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EKC Group Employer Newsletter

Welcome to our Employer Newsletter. Bringing together local updates, insights and opportunities for Kent businesses, this newsletter highlights key developments and shared challenges, offering practical insight which aims to support employers across the county.

Adult Learning Pays

At EKC Group, we're joining the Association of Colleges campaign to let everyone know that Adult Learning Pays.

Our EKC Training provision offers courses specifically designed with industry partners for adults.

Whether someone is looking to upskill, retrain, or boost their confidence to get back into work, EKC Training is here to support.

Discover more about the provision and how we're playing a key role in supporting the success of adults across East Kent.



Watch our short video to learn about the impact of the UKHospitality Skills Passport programme.

EKC Training Apprentices celebrate at Kent and Medway Apprentice Graduation 2026

Apprentices from EKC Training have celebrated their achievements in style, at the 2026 Kent and Medway Apprentice Graduation Ceremony, held at Rochester Cathedral.

This event marks the successful completion of their Apprenticeships across a range of subjects, and brings each Apprentice together with their families, friends, employer and East Kent Colleges Group staff to reward their dedication to their development.



Gallia Yates graduated after she completed her Level 3 Teaching Assistant Apprenticeship. She has been working at Pilgrim's Way Primary School during her qualification.

Speaking about her overall experience on her Apprenticeship, she said: "I've loved learning about different ways of helping young people with their learning, with behaviour issues, but also how my confidence has grown throughout the course.

“To build my skills in an employer setting was massive because I could see myself growing each step of the way as I learnt different skills.”

Gallia is now looking to continue her learning with a higher-level Apprenticeship.



Gallia Yates completed her Level 3 Teaching Assistant Apprenticeship.

As a key sponsor of the event and one of the largest Apprenticeship providers in the county, EKC Training continues to play a key role in supporting both Apprentices and employers.

We’re proud to highlight the importance of Apprenticeships in developing skilled professionals across the region.



Lucy McLeod (L), CEO of East Kent Colleges Group, and Rhona Williams (R), Principal of EKC Training were proud to be presented with the Amazing Apprenticeship Provider Award in recognition of EKC Group's contribution to Apprenticeships across the county.

Apprenticeships continue to play a vital role in addressing skills gaps and supporting business growth across the region, and there's never been a better time to get involved.

Could you support an apprentice?



To find out more about hiring an apprentice, click here or get in touch with our friendly Apprenticeship Recruitment Team today.

Email apprenticeships@eastkent.ac.uk or call 01227 811315.



Understanding the Employer Support Fund for SMEs

Are you an SME looking to take on a student for work experience but worried about the costs? The Employer Support Fund could be for you.

The Employer Support Fund helps eligible employers and SMEs cover the costs of hosting a T Level industry placement.

As part of their qualification, a T Level student will do more than 300 hours of work placement so that they're putting the skills and knowledge from college into practice. This is also a great way for them to get a feel for their chosen industry, and for employers to access a fresh pipeline of top talent.

Supporting the next generation is critical, and for students, your support is invaluable. So, if you're an employer who is interested in hosting a T Level student, it could be worth tapping into the **Employer Support Fund**.

Funding of up to £1,000 per student is available for placements starting before 31 March 2027 and can be used towards expenses such as training, equipment, insurance, software licences and other placement-related costs.

By offering a T Level placement, businesses can access emerging local talent, help develop future skills in their sector and bring fresh ideas into their organisation, while receiving financial support to offset the costs involved.

Interested in developing future talent while receiving financial support? Get in touch to find out how a T Level industry placement could benefit your business.

Get in touch today



EKC East Kent Colleges Group | wirebelt | Kent & Medway CAREERS HUB

Let's Make It Work

We were proud to work in collaboration with Wire Belt, and the Kent and Medway Careers Hub to host the first in a series of events showcasing the impact that hosting work experience can bring to your business, and how it gives you the opportunity to shape the future of your industry.

Discover more about the initiative, and find out how taking on a student for work experience can boost your business.

Our College Open Days

Our Open Days are the perfect opportunity to explore our campuses, meet our friendly tutors, and find out all the information you need to make an informed decision about your young person's future.

With dates throughout November, December, and January, pre-register for your visit now to keep updated, and make checking in easier.

We’re proud to work alongside employers across Kent to support skills development, workforce growth and long-term sustainability. If you’d like to explore training, apprenticeships or partnership opportunities, we’re here to help.

Click here to find out more.

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