



Craven
college

SKILLS IMPACT 2025-2026

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WELCOME



At Craven College, we are focused on unlocking potential and changing lives for all our students. We are committed to equipping our students with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive in today's ever-evolving job market.

By working closely with local and regional employers, we aim to meet the skills need in our region, providing hands-on learning opportunities that prepare students for real-world careers.

These partnerships enhance employability and strengthen our local economy, creating a skilled workforce that meets demand across key sectors. Through apprenticeships, work placements, and employer-led projects, our students gain invaluable insights and practical experience that will give them a competitive edge in their chosen fields.

Anita Lall, Principal & CEO

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Gareth Dixon
Deputy Principal & CEO



Duncan Bulloch
Assistant Principal - Curriculum & Skills

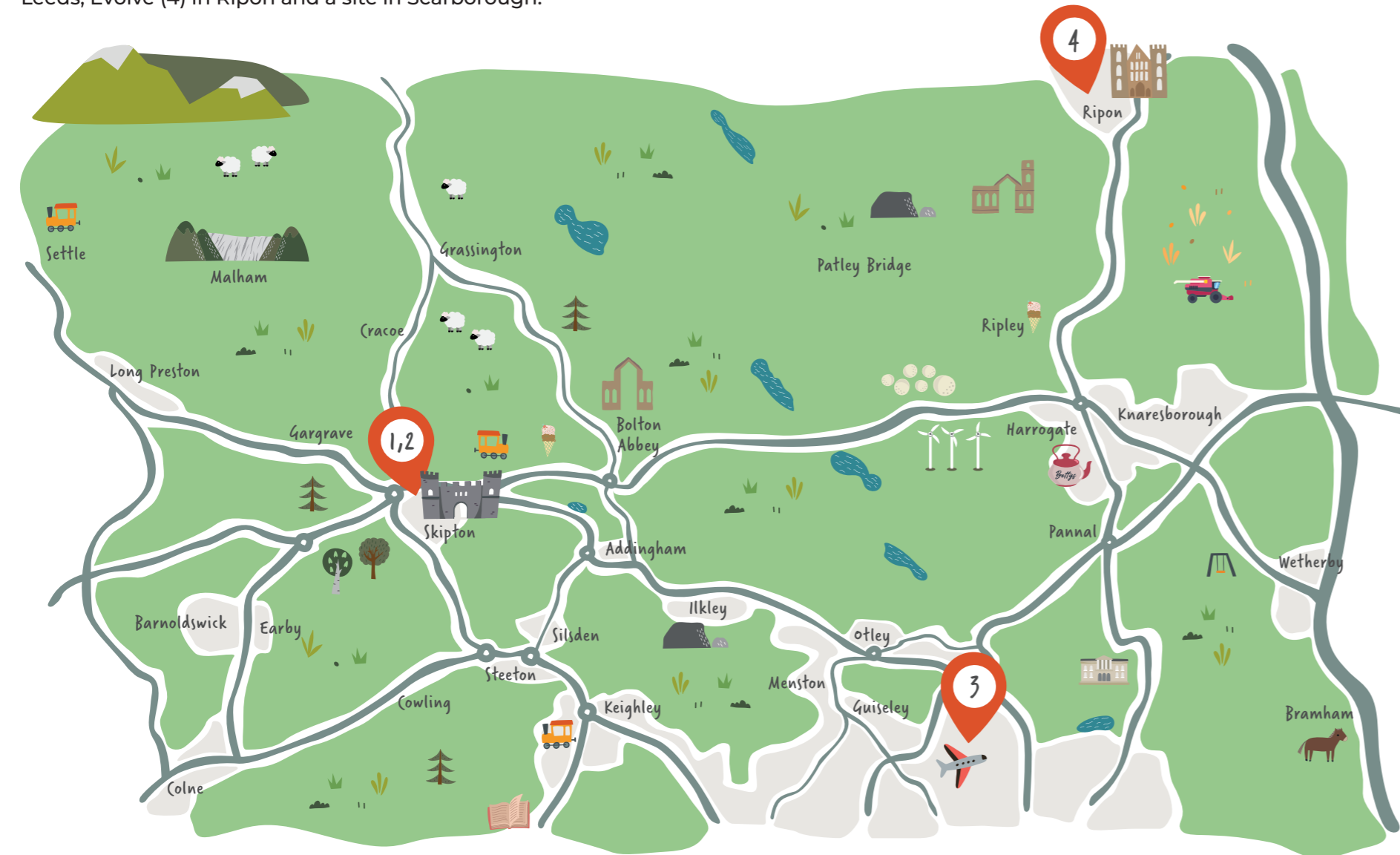


Wesley McGlinchey
Assistant Principal - Curriculum & Student Experience

LOCATION

Craven College is based on Aireville Campus (1) in Skipton, a market town in North Yorkshire within easy walking distance of the town centre and the local public transport networks.

The College has additional campuses at Skipton Auction Mart (2) which is adjacent to the Aireville Campus, The Aviation Academy (3) at Leeds, Evolve (4) in Ripon and a site in Scarborough.



OUR COLLEGE

Craven College is a small UK Further Education College, recruiting over 3,000 students each year.

With two campuses based in Skipton, and further campuses at The Aviation Academy (Leeds Bradford Airport), Scarborough and Evolve (Ripon) the College recruits primarily from the Skipton area, whilst attracting students from North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and East Lancashire. Our specialist areas of provision such as Construction, land-based subjects and Aviation draw from a wider geographical reach.

BUSINESS BASE

In common with the rest of Yorkshire and the Humber, more than 85% of businesses in the Craven district are micro-businesses with 0-9 employees. When considering Skipton, this figure rises to 99%.

Within both North and West Yorkshire, the largest areas of employment are wholesale/retail, health & social care, and manufacturing. Agriculture, hospitality, and mining and strongly represented in the North Yorkshire's employment base relative to the national benchmark.

Construction, manufacturing & agriculture are the most strongly represented industries in the Craven area with the biggest employment sectors within Skipton being business admin and support services and financial and insurance. This






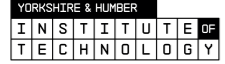
is mainly due to the headquarters of Skipton Building Society being based in the town.





Both North and West Yorkshire have significant skills shortage and upskilling issues and have a deficit of higher skilled employment, particularly in the higher-level STEM professional roles.

EMPLOYER EXPERTISE

Due to our locations with the region's diverse employment base, we offer a unique and comprehensive curriculum to ensure our students are furnished with the skills required by the diverse range of employers within the locality. We regularly meet with employers to share insight and expertise to ensure all our courses meet their skills needs.

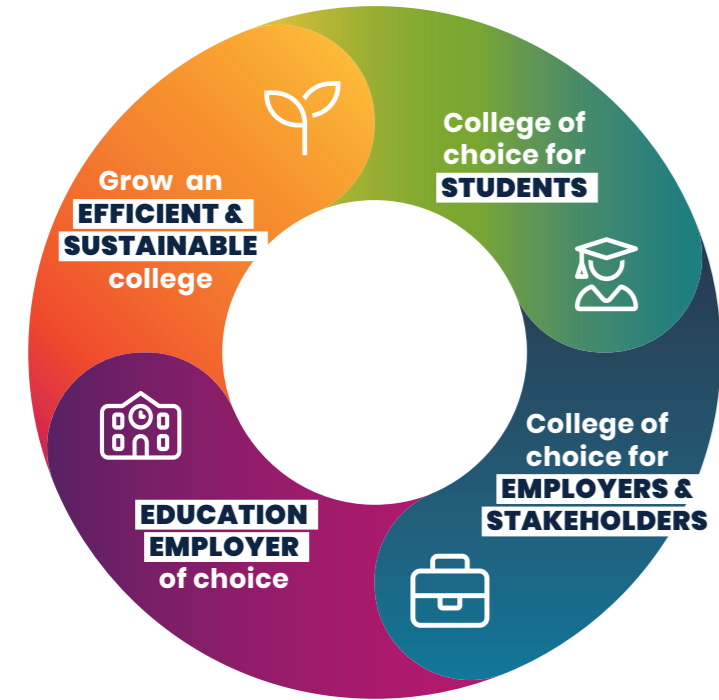
KEY PARTNERSHIPS

EMPLOYER/STAKEHOLDER	NATURE OF RELATIONSHIP
<p>Craven Cattle Mart</p> 	<p>Craven College has a major on-site presence at the Craven Cattle Mart where we deliver our land based provision. This is a long-standing relationship with a number of current projects being delivered in partnership.</p>
<p>Jet2, Leeds Bradford Airport</p>  	<p>Craven College's Aviation Academy is an ABTA educational partner and has curriculum partnerships with Jet2 and Leeds Bradford Airport (LBA) which means that they recruit directly from the Aviation Academy for students who have followed an industry-standard and industry-informed programme.</p>
<p>Craven Locality Board</p>	<p>A partnership arrangement between the college, primary and secondary schools, nurseries and the local authority to develop an overall strategy and action plan for school improvement and SEND and inclusion across the locality.</p>
<p>Skipton Business Improvement District</p> 	<p>The College sits on the Board of Directors and works with the BID group to develop projects that benefit businesses in the local area.</p>
<p>Skipton District and Town Council</p> 	<p>Working on projects to revive Skipton High Street and bring education, training & skills development to the heart of the community.</p>
<p>Yorkshire & Humber Institute of Technology</p> 	<p>The Y&H IoT is a partnership between a number of FE Colleges, including Craven College, employers and universities, to collaborate on curriculum development and increase the amount of technical Level 4 and Level 5 qualifications and pathways available for young people, based on the industry and skills need in the local area. Craven College has been focussing on the use of technology such as drones and VR in conservation and land based industries.</p>

EMPLOYER/STAKEHOLDER	NATURE OF RELATIONSHIP
<p>British Association of Shooting and Conservation (BASC), National Gamekeepers Organisation (NGO), Gamekeepers Welfare Trust (GWT) The Moorland Association, Yorkshire Dales Moorland Group, Bolton Abbey Estate, Castle Bolton Estate, Yorkshire Dales National Park, Ribble Rivers Trust, Jamie's Farm, The Deep, Tropical World, Yorkshire Peat Partnership, RDA, BHS, Saracen Horse Feeds, Yorkshire Dales Moorland Group and Coniston Estate Shooting</p>	<p>These employers have played a crucial role in establishing the Level 2 Countryside Worker Apprenticeship as a pathway to training the next generation of gamekeepers. These industry experts are in full support of an apprenticeship that combines hands-on training with theoretical knowledge. Their future input as guest speakers will ensure that the program meets industry needs, providing apprentices with practical skills while also addressing the evolving demands of the countryside management sector. This collaborative effort ensures a well-trained workforce capable of managing and conserving rural landscapes, supporting wildlife, and maintaining sustainable land practices.</p>
<p>North Yorkshire Combined Authority</p>  	<p>We have a good relationship with NYCA at various levels and are actively involved with the LSIPs, industry specific steering groups and delivery of Skills Bootcamps.</p>
<p>West Yorkshire Combined Authority</p>  	<p>Work with WYCA to deliver adult training and upskilling to residents in WY.</p>

KEY DATA

STRATEGIC AIMS



WORK EXPERIENCE DATA



55,000 hours

Learner hours logged and employer verified for 2024-2025

VISION

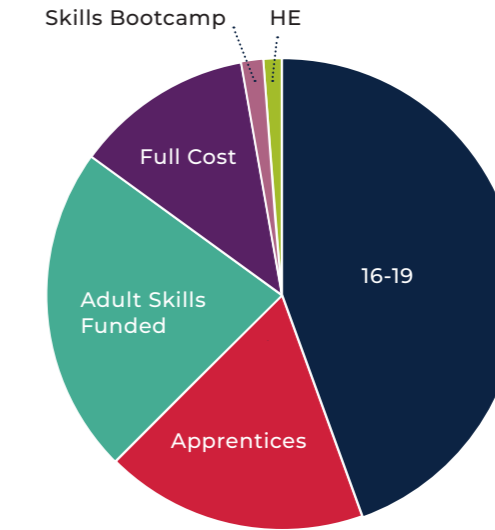
To be exceptional in everything that we do.

MISSION

Proudly serving our communities by delivering high quality education and training.

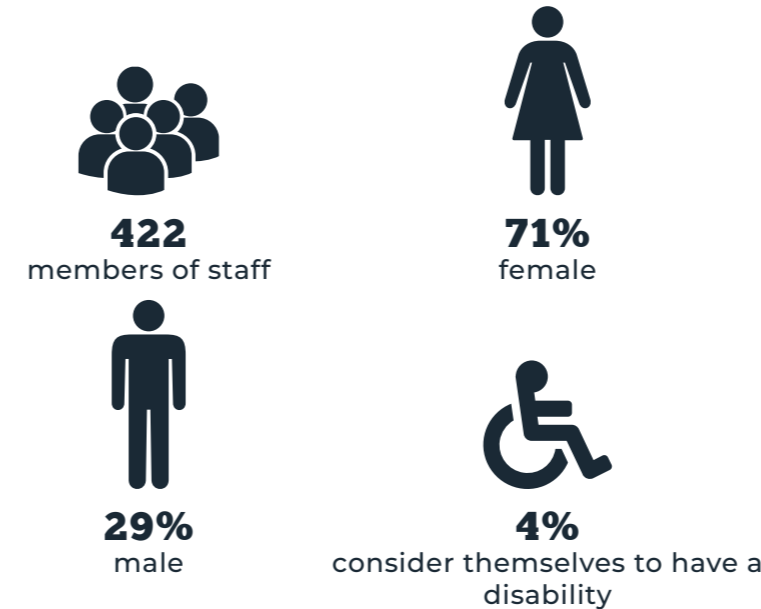
STUDENT NUMBERS

Type	Students
16-19	1,353
Apprentices	541
Adult Skills Funded	687
Full Cost	373
Skills Bootcamp	49
HE	38
	3,041



WORKFORCE DATA

The workforce at Craven College comprises of:



Age Group	% of workforce
Under 21	0.71%
Age 21 – 30	7.58%
Age 31 – 40	19.91%
Age 41 – 50	25.34%
Age 51 – 60	31.52%
Age 61 – 70	13.27%
Age 71 and over	1.66%

Ethnic Origin	% of workforce
White	88%
BME	4%
Other	1%
Not stated	7%

CASE STUDIES

STUDENTS TAKE OVER THE FELL HOTEL

Craven College students took over The Fell Hotel at Burnsall, giving them the opportunity to experience running a hotel with paying guests.

Level 2 Culinary Skills students, Level 2 Travel & Tourism students and two Access to FE students on the Travel & Tourism pathway attended The Fell Hotel on Monday 13 January and Tuesday 14 January to undertake all aspects of the day-to-day running of a boutique hotel. In a bid to support the next generation of hospitality professionals the College students were responsible for running of the whole property and were shadowed by experienced hotel team members gaining vital practical knowledge of running a busy, fully functioning hotel to complement their classroom-based training.

Prior to the takeover, lessons in College included rigorous sessions on all aspects of managing a hotel, from housekeeping to front of house to even laying a table correctly. With two days consisting of Afternoon Tea, four course Dinner plus canapés and breakfast, this was an incredibly intensive learning experience for our students.

This programme, now in its second year, gives vital support continues to give our students vital real-world experiences.



LEEDS BRADFORD AIRPORT AMBASSADORS

The 2026 programme has just begun after four previous successful years.

26 students were successful at interview following a rigorous application process for these roles and any unsuccessful candidates were given feedback on what improvements to make on interview skills.

Leeds Bradford Airport hold two training courses for customer service that involves assisting customers in the landside terminal area of the airport, answering flight information questions, and general enquiries. Students also use terminology learnt in the class in the correct manner and completing General Health, Safety and Security training before starting their first shift.

Previous successful students have been trained and given airside passes to work further shifts in the summer at the boarding gates with handling agents. This has led to permanent employment and positions being created.

TIME FOR TEA!

Level 1 Introduction to Hospitality students had the amazing chance to put on afternoon tea at Herriots Hotel in Skipton.

The Afternoon Tea was part of the students' Customer Service Unit and followed three successful afternoon teas delivered at College in the Three Peaks Bistro, for the general public.

The students were assisted by Herriots staff including one of our current Level 1 Professional Cookery students who has a part time job there, and an ex-Level 1 and Level 2 Professional Cookery student who now works at Herriots full time, making it a true Craven College family affair!



ART STUDENT ENJOYS WORK EXPERIENCE SUCCESS

Art & Design student Lilly St. Julien has enjoyed the fruits of her hard work, by being offered a job following her work experience placement.

Lilly was successful in obtaining her work experience placement at Material Worth, a home décor and soft furnishings specialist in Haworth. Alongside their home furnishings department, Material Worth have been commissioned by various museums and private estates to collaborate on restoration projects, using bespoke fabrics, and made props and drapes for several television and film productions.



As part of her placement, Lilly was asked to help make the banners for an upcoming film entitled Night and Day about the suffrage movement and adapted from the Virginia Woolf novel of the same name. Starring Timothy Spall, Jennifer Saunders, Sally Phillips, Professor Brian Cox, Jack Whitehall, and Haley Bennett, Night and Day is currently in production.



FASHION & TEXTILE STUDENTS ENJOY WORKSHOP

Designer, artist and Craven College Alumna Joan Murray visited the College to deliver a knitting workshop to Fashion & Textiles students.

Joan specialises in knitting and weaving for fashion and brought a huge range of samples, garments, and artwork to share with the students.

Joan is just one of the incredible local artists who visit the College on an annual basis and works to inspire students with top-tier experience, knowledge, and creative designs.

Students will use the knit techniques taught at the workshop to develop ideas for their projects which was showcased at a fashion show later in 2025.

PUBLIC SERVICES STUDENTS GET TASTE OF ARMY LIFE

Uniformed Public Services students finished their academic year with a bang as they participated in a Residential Army Work Experience course at Altcar Training Camp in Southport.

Altcar Training Camp is a facility owned and run by the North West Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association (NW RFCA) and is used extensively by regular, reserve and cadet units from all three service for military and civilian activities and training. The site has 620 acres of range and dry training areas, and 500 acres of beaches and sand dunes. Alongside 720 beds, are training facilities including clay pigeon lanes, football pitches, an obstacle course, and a new gym.

On the four-day experience our students had the opportunity to experience life in the army through a range of testing activities such as practising discipline and teamwork in a live setting, seeing military leadership styles in action, handling real kit, and testing their fitness and resilience under controlled pressure.



WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE RIOT TRAINING

Public Service students learned about life as a Public Order Officer with a trip to Carr Gate, West Yorkshire Police's Training Centre, near Wakefield, to experience for themselves how the police train for riot situations. The students spent the day at the centre, working with West Yorkshire Police's public order team.

During the visit, students played the role of rioters on the streets of the Carr Gate complex's mock town, throwing blocks of wood and rubber bullets at the police. Students observed the public order team making arrests, undertaking shield formations to protect themselves from projectiles, while senior officers issued command and control instructions. It was a great way for Public Service students to see the importance of remaining calm and exercising leadership in dynamic and high pressure situations.

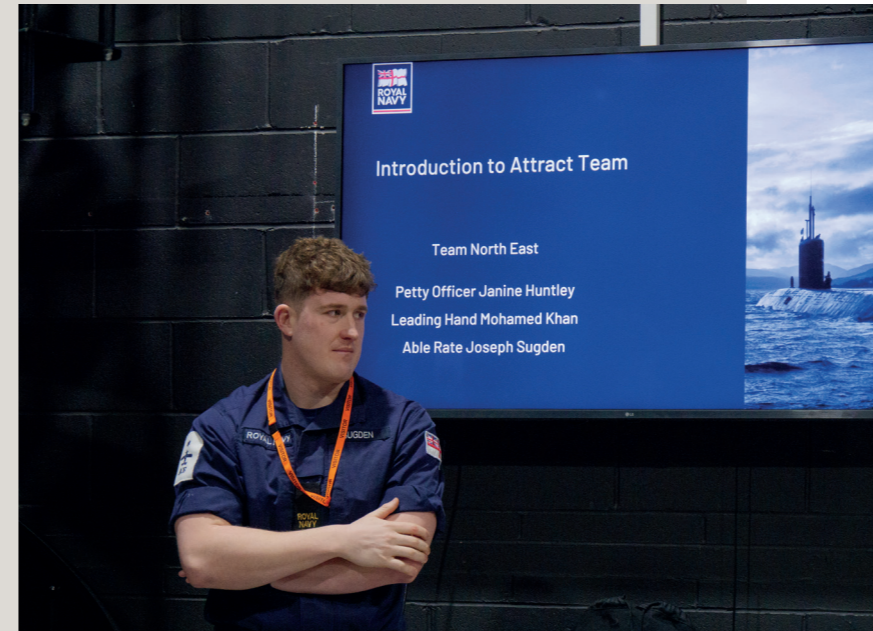
ROYAL NAVY VISIT TO SHARE STORIES OF A LIFE ON THE SEAS

Leading Hand Mohamed Khan and Craven College Alumnus Able Rate Joseph Sugden visited College to speak to all our Uniformed Public Services (UPS) students about a career in the Royal Navy. As the College celebrated its 200th anniversary in 2025, it's great to be able to welcome past students back to tell us how Craven College helped to shape their experiences!

Able Rate Sugden studied Public Services at Craven College starting in 2014, before then continuing his studies with us through a Plastering Apprenticeship.

In his seven-year career, Able Rate Sugden has never spent a day at sea, making it – as he said – the perfect career for those who suffer from seasickness! His role is completely land-based, working with helicopters. Even being land-based, he has had the opportunity to travel to France, Denmark, Spain, and Norway amongst others. The highlight of Joseph's career being his participation in Rugby League within the Navy, which has given him the opportunity to play some top teams, in the top level of competitions whilst getting the chance to appear both on television and at some amazing stadiums!

When he leaves the Royal Navy, Joseph will have an Aeronautical Engineering Level 2 and Level 3 qualification – in fact all 128 jobs within the Navy give a civilian-level recognised qualification, giving the opportunity to pursue careers outside of the armed forces.



STUDENTS COLLABORATE WITH LOCAL SPORTS CLUBS

Sport students from Craven College have created an outstanding collaboration with Skipton Tennis Centre during their Schools Sport Tennis Festival. Demonstrating exceptional leadership and coaching skills, the students have played a vital role in organising and delivering engaging sport and physical activity sessions for local primary school children who attended the festivals. Their dedication, professionalism, and enthusiasm have not only supported the development of young players but have also showcased the high standards of the Sports curriculum at Craven College. This partnership highlights the valuable contribution of Further Education students to community sports initiatives.

ANIMAL STUDENTS WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

STUDENTS VISIT COURT TO REINFORCE LEARNING

Level 3 Business students who are studying The English Legal System benefit hugely from links with Burnley Crown Court.

Observing a real courtroom helps students connect theoretical knowledge from their studies with the practical operation of the criminal justice system. The visit allows students to learn about courts, procedures, and legal roles in theory. Whilst offering an interesting and exciting experience, the visit is also raw and somewhat emotionally charged dependant on the nature of the case witnessed. Students have observed criminal trials, sentences and cross examinations as part of these visits.

This type of visit gives students a “first-hand look at the justice system”, helping them understand how courtroom procedures operate beyond textbooks and power-points.



Level 3 Year 2 Animal Management students enjoyed an exciting week-long residential trip to New Quay in Wales spending the week working with the SeaWatch Foundation, the whale and dolphin conservation charity. Through their research and monitoring programmes, SeaWatch provides invaluable information on changes to the status and distribution of the whale and dolphin populations and the condition of their habitats.

During their week, students participated in seminars on dolphin identification and behaviour. These were followed up with a boat-based survey - the data recorded will be used in publications for the protection of the resident population of the Bottlenose dolphin.



GAMEKEEPERS VISIT CRAVEN COLLEGE

We were delighted to host a number of guests from the Gamekeeping industry, as part of an informal session giving their industry expertise and input into our Level 2 Countryside Workers Apprenticeship, and the creation of a bespoke Gamekeepers pathway.

Representatives from The Gamekeepers Welfare Trust, British Association of Shooting and Conservation, National Gamekeepers Association, Bolton Castle Estate, Bransdale Estate, Middlesmoor Estate, and Bolton Abbey Estate met with College staff and for the chance to network, chat, and deliver their valuable insight into the industry, ensuring we can continue to develop our provision to provide our students with the unique skills needed by employers in the local rural region and to tailor the delivery of apprenticeship content.



MOORLAND ASSOCIATION SPONSORS GAMEKEEPER COUNTRYSIDE WORKER APPRENTICESHIP

The Moorland Association generously sponsored our Gamekeeper Countryside Worker Apprenticeship. This vital support will help us continue to train the next generation of skilled land managers – ensuring the future of responsible countryside stewardship in the uplands.

The Gamekeeper – Countryside Worker Apprenticeship is designed for young people passionate about wildlife, rural heritage, and the working landscape. It offers a hands-on pathway into careers in gamekeeping, moorland management and conservation, equipping apprentices with skills in habitat care, predator control, deer and pest management, and the use of modern countryside tools and techniques.

Thanks to the support of the Moorland Association – who represent upland land managers across England – we're able to invest more into the programme, offer better resources to our students, and raise awareness of this rewarding career route.



CRAVEN COLLEGE X YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST DIGITAL INNOVATION PROJECT 2025

Late in 2025 the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Craven College embarked on an innovative and unique digital project using the state-of-the-art technology available in Space, Craven College's new immersive facility.

Taking place over two days, this collaboration between our Countryside department, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Yorkshire Peat Partnership gave students the opportunity to present findings from their project whilst day two took the format of a corporate showcase.

This was the first time the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and Yorkshire Peat Partnership had the opportunity to showcase their work in such an innovative way, and the Trust CEO Rachel Bice delivered the welcome presentation to gathered delegates, our students, and guests.

This was a fantastic opportunity to get students and tutors on board with the ThingLink programme, which is a unique experience and helps provide vital digital skills. In addition, students used drones, 360° cameras, 3D modelling, Map GIS and methods of accurately monitoring data to supplement the content they needed to create their projects.

This collaboration is a key component of Craven College's Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) digital innovation project strategy, aligning current technologies with real-world industry needs and driving the development of future digital workflows across priority sectors such as Agriculture, Green Skills and Sustainability, and Construction.



AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING STUDENTS GET HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

Agricultural Engineering students participated in a Land Rover Experience day, based on the Broughton Hall Estate, thanks to Land Rover Experience Yorkshire.

With the morning tailored perfectly to meet course requirements, tutors arrange this experience annually to cover the practical aspects of the course unit which covers 4x4 maintenance, off-road driving, and recovery.

Students had the chance to experience driving on different types of terrain including mud, loose rocks, slopes, and fording water up to 900mm. They received demonstrations of the technology of 4x4 vehicles such as hill descent, traction control, and ABS. A recovery task was also set up for the students enabling them to experience winching a stuck vehicle.

TOOLSTATION RELATIONSHIP BOOSTS BRICKLAYING

We were very grateful to Toolstation for their very generous donation of 75 high viz vests all ready for our bricklaying students to use. Representatives from Toolstation visited our new construction facilities to have a tour and bring their donation.

We have been working with Toolstation for almost two years for both purchasing of course materials but also gaining valuable industry support for our students who will one day be customers too! Toolstation have facilitated a number of supplier training days and it's fantastic to have such a relationship where students can gain firsthand experience with the products, so they have the knowledge when they go out on placement or even into the world of work.

Collaborations with industry-specific suppliers give learners the opportunity to work with the same tools and equipment they will encounter in their careers. This enhances their skills and makes them more competitive in the job market. Suppliers like Toolstation can offer insight into industry trends, new tools, and technology, which can help colleges shape their curriculum to be more up-to-date and relevant to the modern workplace.



WORK EXPERIENCE STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL WORK

Construction students undertook a period of work experience with Skipton Town Council and local charities.

Level 1 Extended Diploma in Painting and Decorating students and Level 2 Diploma in Painting and Decorating students carried out their work experience at the Almshouses on Otley Road, Skipton. The students need to carry out 36 hours of work-related experience or work experience as part of their course.

Almshouses are operated as a charity and the 12 units offer low-cost homes for local people over the age of 55 who are able to live independently. This period of work experience gave our students the opportunity to really make a difference to their local communities.

Craven College students were tasked with redecorating two of the Almshouses ready for the new tenants to move in. The Town Council contacted the department to see if our students could help with the decorating process, as the Council assists the charities who run the properties with the maintenance aspect. Our students will continue supporting this scheme as it develops.

MULTISKILLS STUDENT LAYING FOUNDATIONS FOR FUTURE CAREER

Sam Kitchen, a student on our Multiskills course had an exciting start to his SkillBuild journey!

The SkillBuild competition, delivered by CITB, is the UK's largest construction competition for trainees and apprentices.

As each level of the competition progresses, competitors will not only be tested on their technical abilities, but on their time management, character, and commitment. The competitions can help build confidence, self-esteem, and vital life skills.

As part of their entry to the competition, applicants were invited to make a short video about their construction journey – and to our delight Sam was one of three winners out of over 50 entries and won a day's filming at his College and place of work and £250!

Sam started his construction journey young, by spending time in his Grandad's workshop. And whilst he wasn't sure what path he wanted to take, he knew he wanted a career in construction, so the Multiskills qualification was perfect, giving the opportunity to try out bricklaying, joinery, painting, plumbing, and plastering. Our Construction department recently were placed 1st in Yorkshire and the Humber and 5th in the country in national data!*

Despite hating tests and exams and managing his dyslexia, Sam put his head down and passed 11 GCSEs so he could come to Craven College and started an apprenticeship in September with a building firm, covering all aspects of building. Long-term he wants to start his own building firm.

*National Achievement Rates Data 2023-2024



STUDENTS CELEBRATE SKILLSBUILD SUCCESS

Level 3 Joinery student Erica Richardson and Plastering Apprentice Bradley Richards celebrated their amazing success following the GoConstruct SkillBuild National Final, which took place in Milton Keynes in November.

The prestigious annual competition saw 80 competitors demonstrating their precision, creativity and dedication in sections dedicated to trades including Bricklaying, Carpentry, Drylining, Furniture & Cabinet Making, Joinery, Painting & Decorating, Plastering, Roof Slating & Tiling, Stonemasonry, and Wall & Floor Tiling with additional awards for Team Spirit and Rising Star.

The journey to the SkillBuild final started back in May, when Erica and Bradley together with a number of other Craven College students competed in the Regional Qualifier at Burnley College.

Following a tense day of competition with Erica and Bradley both winning their respective heats it was confirmed that their scores made the top 8 and therefore they had their place in the National Final!

Erica gained second place Joinery student in the country, whilst Bradley was crowned best Plastering student - a truly outstanding achievement!



COLLEGE LECTURERS TASTE THE BRIGHT LIGHTS OF TELEVISION

Two tutors from our Construction department swapped the workshop for the television studio, as they took part in filming a game show for BuzzFeed, the digital media giant.

Peter Face, Lecturer in Painting and Decorating and Steve Syers, Lecturer in Plastering took part in the 'Share your Skills' quiz show, hosted by Jeff Thurm, pitting their knowledge against other FE teachers from a range of subjects including Computing & IT and Health and Social Care.

'Share your Skills' is a Department for Education initiative aiming to encourage professionals out of the world of industry and into the world of further education, sharing their real-world experience and skills.

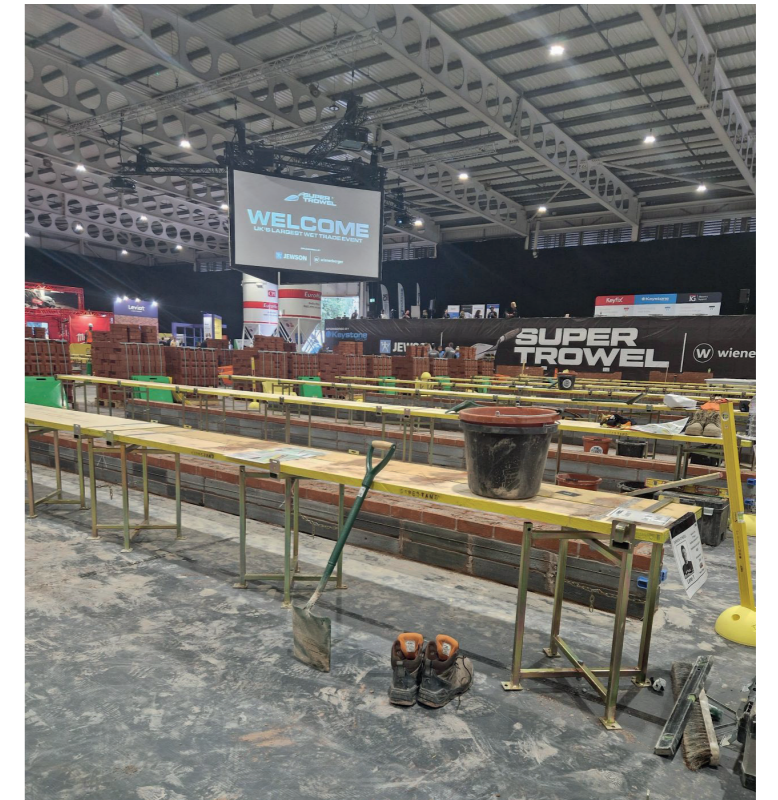
COLLEGE LECTURER JUDGES INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Ian Maltby, one of our Bricklaying Lecturers, recently took his expertise and experience to judge in the finals of Super Trowel, the ultimate bricklaying competition.

Launched to celebrate the craftsmanship, speed, and precision of bricklayers, the UK's fastest and most skilled bricklayers come together at the competition to showcase their talents. With events from laying the most bricks in record time to perfecting the finer details of a wall, the prestigious event promotes fierce competition!

Super Trowel promises exciting challenges and top-tier prizes, but more than that it gives the bricklaying community the chance to come together to celebrate and inspire whilst making those all-important industry connections.

Applications to judge in the final were made on the Brickwork Tutors Toolbox (BTTB), a freely available resource available to empower bricklaying tutors and students created by Super Trowel Head Judge Peter Roberts. Ian applied and was accepted to judge at the Northern Regional Heat at York College, and from there was asked to judge in the national final, and was one of 21 other judges in the Main Arena.



BEAUTY THERAPY STUDENTS WELCOME INDUSTRY EXPERT

The Style Academy hosted Martine O'Neill, Senior Spa Business Manager with TEMPLESPA who spoke to our Level 3 Beauty Therapy students in advance of their takeover of the Devonshire Spa in April 2025.

Martine started the session with a talk about her amazing career journey around the world, which really inspired our learners and gave them a great insight into where their qualifications could take them!

Students then listened to a fascinating insight into the history of TEMPLESPA and its founders and the wide range of products they have.

Martine gave a very helpful guide to the range of products that students would be using in their treatments when they "takeover" the Devonshire Spa. They then enjoyed a practical session learning an opening ritual for any treatment and some expert therapist movements.

In class the following day, students enjoyed a further practical session familiarising themselves with the brand-new products and using them to do a facial. Students were timed on the treatment, giving them a taste of a high-pressure environment!



BEAUTY STUDENTS TAKE OVER THE DEVONSHIRE SPA

10 of our Level 2 and Level 3 Beauty Therapy students had the amazing opportunity to experience working in a luxury spa when they took over The Devonshire Spa for a day.

This unique collaboration gave our students the chance for some amazing first-hand experience in the most beautiful of settings, whilst The Devonshire Spa had the chance to help shape the beauty therapists of the future.

Guests had a choice of 60-minute treatments including full body massage, facial, manicure, and pedicure, and then two-hour access to the state-of-the-art vitality pool, sauna, steam room, rasul chamber, and lounge.

College students undertook every aspect of running a spa, from meeting and greeting their clients, offering and providing refreshments, and then conducting the all-important treatments.



STUDENTS JOIN IN SELF-CARE WEEK

A classroom at Skipton Library was turned into a mini salon, as Level 2 Beauty Therapy and Level 2 Nail Services students brought their talents to the library's Self-Care Week, which ran from 17 to 23 November.

Self-Care Week is an annual national awareness week that focuses on embedding support for self-care across communities, families and generations.

The manicure sessions proved extremely popular, with each session fully booked! Students, working in a relaxing atmosphere of festive music, treated each of their clients to an hour-long session including a pre-manicure massage, full manicure, colour, and then a discussion on after-care focusing on nail health and care in cold weather.

Taking part in the Self-Care week gave the students chance to practice their manicure skills with real clients. Working in the library helped them gain confidence interacting with the public, while creating a calm and relaxing environment for them. It was a great experience to support others' wellbeing while developing our own professional skills.



NEW PARTNERSHIP BRINGING REWARDS

In April we were delighted to announce an innovative training collaboration with Silver Cross.

With a shared commitment to fostering excellence in early years education, this partnership enables apprentices at Craven College to gain practical skills together with valuable insights into industry standards and best practice.

As part of the Government's "Do Something Big" campaign, the College is actively recruiting new apprentices and employers to join its growing programme. This initiative encourages individuals to make a difference in young children's lives whilst gaining recognised qualifications and practical experience in high-quality early years settings. We remain committed to training the next generation of early years educators, equipping them with the skills needed for rewarding careers.

Silver Cross was one of the first employers to work with the College as part of this initiative. Working alongside the apprenticeship team, they have supplied cots, travel systems, high-chairs, and wall art to transform the learning environment into an exciting space for early years education. They have visited College on a number of occasions providing comprehensive product training for apprentices, including crucial sessions on the legislation of car seat fitting and ensuring that apprentices are equipped with the essential knowledge of safety and health and safety regulations.

STUDENTS HEAR FROM EXPERT SPEAKER

Level 3 Sport students and Level 2 and Level 3 Equine students were treated to a talk from Faith Atack-Martin, an expert in both human and equine physiotherapy.

Faith started her career in sport working in professional football as a physiotherapist. With a passion for, and competing herself in equine sport, Faith moved on from professional football to set up her own clinical practice to provide physiotherapy support to both human and equine athletes, a busy clinic that she still runs today. Alongside her equine clinic, Faith moved into motorsport working concurrently in W Series and Formula 1. She was the travelling physiotherapist for W Series' inaugural season and today still maintains a clinical lead and head performance coach role for a Formula 1 race team.

Faith now runs Combine Performance with her husband Dan, a company which aims to contribute to world-class performances, better health, and support sustainable careers for the people they work with.

Faith started her talk with an insight into her own journey, from leaving school at 16 with the plan of becoming a showjumper to returning to education to study Sports Science and gaining a place at University of Huddersfield gaining a BSc (Honours) in Physiotherapy. She then undertook a Postgraduate Diploma in Veterinary Physiotherapy at the Royal Veterinary College.

Faith took the students through her fascinating career journey to date and reassured them that anything is possible whichever path you choose to get there. Faith said, "Don't fear changing direction. Identify the direction you want to go by staying true to your values, but most of all have a vision!"

CRAVEN COLLEGE CELEBRATES MILESTONE YEAR 200

Throughout 2025, our staff and students came together to and commemorate the longevity of Craven College as an educational institution proudly unlocking potential and changing lives for the people of Skipton and the surrounding communities for an incredible 200 years.

From planting a tree and a time capsule, to baking cakes for horses at Craven Equine, from a stall at Sheep Day in Skipton, to driving a Craven College car in the Skipton Gala, the community and key stakeholders and partners have joined with us to note this amazing achievement.

Culminating in a gala event, where partners and employers joined with the Rt Hon Sir Julian Smith KCB CBE and staff and governors to see how Craven College has evolved over 200 years it was clear that the links to local employers and businesses remain at the heart of what we do.



COLLEGE DELIGHTS AT NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT RATE DATA

Craven College celebrated fantastic achievement rates, having been ranked number 1 for our Apprenticeship provision and third for our 16-18 provision in the whole of Yorkshire and Humber.

The College's 16-18 provision has ranked number 1 in North Yorkshire whilst our apprenticeship provision has been ranked an amazing 12th nationally out of 153 providers in the country.

These achievement rates have been taken from the recent release of the 2023/2024 National Achievement Rates Table (NART) data.

Our overall performance in the National Achievement Rates shows the strong position of the institution as an educational provider, showing results that are substantially above national average across 16-18 provision and above national average for adult education. The pass rates in January BTEC examinations increased, together with an increase in students achieving merit grades since last year. Over the last 10 years, Craven College has consistently maintained success and achievement rates for apprenticeships that are within the top 10% in the country and has increased its achievement rates by 4.1% since last year to 71.1%.

TYRO TRAINING COMMUNITY LINKS

Tyro Training worked in partnership with Skipton Town AFC to assist them with cutting back the trees around their football pitch – our Skills Bootcamp learners used the location as an opportunity to practice their skills.

Using ropes and harnesses, Skills Bootcamp students carried out aerial work at Yorkshire Camps in Threshfield whilst working with Forestry England at Gisburn Forest, students brought their skills and knowledge in to play to fell trees.

EVOLVE: WORK EXPERIENCE CORE AIM

At Evolve, students who choose a work experience core aim are assessed and matched to meaningful, long-term placements with local businesses for one or two days a week of their Study Programme. This sustained approach allows them to develop industry-specific skills while gradually integrating into a professional environment. By working closely with employers over an extended period, students build strong relationships, gain confidence, and develop a sense of loyalty to their workplace.

This hands-on experience provides students with valuable industry skills while often leading to part-time employment or apprenticeship opportunities. With 89% of Evolve students having an Education, Health and Care Plan and High Needs, and many identifying as neurodiverse or having a disability, these placements play a crucial role in supporting individuals who may face additional barriers to employment. Despite being an underrepresented group in the workforce, these students offer valuable skills and potential. By actively engaging with them, businesses can strengthen their recruitment strategies, improve staff retention, and build a more diverse and dynamic team.

Employers are increasingly recognising the value that neurodiverse individuals bring to the workplace. By making small adjustments to their work environments and practices, companies can harness the unique strengths of neurodiverse employees, enhancing productivity and innovation. Providing work experience opportunities allows businesses to tap into a wider talent pool, helping to address critical skills gaps while fostering an inclusive and diverse workforce. This not only benefits the young people gaining experience but also strengthens the organisation by unlocking new perspectives and problem-solving approaches.

In the Ripon area, the Hospitality, Catering, and Care industries are key employers. We collaborate with a range of local businesses, including cafés, restaurants, boutique hotels, care homes, and childcare settings, to provide young people with valuable work placements in these high-demand sectors. Shifting from a consumer to a service provider perspective can offer invaluable insights. It enables students to recognise the steps, responsibilities, and team collaboration involved in creating positive experiences for others, leading to greater empathy, respect, and professionalism in any service-related field.



Real life experiences often lead to our students gaining skills in the work place whilst they study with an opportunity for both student and employer to discover their suitability for a career in the industry such as Louis who moved directly from his year-long placement in to positive destination in employment; He now works as an Apprentice Cabinet Maker with Watkinson Cabinet Makers in Thirsk.



VALENTINO'S RISTORANTE

Valentino's has been a longstanding supporter of our work experience programme, hosting several students over the years. In addition to placements, Valentino's has played an active role in enhancing students' experiences. The restaurant generously hosts our annual end-of-term lunch, offering students the opportunity to enjoy dining out, trying new foods, and understanding restaurant service from a customer's perspective.

REALITEA

Realitea, a small Indian café in the heart of Ripon, offers a unique and welcoming environment for students gaining work experience. Owner Sarita has supported several students over the years, using her nurturing approach to help even the shyest individuals build confidence.

Committed to inclusivity, Sarita works closely with neurodiverse students and those with disabilities, helping them develop essential skills for future employment.

STEPPING STONES NURSERY

Stepping Stones Nursery provides students with invaluable hands-on experience in the early years sector, helping them develop essential workplace and life skills. As part of their placement, students gain independence by navigating their journey to the nursery, building confidence and responsibility.

Throughout their time at the nursery, students enhance their customer service and verbal communication skills, learning how to effectively engage with young children, colleagues, and parents. They also take part in planning and supervising creative activities, helping children develop early numeracy and language skills in a fun and supportive environment.

LOCAL LINKS BOOST HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE OFFERING

Through our partnership with Mill House Care Home, students gain valuable work placement experience where they develop practical, hands-on skills in a professional care setting. We work closely with employers to understand the evolving needs of the sector and have adapted our teaching to include essential training such as End-of-Life Care, Manual Handling, First Aid, and Catheter Care. This proactive approach ensures students are fully prepared for the workplace and confident in delivering high-quality care. Students also take part in enrichment activities such as Christmas parties and social calls, helping to build confidence, compassion, and strong interpersonal skills. Our collaboration with Airedale Hospital offers students an exceptional insight into the healthcare environment. During placements, students shadow a range of departments, work alongside staff and degree-level students, and gain experience in professional healthcare settings. They also receive training in Manual Handling and Basic Observations while developing key employability skills such as communication, time management, and practical care competencies tailored to employer needs.



HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE STUDENTS WELCOME DEMENTIA FRIENDS

Level 3 Health and Social Care students attended an important session with representatives from the charity Dementia Friends, part of the Alzheimer's Society.

A Dementia Friend is somebody that learns more about dementia, how it can affect someone and the small ways they can make a difference in their communities. Many people living with dementia often feel isolated and left out because dementia is still so misunderstood. This lack of understanding can make it harder for people with the condition to stay independent and feel connected to their communities. Dementia Friends help to change that by using their awareness to do simple, everyday things that matter—helping people with dementia live their lives to the fullest.

Dementia Advocates and Ambassadors Helen and Lesley attended College to deliver a Dementia Awareness session to our students. The students were highly engaged with the session and were able to learn plenty of information to directly support their coursework and future practice.



EARLY YEARS STUDENTS WELCOME GUEST SPEAKER

Early Years Level 2 and T Level students came together and benefitted from a fascinating session delivered by Rachel Helm of Helm Education Consultancy. The session helped give background and real-life experience to modules surrounding SEND and working in partnership with parents, carers, and other education professionals.

Helm Education Consultancy aim to provide personalised tuition services to a diverse range of students, with a focus on young people with Special Educational Needs (SEND), not in education or training (NEET), and home education, or those requiring education other than at school (EOTAS). They offer key support to ensure people know how to get the support they need in education.

Rachel gave the students an introduction to her background and inspiration, before encouraging students in a variety of group work. Rachel touched upon the inspiration of her own son, who lives with cerebral palsy and autistic spectrum disorder.

The session encouraged some fascinating and innovative discussion amongst the students, drawing on their own experiences – both in the classroom and on placement – to look at designing programmes of support.



CHILDCARE PROFESSIONALS OF THE FUTURE RECEIVE VITAL REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCE

We work in close partnership with The Hive, a vibrant community centre serving Silsden and the surrounding areas. The Hive offers a wide range of community-focused services including pre-natal support, stay and play groups for children aged 0–5, Saturday Club for 8–11-year-olds, creative workshops, and a Wellbeing Café that provides advice and support to the local community.

Students placed at The Hive gain experience across a variety of community groups, supporting the setup and delivery of activities and engaging with children, parents, and staff. These placements allow students to adapt to different sessions, communicate effectively with a range of age groups, and work within multidisciplinary teams. The Hive team actively shares their expertise with our learners, helping them develop valuable professional practice skills including organisation, communication, time management, and teamwork within community and early years settings.

UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD LINKS VITAL TO SCIENCE AND ACCESS TO HE

Our Access to HE and Science students have regular outreach visits to help them prepare for university - this year they've had talks on Personal Statement writing, Interview Skills, and Student Finance. Students also have the opportunity to benefit from sessions on Getting Results Day Ready. Several lecturers visited the College for "speed networking" and delivered short, intensive sessions on the degrees they offer.



DRYSTONE VIDEO VISIT CREATIVE MEDIA DEPARTMENT

Creative Media students enjoyed an industry-focused visit from Drystone Radio, providing direct insight into professional radio broadcasting and the expectations of working within the sector.

First year Level 3 and Level 2 learners explored the structure and delivery of live radio, gaining valuable understanding of audience awareness, presentation techniques and professional standards required within the industry.

Students were introduced to industry-standard broadcast software, Myriad, where they developed practical skills in cueing music, structuring content and delivering presenter introductions as part of their "Produce a Radio Show" unit. This hands-on experience enabled learners to apply technical knowledge in a live context and strengthen their confidence in broadcast production.

Following the session, students recorded announcements which were aired on Drystone Radio later that evening, providing an authentic industry platform for their work.

This visit formed an excellent foundation for the unit, supporting students in developing both technical competence and professional confidence within the field of radio and audio production.



STUDENTS VISIT THEATRE OF DREAMS

Level 3 Extended Diploma IT students visited Old Trafford for a Stadium Tour and Workshop session on Personal and Professional Branding.

The students got to experience firsthand how a global brand works, develops and promotes the football club. Students took part in a workshop hosted by the Manchester United Foundation, and took part in activities that showcased teamwork, communication and wider industrial soft skills that are highly desired in the current employment market.

They also experienced how a business of over 1000 employers work together to promote and engage with their audience to build the club brand. One of the highlights was the group discussion about how Manchester United have kept a very high fan engagement programme even with the difficulties the team have had on the pitch, showing the resilience and hard work of the staff behind the scenes.

Students then took a tour of the stadium observing the brand identity that goes into all areas of the business. From this, students can apply this knowledge into their own course work, especially for developing their own brand awareness for Website Development, Enterprise in IT and Social Media units that are being studied this year.



ESPORTS WELCOME SPECIAL GUESTS

Partially funded by the Yorkshire & Humber Institute of Technology, the College's Esports facilities allow our students to gain industry skills so desired in Esports and the local wider industry sector.

Craven College alumnus Jacob Marchewka delivered an Adobe Creative Cloud Workshop based on his former college coursework, providing our current students with further insight into skills development needed for successful employment.

The Esports department has also welcomed Rainbow Six Siege professional coach Lewis "Velocityyy" Westbrook who discussed coaching tactics, strategies, and setting the students an interactive coaching task. This was an excellent opportunity for students to learn about the coaching side of Esports and giving tips and tricks they can take into their own College projects and possible future Esports careers.

READ ALL ABOUT IT – PERFORMING ARTS TAKE TO THE STAGE ONCE MORE!

The Craven College Performing Arts department once again put on an amazing demonstration of their skills at the Auction Mart Theatre showcasing Newsies Jr.

Based on the Disney film of the same name, the show tells the story of hero Jack Kelly. In 1899 Newsies were mostly children and teenagers living in crowded tenements or on the streets of New York City. They survived by selling newspapers often shouting headlines to attract buyers. With no guaranteed income they worked long hours in all weathers and often faced hunger and harsh conditions.

With Craven College celebrating its 200th birthday in 2025, it was perhaps fitting that the 2025 production focused on celebrating solidarity, resilience and the power of young voices standing up for a cause.

The Auction Mart theatre provides a unique backdrop for our students to perform in a professional theatre environment whilst managing all aspects of stage management and producing a high-intensity and high-quality show.

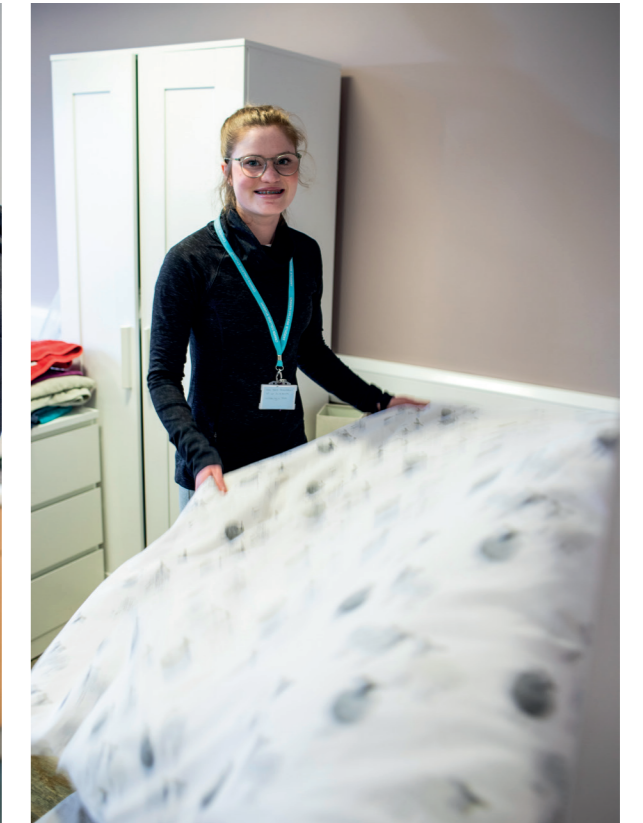


SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS

Students on the Supported Internship programme gain valuable real-life work experience with local employers. These placements help develop confidence, independence and key employability skills such as communication, teamwork, timekeeping and problem solving.

Our students have worked with a range of supportive local organisations making a considerable contribution to their learning experience.

During these placements students have supported teams with a variety of tasks such as customer service, preparing work areas, stock organisation, gardening and grounds maintenance, and general workplace duties. These experiences allow learners to build practical skills while understanding employer expectations in a real working environment.



PROGRESSION TO LEARNING AND WORK

As part of the programme, students also engage with employers, organisations and enrichment opportunities that help prepare them for their next steps into employment, volunteering or further learning.

These opportunities have included working with and learning from a range of local organisations. Through these experiences, learners develop confidence, independence, teamwork and essential life skills that support successful progression into adulthood, employment and community participation.

INDUSTRY PARTNERS







AND FINALLY... CELEBRATING SKILLS IMPACT, CREATIVITY, AND COLLABORATION

The case studies in this booklet showcase what can be achieved when learners, employers and staff work together with a shared focus on skills and opportunity. That same spirit of collaboration and creativity was recognised when the Craven College Marketing Team had notable success in the College Marketing Network FE First Awards 2026, the only event to focus solely on Marketing in the Further Education sector.

The Marketing Team were delighted to attend the glitzy event at Eastside Rooms in Birmingham to represent Craven College and were utterly thrilled to receive a Silver Award in the Social & Digital Media Impact Award category and a Highly Commended in the Internal Impact Award, both with reference to the Woolly and Whinny Campaign.

The Woolly & Whinny campaign represented an innovative and original approach to commemorating Craven College's 200th anniversary. Developed to mark this milestone in a truly engaging way, the campaign demonstrated how creativity, technology, and collaboration can combine to deliver outstanding results.

In addition, the Marketing Team were shortlisted for the Campaign of the Year at the prestigious Educate North Awards, whilst Plastering student Ivanna Clary was shortlisted for College or FE Student Achievement of the Year – two outstanding achievements at such a high-profile event.





Unlocking potential, changing lives

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