

North East Institute of Technology

Newsletter – January 2025



NORTH EAST

I N S T I T U T E O F
T E C H N O L O G Y



DEVELOPING
FUTURES

DEVELOPING FUTURES WITH EDC & ROBERTSON HOMES

This year at East Durham College marked the launch of the Developing Futures project.

The Developing Futures employability programme is a collaboration between East Durham College, Robertson Homes and several of their key subcontractors, who work with Robertson Homes on a wide range of building projects. These industry partners - Fusion Joinery, PJS Brickwork, DJR Smith, Paul Bertram Painting & Decorating and Lorne Stewart Engineering - help to give students a real insight into their trade in working environments outside of college as well as the possible opportunity of an apprenticeship.

In term 1, Robertson Homes hosted learners from bricklaying, carpentry and joinery, electrical, painting and decorating and plumbing at their developments across the North East. These full site tours covered everything from health and safety to seeing a house from foundations to completion, and how their individual trades make an impact on the building process.

Before Christmas, Robertson Homes also supported the college at the Student of the Term awards, where students who showed exceptional attitude and skills were recognised in front of their peers.

In term 2, Robertson have already begun individual masterclass sessions for each of the trades at the college, with key subcontractors visiting the site and demonstrating their high level skills to teach students how to use their and employ them to real building work.

It is the aim of the Developing Futures project to offer apprenticeship opportunities to students who showcase the right attitude during these visits and masterclasses, and Robertson Homes has already begun offering trials to EDC learners.

IMMERSIVE LEARNING SUITES LAUNCH

We recently partnered with Vantec Interactive Experience (VIE) to provide two state-of-the-art immersive training classrooms at our Peterlee and Houghall campuses.

VIE uses gamification and the latest in 3D, immersive and simulation technology, to provide unique and intuitive training solutions, replicating real-life environments and scenarios.

Jackie Lanagan, Assistant Principal said: "We are thrilled to be working with Vantec, their product offered something unique that we felt our students and staff would benefit from. I'm sure they will have a transformative effect on the students who get to learn in the new suites. I can't wait to see the impact they have."

The immersive suites use state-of-the-art 360-degree and 270-degree interactive technology to provide multi-sensory learning. Students can step into a virtual environment, where every detail is fully replicated to provide multi-sensory and safe tuition. This method can be more effective than a classroom environment, in both engagement and information retention.



Students get to grips with retrofit course



A group of students at Middlesbrough College have been getting to grips with the process of retrofitting homes as part of a series of courses organised by the North East Institute of Technology (NEIoT) in collaboration with County Durham-based construction company Esh Group.

The students, who come from a range of different backgrounds, have been working on the NEIoT Abbe Certificate for Retrofit Assessors Level 3 course.

The 10-week course covers how to assess dwellings for retrofit, identify improvement options, design and specify energy efficiency measures.

Retrofitting buildings – installing upgrades to make them more energy efficient, environmentally friendly and cost effective

– is at the forefront of the UK's mission to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

The process can cut energy bills for occupants, helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lowers the carbon footprint of a building, which in turn helps address climate change.

Construction industry experts estimate that the retrofitting market could be worth between £3.5bn and £6.5bn per year over the next 25 years.

However, this surging demand for retrofitting also requires trained and skilled tradespeople to carry out the work.

This is where the NEIoT courses come in, combining theoretical knowledge with practical application with the aim of offering the gold standard of retrofit training provision.

The NEIoT Abbe Certificate for Retrofit Assessors Level 3 course is funded via the Skills Bootcamps so it is free for direct learners and employers who wish to upskill staff only have to pay a small proportion of course fees – 10% for SMEs and 30% for larger employers.

The students on the course come from a mix of backgrounds. Several work in the building industry, one works in Human Resources, one works in Sales and one worked for the NHS previously.

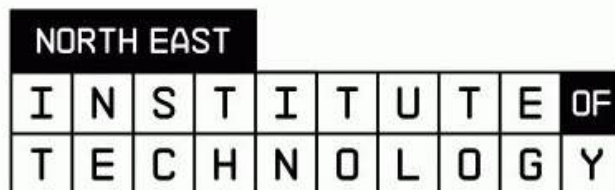
They are all there as they wish to know more about retrofitting for their own homes and they would also like to work in the sector.

Student Mark Uz said: “I am enjoying the programme. There is a lot of information to be learnt on the course but by the end you will get a valuable qualification and have increased employment opportunities. Importantly it also helps us to get closer to the target of Net Zero.

“I am keen to be able to know more about retrofitting my own home and to working in the sector.

“My aim is progress on with the college and study the Level 5 programme and be a Retrofit Co-ordinator.”





Training Ex-Service Personnel for Careers in Retrofitting

Through a partnership with the North East Institute of Technology (NEIoT) and the charity Building Heroes, New College Durham is helping ex-service personnel transition into civilian careers as retrofit assessors. The Retrofit Assessor course focuses on energy-efficient building upgrades, addressing the need for a more sustainable future while filling a key skills gap in the construction industry.

The programme combines expert instruction, onsite training, and portfolio building, ensuring learners are well-prepared for this growing field. This initiative also supports the local community by reducing carbon footprints and improving energy efficiency in homes.

Richard Tucker MBE, Chairman of Trustees at Building Heroes, praised the partnership, stating, "This unique collaboration equips trainees with skills to succeed while driving sustainability and creating long-term benefits for the region."

For more information, visit newcollegedurham.ac.uk.



Fabrication & Welding Skills BOOTCAMP



Fab & Weld Bootcamps

New College Durham is tackling the growing skills gap in the North East of England with its Fab & Weld Bootcamp training courses. Designed for learners aged 19 and over, these bootcamps directly respond to local employers' needs for skilled welders. By providing intensive, hands-on training in state-of-the-art facilities, the programme equips participants with the knowledge and confidence to thrive in the welding profession. These bootcamps are accessible to a wide range of learners: they are free for unemployed individuals and heavily subsidised for businesses looking to upskill their workforce. Participants gain valuable insight into the demands of the industry, preparing them to meet employer expectations and contribute to the region's economy.

Learn more about this opportunity at

newcollegedurham.ac.uk/bootcamps.



Meet our apprenticeship team at two events this month:



B2B speed networking

Book your spot bit.ly/b2b-network

 **Tuesday 11 February**
Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne

Employers' Business Breakfast

Discover how higher and degree apprenticeships
can help your business.

Reserve your place
from.ncl.ac.uk/business-breakfast-25

 **Friday 21 February**
The Catalyst, Newcastle Helix



TYNE COAST COLLEGE STUDENTS GAIN HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE WITH FORD AEROSPACE ACADEMY

Since its launch in September 2024, Tyne Coast College's partnership with Ford Aerospace Academy has been a remarkable success.

The academy's pre-apprenticeship programme provides students with the skills and knowledge essential for a thriving engineering career, blending hands-on training with a nationally recognised qualification. Through a combination of practical learning in cutting-edge workshops and in-depth classroom instruction, students develop a strong foundation in machining and manufacturing.

Recently, Ford representatives visited our first cohort to judge a logo competition, where students used 3D CAD software to design their logos and CNC machines to bring them to life.

This engaging project not only highlighted the innovative skills students are acquiring but also demonstrated the practical, real-world applications of their training.

The programme offers students invaluable opportunities, including hands-on experience, a nationally recognised qualification,



and the potential to secure work placements with top industry employers. With guaranteed interviews and a clear pathway to apprenticeships, this initiative is helping students lay the groundwork for a promising future in engineering.

As we continue to invest in and expand these programmes, our goal is to help bridge the skills gap and foster opportunities for the next generation of engineers. Together with Ford Aerospace and our industry partners, we're proud to play a role in driving growth and innovation within the engineering sector.



**COURSES
MAY BE
FREE***

Specialist retrofit training available now!

The retrofitting industry is predicted to be worth billions in the coming decades... and we can give you and your workforce the latest training to be at the forefront.

Right now, there's a skills gap in the retrofitting industry and the North East Institute of Technology has a range of part time retrofitting courses starting in September to help close that gap.

Training for retrofit assessors, advisors or co-ordinators is available at our campuses across the North East.

Enquire now at
neiot.ac.uk/subjects/retrofit



*Subject to eligibility/company size/CITB registration.

Our retrofit courses

NEIoT Retrofit Advisor Level 3, 110 hours

The NEIoT Retrofit Advisor course equips you with the skills to becoming a Retrofit Advisor. As a Retrofit Advisor, you'll guide and support customers, landlords and homeowners in improving their homes' energy efficiency. Led by industry experts, this course offers face-to-face learning and real-world scenarios, equipping you to provide expert advice, personalised recommendations and ongoing support, ensuring optimal energy savings and comfort for customers and effectively informing key stakeholders.

NEIoT Retrofit Assessor Level 3, 224 hours

The NEIoT Retrofit Assessor course equips you with the skills to becoming a Retrofit Assessor, assessing dwellings for retrofit, exploring energy efficiency measures, and monitoring retrofit projects in line with PAS 2035 standards. Dive into the heart of current domestic home adaptations and become a pivotal force in reducing carbon emissions, creating more comfortable environments and combating climate change.

NEIoT Retrofit Co-ordinator Level 5, 170 hours

The NEIoT Retrofit Co-ordinator course equips you with the professional skills required to operate in the new professional role of Retrofit Co-ordinator. This role has been created by government to ensure quality and value for clients and contractors engaged in the property retrofit and property management sectors, within the framework of a new quality standard PAS2035. The role is responsible for ensuring compliance with procurement, specification, and delivery of measures in domestic retrofit projects.

Enquire now at neiot.ac.uk/subjects/retrofit

DIGITAL AMBASSADORS 2025

An Industry Education Collaboration

Calling all Construction and Built Environment businesses of the North East and Tees Valley - your local college needs your support by bringing software to life through the delivery of a guest lecture, and lecturer CPD support by inviting them to your workplace to see the software used in practice.

Join DA25 to help:

- Improve the quality and relevance of teaching materials through the delivery of up to 4 guest lectures.
- Ensure students have experience of software applications used in industry before leaving college.
- Increase student interaction with inspiring industry professionals.
- Support lectures who have opted into a 'Digital Swap' - visiting workplaces to learn more about the software's daily application, the business, and wider C&BE industry.
- Put your business at the centre of digital skills development through continued interaction with Digital Ambassador college partners.
- Change outdated perceptions of our industry by showcase digital construction.
- Ultimately, support colleges in the North East and Tees Valley deliver the best quality teaching to our future workforce.

Interested?

Contact darush.dodds@esh.uk.com if you are a business interested in the Digital Ambassadors programme.





Contact information

To register your interest in Partnering the Innovation Festival or to discuss any of the sponsorship opportunities 2025's event

Please complete the short form [here](#) and a member of the team will be in touch within five working days.

We look forward to hearing from you and can't wait to bring another fun filled, innovation creating event!

For any other queries please direct your enquiry to innovationfestival@nwl.co.uk.



[Register your interest in Partnership](#)

[Festival Walkthrough](#)

[If24 executive summary](#)

[A-Z of Innovation Festivals](#)



NORTH EAST
INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY



We're pleased to announce that nominations are now open for the 2025 Teachers of Physics and School and Further Education Technicians Awards.

These awards recognise and celebrate individuals who, by their practice have raised the state of, and supported the learning of physics in schools and colleges across the UK and Ireland.

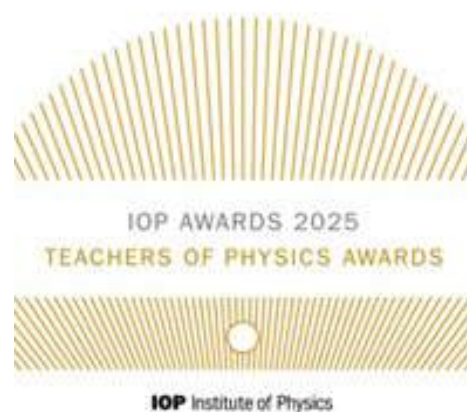
Do you know a technician or teacher whose contribution to physics should be recognised with an award? Could this be you? Help us by nominating yourself or someone you know today.

For each award the individual will receive £1000, an invitation to a celebratory event, and other benefits specific to that award. The school or college of the winning technician will also be awarded £1000. We welcome and encourage nominations from people from underrepresented backgrounds and those who may not have previously applied or nominated others for an award. You do not have to be an IOP member to nominate or be nominated.

You can read more about the awards and make a nomination on our website; [IOP Teacher Award](#) and [IOP Technician Award](#).

Please email awards@iop.org if you have any questions about the awards or your submission. Nominations close on Sunday 16 March.

Please help us to spread the word by forwarding on this email to those who may be interested, and see our LinkedIn posts for [Teacher](#) and [Technician](#) Awards.



Business Durham

Durham County Council

DURHAM BUSINESS growth

climate

Get Set, Green

Wednesday 19th February
9am - 4pm

Ramside Hall, Durham

Business Durham

fsb

Low Carbon Materials

EEVOLUTION

NORTH EAST

POWER ROLL

Durham University

SMS

SHAWCOTE LTD

EQUANS

MAVEN

Durham County Council

Durham University Business School

NORTHERN POWERGRID

Engineering & Manufacturing Network

ENERGY GROUP

CLIMATE ACTION

NE

North East Combined Authority

DURHAM BUSINESS growth

OnPath Energy

sustainable

GOLOLINE

Durham Wildlife Trust

WEARDALE

Local Energy Systems

NEL

MCH

adopter

Demeter

CLIMATE BUSINESS GROUP

FD Finance Durham

umi

www.durhambusinessgrowth.co.uk/event-details/get-set-green



Proud sponsor of the

SME of the Year Award 2025





Freebies for Apprentices

Did you know that during National Apprenticeship Week, your apprentices can have access to discounted Cineworld cinema tickets, free coffee with PRET and lots of other high street deals as part of 'The Big Apprenticeship Thank You' campaign.

Apprentices have until Thursday 6th February 2025 to register with the [Association of Apprentices](#) for these amazing offers.

To find out more - [The Big Apprenticeship Thank You](#)



Contact us

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