

Leading organisations and businesses back the Skills Show

Following on from the success of last year, the second Suffolk Skills Show is only just over a month away and due to take place at Trinity Park in Ipswich on Wednesday October 21.

The county's largest skills and careers advice event is being held with the aim of highlighting the wide array of work possibilities that are open to young people.

Over 100 exhibitors from colleges, further education institutions and the world of business are expected at the event and there are still a few stands left for businesses who would like to exhibit.

Nearly 4,000 school and college students have already pre-registered to attend with many more expected on the day. In addition, anyone is free to drop in and visit the show between 9am and 5.30pm.

There will be numerous 'Have a go' activities, to allow young people to engage in skills for the workplace and opportunities for them to speak with employers, so they and their families can make informed decisions about the future.

The event has the support of some key industry leaders in the county including; EDF Energy,

Suffolk Skills Show
Delivered in conjunction with
Suffolk County Council

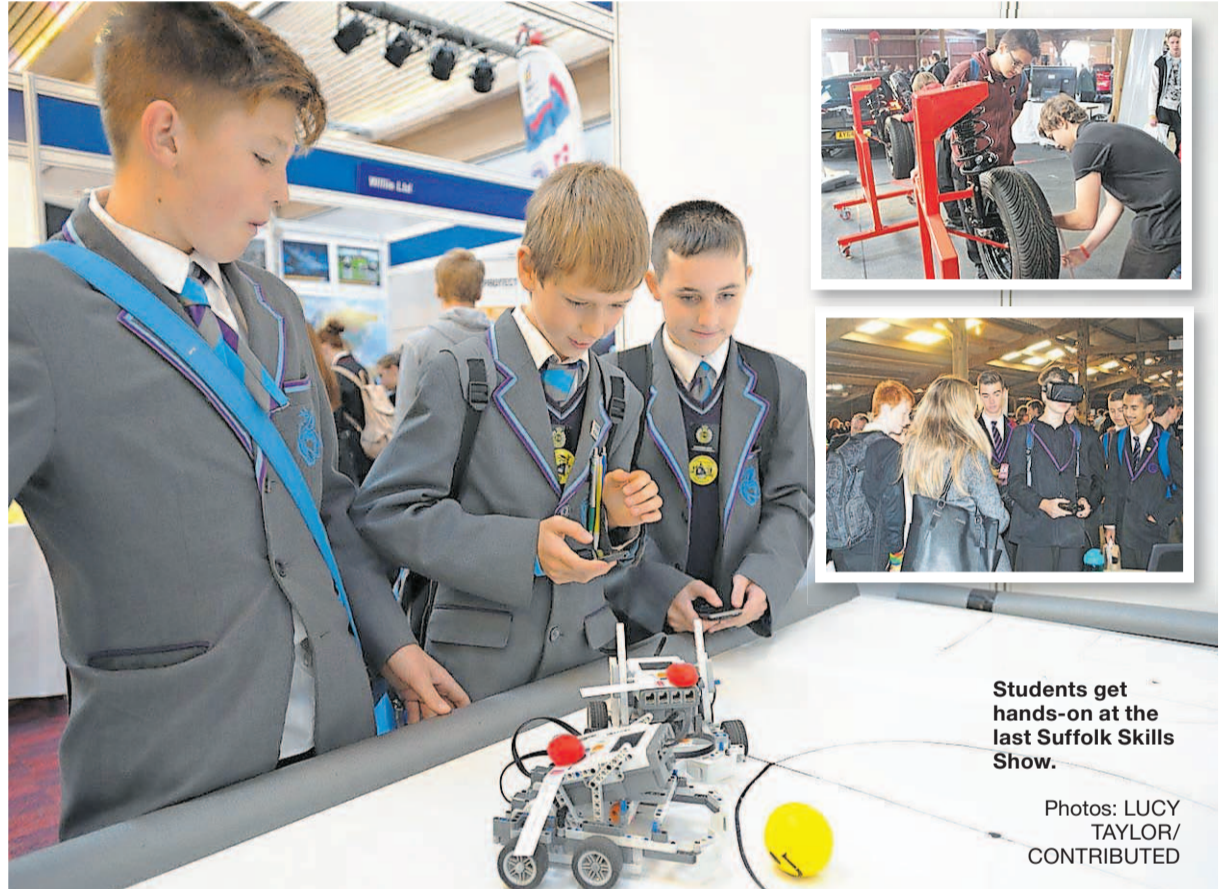
21 October 2015
9am - 6pm

www.suffolkskillsshow.com

Willis UK, BT, Town 102, Suffolk Agricultural Association, Easton and Otley College, EOS Works, East of England CO-OP, Suffolk Norse, Connect Education and Business and Trinity Park.

Publisher of the East Anglian Daily Times, Archant, will also have a presence at the show and is backing the event as a media partner.

BEM spoke to two sponsors about why they are backing the Suffolk Skills Show.



Students get hands-on at the last Suffolk Skills Show.

Photos: LUCY TAYLOR/ CONTRIBUTED

TOM MCGARRY, EDF ENERGY



Suffolk students will get a chance to meet nuclear apprentices who were once in their shoes at the Skills Show.

EDF Energy is the headline sponsor of the energy sector exhibition again this year and hopes to raise awareness of the range of careers on offer in the industry.

Staff from the Sizewell C project and Sizewell B power station will be on hand to provide advice on how to carve out a career in the energy sector and maybe one day help keep the lights on in Suffolk.

Head of communications for the Sizewell C project, Tom McGarry, said: "EDF Energy is proud to support the Suffolk Skills Show again this year.

"Events like this are vital as EDF Energy wants to inspire students in the STEM subjects and to provide information on the possible career paths that the industry has to offer.

"There are great opportunities in the energy sector for young people in Suffolk who demonstrate the commitment and grades. Here in the East of England EDF Energy operates Sizewell B power station which employs 570 staff and 250 contracting partners with 36 local apprentices taking part in a four year award winning training programme. Furthermore, the proposed Sizewell C power station would provide 5,600 roles at the peak of construction and 900 staff when operational."

JOHN NICE, EASTON AND OTLEY COLLEGE



At the Skills Show, the Easton and Otley College stand will feature a number of 'Have-a-go' opportunities, such as a pit stop challenge to give young people a flavour of working with farming machinery. Different livestock will also be on show to give visitors a feel for working in the animal industry.

There will also be information about some new courses soon to be launched at Otley college that are aimed at young people who would like to work in the public services, such as the armed forces and police.

"The Skills Show is a great showcase for education in the county and highlights to students the rich diversity of career options and courses that are available to them," said John Nice, a spokesman at the college.

"Modern farming is incredibly advanced and in some areas requires a level of technology and science akin to space travel. Agriculture needs to attract the brightest minds and to let young people know the sector needs a variety of different talents. There are some great jobs in agriculture that can be well paid and offer an interesting career."

He added: "Some of the equipment that is now used is very technologically advanced – such as a combine harvester or the modern tractor, which can cost up to a quarter of a million pounds, so bright people are needed to keep these going.

Other sector such as horticulture and construction also need young people coming through. The average age of people working in horticulture and farming is 50."

The Skills Show is one of many events attended by Easton and Otley College, which offers a range of further and higher educational courses, from vocational programmes aimed at 14 to 16 year olds to degree courses.