Birmingham Town Hall. BMet Principal, Cliff Hall said: "Our Alumni Awards put former students under a 'then and now' spotlight,

congratulating them on their remarkable careers. They also show how further education transforms peoples' lives, putting them in a position to inspire and support others.

"Faraza and Asha embody this and much more besides. Congratulations to both of them."

A former journalist for The Sunday Times in Sri Lanka, Faraza Anderson worked in publishing before pursuing an early years career to fit around the needs of her young son. She studied a Foundation degree in Early Years at Sutton Coldfield College and then gained a First in her full honours degree in Integrated Working with Children and Families at the University of Worcester.

Faraza came to the University of Worcester's attention on more than one occasion, receiving an Academic Achievement Scholarship Award and having her work quoted in an international publication about pedagogy in early education.

She now works in an independent school in Edgbaston and plans to pursue a Masters in Policy, Superdiversity and Migration so she can progress into a role advocating for children's welfare and rights.

Commenting on her award, Faraza said: "It is an incredible honour. As a mature student changing careers, I never expected to be singled out for recognition. It's something that will motivate me to continue achieving.

"What I have really taken away from being a BMet student is that it is never too late to study, whatever your age, background or circumstances. All you need is ambition, determination and passion to realise your dreams. I am still beaming with pride for everything I have achieved." After completing A levels in pure and applied mathematics, physics and computer science, Asha Devi studied engineering at the University of Birmingham. From there she joined Arup where she has worked for 27 years. During the 1990s she worked on projects in Brindley Place, Birmingham Children's Hospital and the HSBC Bank building at Canary Wharf.

Her career has also taken her to New York, where she worked with the search and rescue teams at the world trade centre site following the 9/11 attacks in New York and to Tanzania where she worked with a NGO in the development of a new hospital project.

Asha has been included in a newly-published book called 'Once Upon A Time in Birmingham: Women who Dared to Dream'. She is featured alongside campaigner Malala Yousafzai and trade unionist Jessie Eden.

"I'm thrilled to accept the award," said Asha. "My time at college shaped my ambitions. By sharing my career journey I want to encourage others to study STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects, and go on to do life-changing work.

"Inspiring the next generation of engineers is something I'm passionate about. I hope to spend more time with BMet students raising awareness of career opportunities out there."

Faraza and Asha received their awards at BMet's Higher Education Awards ceremony where over 300 students celebrated the completion of their higher and university-level qualifications.

The 2019 graduation is set to take place on Wednesday 18 December at the Birmingham Conservatoire – thanks to awards sponsors Birmingham City University.



Sporting Success

Aston Villa Ladies FC Holds Annual Awards Evening



Aston Villa Ladies FC held their annual awards evening at the end of May with players from Aston Villa Football Club (AVFC) and Education Girl's Academy in attendance.

The Aston Villa Ladies Senior Team who play in the Women's Super League Championship, the second tier of women's football were also present.

The team, based at Sutton Coldfield College, is part of a new player development pathway where 16-21 year old players at the college train and compete as members of AVFC.

Current AVFC Ladies captain, Jade Richards, serves as team coach with the team having just completed their first season within the partnership.

Representatives from Sutton Coldfield College were present for the evening including Tanisha Smith, a student and player that recently established herself in the starting 11.

The evening celebrated the achievements of AVFC's girls Regional Talent Centre (RTC) which supports the best players from U10-U16 to train and compete in an elite environment. 9 "homegrown" members of the AVFC Ladies Senior Team came up through the RTC.

Three of the "homegrown" players had previously played for the Sutton Coldfield College team, including Elisha N'Dow who received an award for her 100th cap for the club from Jade Richards, another former Sutton Coldfield player.

The senior players celebrated their mid-table finish for the 2018/19 season, a vast improvement on their second from last finish in the previous season. This season saw the team coached by three former Sutton Coldfield College female football players in Gemma Davies, Corrine Mitchell, and Carly Davies.

Sutton Coldfield College manager Katryna Cresswell-Lane was in attendance and commented: "It's an absolute privilege to be at awards evening's like this one and to see how many of our former students are involved with this club in a number of professional levels.

"I'm delighted to be overseeing a new generation of potential talented footballers, coaches, physiotherapists and analysts through our partnership with the club".

Applications for the next season are now being taken and anyone interested should contact Katryna.cresswell-lane@bmet.ac.uk for further information.

The team, based at Sutton Coldfield College, is part of a new player development pathway where 16-21 year old players at the college train and compete as members of AVFC.



[CLICK FOR MORE >](#)

Sporting Success

BMet Sports Academy Record Success at National AoC Sports Championships

BMet secured a top spot at the 41st National Association of College Sports Championships this spring.

The AoC Sport National Championships allow colleges from across the region to compete against each other and are the largest annual student sporting event in the UK with nearly 1,800 students taking part.

BMet students rose to the challenge and came third out of 14 regions competing. Beaten only by colleges from the South East (1st) and colleges from the South West (2nd). BMet Sports Academy Scholars and Staff represented BMet and Team West Midlands at the championships.

The BMet Ability Counts Football Team extended their unbeaten streak to 70 games over 2 ½ years, by winning all 9 of their games in the national finals. They scored 53 goals over the course of the National Championships while conceding only 5.

The winner of the tournament's Golden Boot was BMet student Ellis, an NVQ 2 Activity Leadership Scholar with a severe sight impediment.

Sam, Rob and Josh all from Sutton Coldfield college, were all members of the West Midlands Men's Hockey Team that achieved a National Silver Medal.

Sam and Rob are now currently part of the AoC Colleges National Hockey Team.

One of our students was also a member of the Team West Midlands Table Tennis team which was able to secure the National Bronze Medal. Well done Lesley!

The women's basketball team, were just three points away from securing a medal!

Jason Allen, Department Manager for sport, at Sutton Coldfield College, said: "All I can say is wow just wow!"

"Staff and students that competed went for gold and to come in at the third top spot out of all of those that competed is nothing short of outstanding.

"All of us at BMet are so proud of all they achieved."

The Golf Academy, in partnership with the Midland of College of Golf, have had their most successful season to date. Rhys from Sutton Coldfield college won Gold as part of the Team West Midlands Men's Team, while 16 year old Holly won Gold for the women's team.

<BACK

In Other News

College appoints Chair of Corporation



BMet Principal Cliff Hall welcomed the appointment of Sir Dexter Hutt as the new Chair of the Corporation in February 2019.

Dexter took over the reins from Steve Hollis, following Steve's five years in office.

Dexter is an experienced leader with a proven track record in education and was knighted in 2004 for services to education. Under his leadership Ninestiles school in Acocks Green was judged outstanding by Ofsted consistently from 2006 onwards and won national awards and plaudits. Whilst still based at Ninestiles, Dexter was also Chief Executive of Hastings Federation of Schools working on the regeneration of Hastings with East Sussex County Council.

Dexter also served from 2004-2008 as a Commissioner with the Commission for Racial Equality, having been appointed by the Home Secretary.

BMet Principal and CEO, Cliff Hall, commented: "The College undertook a robust selection process and were fortunate to attract a number of high quality candidates, but the Corporation were unanimous in its view that Dexter is a very experienced leader with a proven track record in education and is the ideal person to take the college forward.

On his appointment, Sir Dexter Hutt said: "I am very excited about leading the board at BMet. I think the college is doing many good things and has huge potential. It will be my job working with partners and colleagues to ensure that BMet's potential is fulfilled."

Dexter formally took up the role in the week beginning 11th February 2019.

New Senior Staff Appointments



At the end of June we appointed Sue Hopewell to the Senior Leadership Team as Director of Teaching, Learning and Quality Improvement. Sue comes to us from Derby College where she is Director of Quality. Sue joined us at the end of September 2019.

Liam Nevin, Company Secretary, left BMet in August after five years great service to the college for new pastures. We have appointed Liam's successor to the Company Secretary role - Stephen Belling who has wide experience in private and public sector governance and legal services.

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BAME leadership programme

We were delighted to launch our BAME leadership programme towards the end of the academic year. The programme will give staff from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds the opportunity to address their personal leadership style, to form networks of peer support and increase their skills and capabilities to lead in a complex and changing environment.

In Other News

Best Internal Comms Campaign

BMet were shortlisted and won best internal PR Campaign at the CIPR awards in 2018.

We were pleased to have been shortlisted as the competition was stiff with an impressive shortlist.

We were even more stoked to scoop the gold award for Best Internal Communications Campaign for our use of Yammer and our Friday Fanfare.

We won the accolade as the judges felt that the way we use Yammer genuinely created some significant results integrating digital and offline channels and exceeded many benchmarks.

BMet uses Yammer to link the three colleges allowing colleagues from other sites to interact with each other on a daily basis. Our Friday Fanfare, where we each Friday pass on a trophy via a peer to peer system of saying thank you to each other, also sparked the judges interest and they liked how we took the personal offline activity and integrated it on Yammer each Friday.

Yammer has gone from strength to strength to since its launch within BMet – with staff regularly posting and using the platform to share information.



BMet receives Educate & Celebrate Best Practice Award

Students and staff across BMet have always believed in equality, diversity and inclusion, anti-bullying, and championing the LGBT+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans+) community – now they have an award to prove it.

The Educate & Celebrate Best Practice Silver Award recognises the LGBT+ friendly status embedded in the college's policies, curriculum and wider community activities.

Events and activities held over the last year include an Anti-Bullying Week, the launch of LGBT+ student societies, a poster competition and staff training.

Sam Coles, Diversity and Inclusion Advisor at the college said: "This is a wonderful endorsement of our work. We've made every effort to ensure that LGBT+ identities are represented at every level. We've also done a lot to support and celebrate individuals identifying as LGBT+.

"Information and positive messages continued to be shared everywhere, creating the welcoming, respectful and cohesive environment that everyone deserves to be a part of."

Dr Elly Barnes MBE, CEO of Educate & Celebrate added: "I am really proud of BMet for rolling out the Educate & Celebrate Award Programme on all their campuses. It is not an easy job to reach thousands of teachers and students in such a vast area so, huge congratulations to all involved for the time and effort that I know goes into ensuring all college policies, systems and departments are LGBT+ friendly and all are spreading the ethos of inclusion."



BMet director wins top level finance award



BMet College chief financial officer has been officially recognised as having the highest level of financial prowess and expertise in the region after winning a highly sought-after industry award.

Martin Penny beat off stiff competition to obtain the Finance Director of the Year award (not-for-profit) at the annual 2019 "West Midlands Finance Awards", after impressing a rigorous judging panel.

The prestigious "black tie" event took place at the International Conference Centre on December 5. The ceremony was held to promote and celebrate the outstanding achievements of businesses and individuals within the West Midlands' finance community. Speaking of his win, Martin, who joined only two other employees selected across the region to be put forward for the award said:

"I am over the moon and feel very grateful to receive my award and to be officially known as the leading 'not-for-profit' finance director in the west midlands area.

"I am extremely grateful to my colleagues, and to the judging panel, who appear to have seen something in me that they feel is deserving of obtaining this award.

"It was an absolute honour and privilege for me to attend the prestigious ceremony and to be amongst like-minded people, covering such a wide range of financial expertise. It was a mutually beneficial opportunity for me to share the evening with friends and colleagues, whilst networking with the Midlands leading finance professionals."

The Finance Director of the Year award is granted to employees who are able to demonstrate legacy of delivery in financial performance, leadership and management. Along with the other nominees, Martin had to clearly highlight and evidence examples of strategic direction in his company, to win the award.

As well as celebrating the achievements of the region's top finance professionals, the awards also recognise the outstanding local businesses that contribute to the economy and employment in the West Midlands – across various award categories.

BMet College truly values and is committed to employee progression and achievement. Martin's colleagues are also very pleased with his fantastic achievement and are in full support of his award.

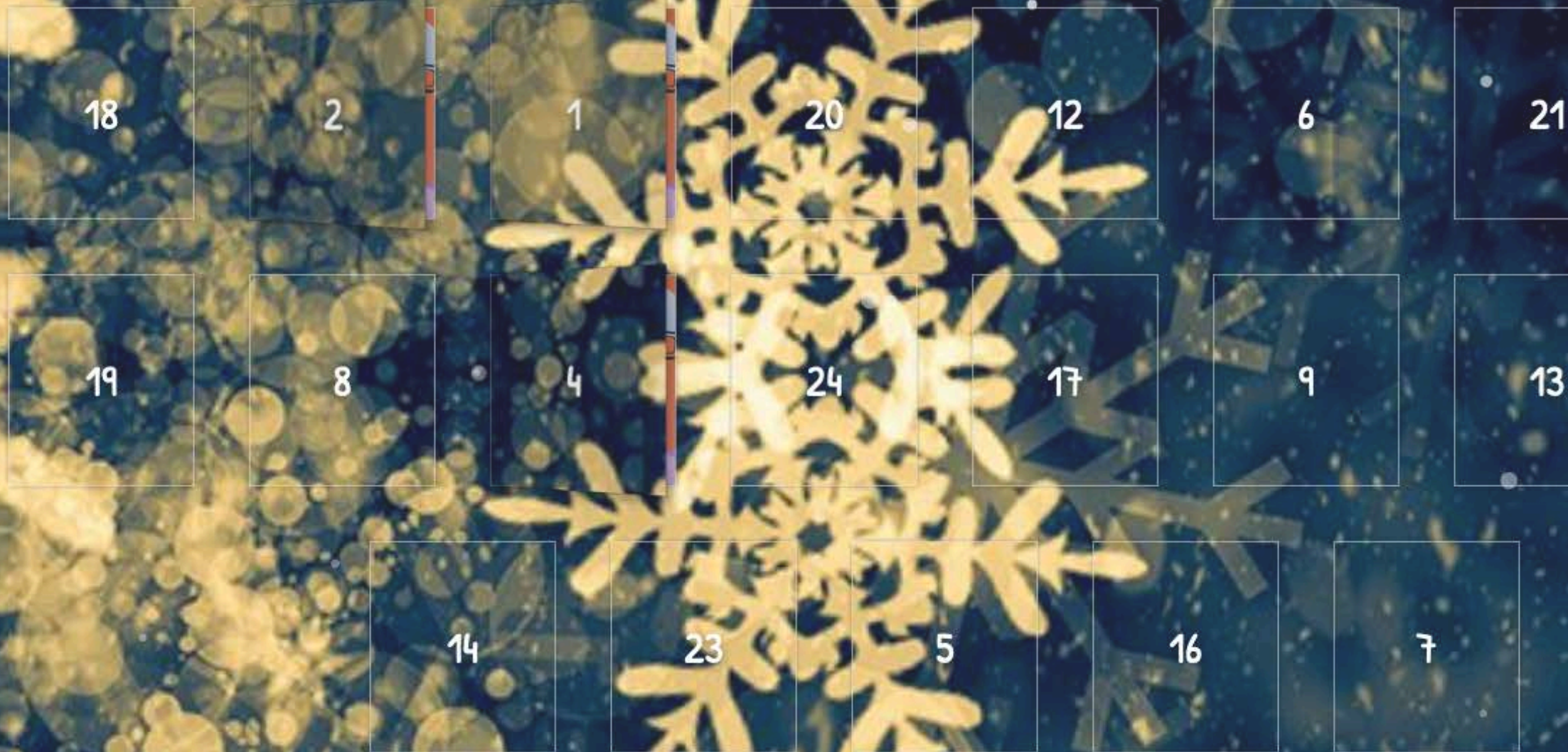
The full list of other award categories on the day were:

- Finance Director of the Year (Up to £100m turnover)
- Finance Director of the Year (Over £100m turnover)
- Rising Star of the Year (Non/Part Qualified)
- Rising Star of the Year (Qualified)
- Finance Team of the Year (Over 20 people)
- Finance Team of the Year (20 people or less)
- Finance Team of the Year (Not-for-profit)
- Shared Service Centre of the Year
- Business of the Year
- Excellence in Diversity
- Business Innovation

For more information about the awards click Awards Info:

[Awards Info](#)
[<BACK](#)
[MORE>](#)

ADVENT CALENDAR 2019



Advent calendar

Interested in finding out more – take a look at our advent calendar taking you right up to Christmas Eve!

[CLICK HERE >](#)

Latest news!

Visit the website to keep up with all of our news throughout the year!

See us in person at one of our Open Events. Dates for 2020 are:

- Wednesday 20 February – 4-7pm
- Saturday x June – 10-1pm



[<BACK](#)

- **Birmingham Botanical Gardens Westbourne Road, Birmingham B15 3TR**
- **Erdington Skills Centre Edwards Road, Erdington, Birmingham B24 9EW**
- **James Watt College Aldridge Road, Great Barr, Birmingham B44 8NE**
- **Matthew Boulton College Jennens Road, Birmingham B4 7PS**
- **Sutton Coldfield College Lichfield Road, Sutton Coldfield B74 2NW**



BMet



@BMetC



BmetCollege



BMet

w.bmet.ac.uk

e. schools@bmet.ac.uk

t. 0121 446 4545

