

SHEPPEY STUDENTS INVITE FAMILIES TO HOP ONLINE FOR FREE EASTER ACTIVITIES



Students from EKC Group's Sheppey College are inviting families with young children to hop online and make use of their fun, free digital activities portal over the Easter holiday.

The innovative online space, created by Level 2 Business students, is packed with activities, quizzes and educational resources aimed at Early Years and Key Stage One pupils.

Bold and interactive, there's even an Easter Bonnet competition for children to take part in.

Speaking about the inspiration behind the initiative, Interim Head of Business and ICT at the College, Kelly Hough, commented: "Each year our Level 2 Business students complete a social action project and an event planning unit as part of their qualification, however, due

to COVID-19 we knew we needed to be extra innovative this year.

"We felt creating an online Easter Event for our young, local community would be perfect to help families during lockdown, providing teachers and parents with fun activities for the children to take part in during school and the Easter holidays.

"The students brainstormed their ideas and worked in teams to create the different activities. The students adapted very well to working online to meet the criteria of their assessments and take part in social action simultaneously, providing them with valuable transferable skills for the future."

[Click here to join the Easter fun on the activities portal.](#)

POW!-ERFUL POSTER DESIGNS CREATE A BUZZ FOR LOCAL FESTIVAL

Budding designers from the Canterbury School of Visual Arts at EKC Group's Canterbury College recently partnered with Power Of Women (POW!) Thanet to create a series of posters to promote the charity's annual arts festival.

The striking designs, inspired by this year's festival theme, 'Power in Protest', were created by first year HND Art and Design (Graphic Design) students, Rhian Chapman, Ellie King and Fen Linton.

Each influenced by the lived experiences of women, the trio of unique poster collections explored different issues around feminism, women, and girls.

"Whilst researching for this unit I was moved by a particular woman's story that shocked me," commented Rhian, who created an arresting set of photo and typographic designs.

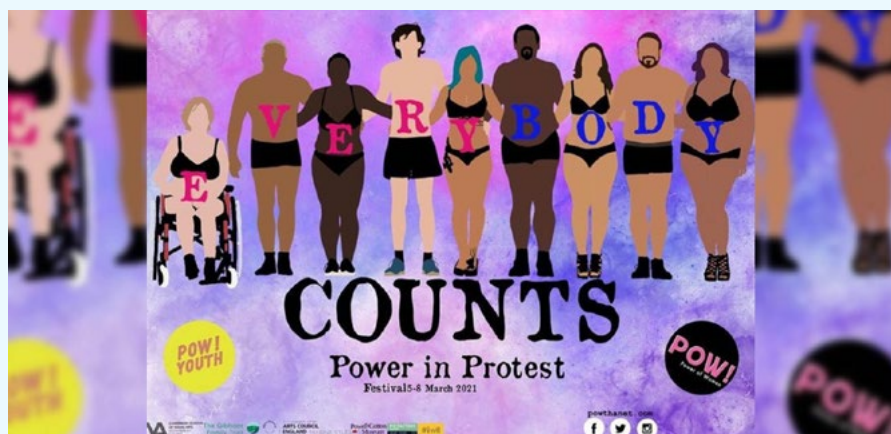
She continued: "I was inspired by her strength and I knew I wanted to design a poster on this theme. I wanted to take the opportunity to empower women to take the first step to breaking free from domestic abuse. I wanted to convey the strength of women and show that we can no longer be afraid of our abusers."

Also touched by stories of women who have experienced domestic abuse, Fen harnessed the recognisable style of fashion illustration to create powerful design statements.

Speaking about her artwork, Fen said: "The message I wanted to convey was that every woman has a voice they can share and that they are strong enough to survive, and by standing up they were helping stop abuse become a trend."

Meanwhile, Ellie took a different stance, exploring the themes of gender, equality, and body image with a colourful and empowering digital illustration.

She commented: "My poster is based around body equality between men and women of all body types. I was inspired by a lot of female body campaigns such as Dove and the Be Real Campaign - I also found out there were very few body-positive campaigns for men.



"During this project, I took part in my first ever professional pitch, which was an interesting and important skill to develop for the future. As well as this, I was able to improve my digital drawing skills, photoshop skills and I used Adobe Illustrator for the first time."

The students' designs were shared ahead of POW! Thanet's four-day online live-streamed festival, reaching hundreds of East Kent residents.

EKC GROUP SIGNS HISTORIC PLEDGE TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

EKC Group has joined forces with education providers from around the world to take a stand against climate change by signing a landmark pledge to become a carbon net zero organisation.

The momentous move sees East Kent's leading further education provider named alongside more than 594 education institutions dedicated to supporting the UN's 'Race to Zero' initiative globally.

Signed ahead of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference due to take place in the UK later this year, the pledge sees EKC Group commit to three key actions:

1. Mobilising more resources for action-oriented climate change research and skills creation;
2. Pledge to reach net-zero by 2030, or 2050 at the very latest; and
3. Increasing the delivery of environmental and sustainability education across curriculum, campus and community outreach programmes.

In order to deliver this important agenda, EKC Group has created a Climate Change Working Group headed up by its Chief Operating Officer, Andrew Stevens.

He said: "We are totally committed to making our colleges and other premises much greener places to learn and work. Reducing our carbon footprint is a key priority for our students, staff and Governors. Our Climate Change Working Group brings together representatives from across the whole Group and acts as the catalyst for our ambition to become a carbon net zero organisation.

"We are delighted to show our support for this initiative and join hundreds of like-minded colleges and universities across the world. Addressing the damaging impact of climate change is not something that any organisation could, or should, tackle in isolation. As a Group, we are incredibly proud to be working with others in this way and embedding sustainability in everything that we do."

The Group decided to develop a sustainability and climate change strategy after students highlighted the importance of these topics to them. As a consequence, the Group has already developed its baseline carbon footprint after working in partnership with the Carbon Trust to do so and has put in place a range of actions to begin embedding sustainability across much of its estate with six colleges in Ashford, Broadstairs, Canterbury, Dover, Folkestone and Sheppey.



It has begun weaving sustainability into its courses, with its Canterbury School of Visual Arts at Canterbury College recently delivering a fashion upcycling project in collaboration with a local sheltered housing scheme. It is also placing more emphasis on its land-based courses, with the Group's Spring Lane site set to deliver courses in horticulture, forestry and arboriculture starting in September.

Sian Suter is a student at the Group's Spring Lane site. She is also a student representative on the Group's Climate Change Working Group. She said: "Ensuring the protection and the future of our incredible planet should be on everyone's agenda. My passion for sustainability is one of the many reasons I have chosen to study Animal Management. The importance of the current climate crisis is evident every day and we all must take action to behave more sustainably in everyday life. I'm excited to be raising the voices of students within EKC Group and I look forward to the future becoming more sustainable."

If you would like to find out more about the Global Climate Letter and the UN's Race to Zero initiative, click [here](#).

Or to find out more about EKC Group's courses and its work to become environmentally sustainable, visit ekcgroup.ac.uk

MOVEMENT FOR THE FUTURE: BROADSTAIRS COLLEGE JOINS PIONEERING PARTNERSHIP TO GET THANET ACTIVE

The Sport and Leisure department at EKC Group's Broadstairs College has formed a unique partnership with Thanet District Council's Active Thanet team to help boost the health and wellbeing of local residents.

Working alongside organisations such as Your Leisure, Kent Police, Social Enterprise Kent, Inclusive Sport, and Safer Kent, students and staff members from the College have joined Active Thanet's mission to fulfil its five core objectives:

- **Priority 1:** Increased diversionary opportunities for young people
- **Priority 2:** Increase public health initiatives and reduce health inequalities
- **Priority 3:** Enhance and implement Active Thanet Communities scheme
- **Priority 4:** Increased fundraising and commissioning opportunities
- **Priority 5:** Increase workforce development and volunteering opportunities

The partnership has already seen students take part in some exciting social action and public engagement



initiatives, including setting up community sports activities in Margate, and providing speed stacking activities to the isolated and vulnerable in the run-up to Christmas.

Looking ahead to future opportunities, Programme Director for Sport and Leisure at the College, Sam Perkins, commented: "We are really proud to be part of this collaboration that brings together so many large employers across Thanet and Kent.

"Our students, and particularly those on the Sport and Leisure programmes, will benefit greatly from this and I know the students are really keen to get involved and help improve their home towns."

COLLEGE FUNDRAISERS WALK THOUSANDS OF MILES TO RAISE MONEY FOR A NEW COMMUNITY CAFÉ



Fundraisers from EKC Group's Dover Technical College recently completed the mammoth challenge of walking thousands of miles to raise money for a new community cafe in Dover.

The challenge saw College staff members fulfil their pledge to walk 50 kilometres (around 31 miles) every day for a month to raise funds for the Dover Outreach Centre's latest initiative, the 'Sunrise Cafe'.

The extraordinary efforts of staff members saw them receive more than £236 in donations for the Cafe that is set to open in July and provide vital support to vulnerable people in the community.

Principal of the College, Paul Owen, commented: "We'd like to thank our local community for their generosity in backing our fundraising efforts.

"The Cafe will provide a vital lifeline for vulnerable people in Dover and we are proud to support the initiative."

LIFELINE FOR THANET SWIFTS AS BROADSTAIRS COLLEGE INSTALLS NEST BOXES FOR THE ENDANGERED BIRD



EKC Group's Broadstairs College has joined forces with local Wildlife Conservationist, Nik Mitchell, and RSPB's Thanet Local Group, to install seven new swift nest boxes in a mission to provide a lifeline to the endangered bird.

Installed on the side of one of the College's tallest buildings, located a short distance from the seafront, the boxes mark the first major step in establishing Kent's first artificial swift colony.

Known for flying extraordinary distances of up to 500 miles per day whilst on migration, swifts spend almost all of their life on the wing, and only come to land when nesting.

Years of progressive local habitat loss, building developments, and home renovations, has seen a decline in established nest sites in Kent – a trend this new initiative hopes to address.

Assistant Principal of Broadstairs College, Sarah-Jayne Benfield, commented: "We are really proud to be part of the ongoing swift conservation project in Thanet.

"Working with Nik and RSPB's Thanet Local Group, we have an exciting opportunity to engage with our students and our local community to raise awareness

of these incredible birds and the importance of wildlife conservation."

Prolific local Conservationist, Nik Mitchell, who installed the boxes added: "Swifts are incredibly loyal to a nest site, with the colony returning time and time again to the same spot. When an established nest location is blocked up or removed, it has a detrimental impact on the swifts' wellbeing and population levels. Sadly, we've lost over half of our swifts in the last 20 years.

"The new nest site at Broadstairs College is in a brilliant location and provides a fantastic opportunity to help safeguard the future of swifts in Kent."

It is hoped the new site will become home to first-time nesters when the young adult swifts return from their fledgeling flight in two to three years' time.

Alongside the boxes, information plaques including facts about swifts, will be installed on the College's premises for students, staff and visitors to learn more about the initiative.

The inclusion of the swift nest boxes is part of Broadstairs College's ongoing journey to become an environmentally conscious organisation. Visit Broadstairs College's website to learn more.

CANTERBURY COLLEGE ALUMNUS MAKES A SPLASH WITH NETFLIX DOCUMENTARY SEASPIRACY

Seaspiracy, the Netflix directorial debut by former Canterbury College student, Ali Tabrizi, has sent ripples throughout the world since it premiered on the streaming service back in March.

The documentary film, created by Ramsgate-based Ali and his wife Lucy Tabrizi, explores the state of ocean health and the impacts of human activity on marine ecosystems.

Since its release, it has been a staple in the Netflix viewing charts, attracting both praise and controversy for the issues highlighted during its 90-minute run time.

"This film will radically transform the way we think and act on ocean conservation forever," commented Ali ahead of the documentary's release.

He continued: "It is time we focus our ecological and



ethical concerns on our seas and its inhabitants.

"This is a new era for how we treat the most important habitat on earth."

STUDENTS AND STAFF PUT ON THEIR HIKING BOOTS FOR WALK FOR AUTISM



Students and staff members from The Hub at EKC Group's Broadstairs College have raised more than £1,313 to support autistic people in the UK after recently completing the 'Walk for Autism' virtual challenge.

The fundraisers from the College racked up more than 560,000 steps, or around 265 miles, in just eight days, receiving recognition from the charity for their efforts.

'Team Hub' participant, Emma West, smashed their fundraising target and gained attention from the Walk for Autism team for their daily vlogs. Upon completing the challenge, Emma commented: "Walk for Autism through this week has been fun, energetic, tough at times, and tiring. Sometimes, I did lose motivation, but I had a walking buddy who pushed me through it and I'm glad she did!

"I've loved every day and I vlogged every day. It's for such a great cause and I'm happy with what I have achieved."

The money raised will help to provide services and opportunities to enable autistic people to thrive, from funding community resources centres and homes offering supported living, to work placement opportunities and specialist support.

EXPERTS SELECT WINNING STUDENT VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF TOURISM IN KENT

Travel and Tourism students from EKC Group's Canterbury College recently faced UK industry giants as they pitched their visions for the future of local tourism.

Tasked with exploring opportunities in the events sector, the students worked individually and in small groups to create business plans that would boost the Kent economy and impress industry experts.

CEO of Dreamland Margate, Eddie Kemsley, Marketing and Events Manager at Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, Paul Brooks, CEO of HSI, Dyan Crowther, and CEO of North Wales Tourism, Jim Jones, were among the sector professionals who gathered online to hear the pitches, along with Social Media Consultant, Jeni Taylor, and Susan Holt from Cruise Holidays UK.

The students took it in turn to share their ideas with panel, each receiving valuable feedback and industry insights from the judges.

Three proposals wowed the judges, including James Caldwell and Rachel King's 'Canterbury Christmas Festival'

idea, Ethan Bright's 'Touring Mobile Cinema', and Jasmin Sims and Chloe Jarreno's 'Travelling Winter Food and Drink Festival'.

"The students really embraced this challenge, they were keen to formulate realistic business plans and their focus was on making the events business viable to make a profit," commented Travel and Tourism Lecturer at the College, Linda Marsh.

She continued: "All the students work extremely hard on their projects and plans and spent time roleplaying their pitches, they really were going all out to impress the industry experts."

The valuable feedback and opportunities the students have gained during the project is part of the College's commitment to ensure all students are equipped with the skills, knowledge and experiences needed to thrive in their chosen industries.

