

# EA EDUCATION

## IN BRIEF

### Learning centre's offer expands with leisure programme

**IPSWICH:** The Ipswich Institute's leisure learning programme is expanding again – with new signs making the centre easier to find. In the autumn programme just announced there are several new beginners evening courses – in graphic design, astronomy, drawing and painting, French and Italian. 'Improving' students in Spanish, French and bridge are catered for – as well as those who want to develop their use of an iPad. Two courses for art-lovers are on offer – one in art history, the other tutored by talented novelist Katy Ward entitled 'Meditations on Art'. For photographers, there is a Using Camera Flash course. Details of all courses can be found on the institute's website at [www.ipswichinstitute.org.uk](http://www.ipswichinstitute.org.uk) or by emailing [library@ipswichinstitute.org.uk](mailto:library@ipswichinstitute.org.uk). Enrolments are now being taken. An even wider range of 49 day classes are available to those who sign up as members of the institute. The institute welcomes visitors at any time to either of their two town centre buildings – at 15 Tavern Street – which has new blue sign-boards either side of its doorway and 13 Tower Street, Ipswich. Hugh Pierce is general manager of the institute which has members of all ages – from children to people into their seventies.

### BBC unveils microchip schools partnership

**SCHOOLS:** Ever Year 7 pupil across East Anglia will be given a pocket-sized computer for free in a collaboration with the BBC. The BBC and partners unveiled the BBC micro:bit – a pocket-sized, codable computer that allows children to get creative with technology. BBC bosses described the project as the "most ambitious" they have worked on in 30 years.

### Students rely on the bank of grandparents

**UNIVERSITY:** New research by Which? University reveals that as many as three quarters of grandparents are providing financial support to help their grandchildren through university. The figures also revealed that nearly all parents contribute to help their children.

## Blues' college

A group of Ipswich Town Football Club academy players have just completed an education programme with Easton and Otley College.

The college and the football club have worked together for a number of years to ensure that every youngster who plays with the Blues from the age of 16 gets not only football advice but life skills and qualifications.

In the early years of working together, the college used to offer cooking skills to players to help them get used to living away from home for the first time in their lives.

However, since 2005, the educational programme that the college and the club offers trainees has expanded.

Matt Clarke is the head of education and welfare at the club.

He said, "We have between 22 and 24 scholars at any one time and the reality is that only a very small percentage of those people will make it as a professional footballer.

"Whilst at the club we teach the players all sorts of skills and have worked closely with the League Football Education and the college to ensure the



■ Above top, Christina McAuley from Otley college and Matt Clarke, head of education at ITFC. Above, ITFC scholars putting the finishing touches to their qualifications. Right, academy players at the end of this year's programme.

Photos: CONTRIBUTED

programme continues to deliver the results we require.

"In fact, this year, we decided to set higher boundaries in terms of results and the scholars have really stepped up to the mark. We are keen to keep the contract going – the relationship we have with the college is good – it's been going a number of years in one guise or another and I've been very pleased with the tutors this year."



One of those tutors is Christina McAuley. She said: "I've worked in the role for 18 months and help the scholars with their units. We try and link in what we teach them with what they do as a footballer.

"Everything we are doing is aimed at helping them become more rounded individuals and give them additional skills in case the football side of things doesn't work out."

Mr Clarke added: "It's one of the hardest things in the world to tell these trainees that they haven't been offered more terms. This is where we come in and we create an exit strategy offering not just a plan B, but a plan C and D in many cases."

"We've had many successes with former scholars."

Easton and Otley College is a land based college.

# Suffolk prepares for major show showcasing county's skills offer

**P**reparations are well underway for this year's Suffolk Skills Show. Free to attend, the Skills Show will take place at Trinity Park on October 21 and provide a wide range of hands-on experiences for visitors to inspire them to explore skills, further education and apprenticeships, helping them to gain advice on how to take the next step into the world of work.

The Suffolk Skills Show 2015, supported by the EADT, is a skills and careers event attracting young people to engage with employers and training providers.

Employer sectors taking part will include: advanced manufacturing, agriculture, science and food, construction, creative and digital industries, education and training, energy, engineering, enterprise, financial services, HM Forces, horticulture, IT and technology, law and legal services, ports and logistics services.

The inaugural event in 2014 had more than 44 schools in attendance with around 3,500 people coming through the gates, 2,760 of those being school age children. In total 91 organisations exhibited on more than 100 stands.

The show will see a range of training providers and employers



■ Members of the organising team behind the 2015 Suffolk Skills Show.

Photo: KEITH MINDHAM

discuss apprenticeships, training, college, university courses and employment opportunities.

Numerous "Have a Go" activities, tasters and demonstrations will also offer hands-on experience of new skills, from a range of different sectors. The event is supported by Suffolk County Council, with partners and sponsors confirmed to date including: The Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, Archant, Willis, EDF Energy, BT, Suffolk

Agricultural Association, Easton and Otley College, Town 102, Norse Suffolk, Connect EB, and EOS Works.

Ian Twinley, chairman of the Suffolk Skills Show steering committee said: "The first skills show in 2014 showcased a huge number of local Suffolk businesses and education providers and proved a huge success being enjoyed by over 3,500 young people. This year we aim to make the event even more

engaging with further content that will help young people with their career planning."

Chief executive of Suffolk Chamber of Commerce, John Dugmore, added: "The Suffolk Chamber of Commerce was very pleased to support the first Suffolk Skills Show in 2014, which was a huge success.

"We believe that investment in our future workforce is imperative for greater business success in the county, and therefore we are delighted to once again be partnering the event in 2015. We urge all businesses in Suffolk to get involved and to come along and showcase their organisations to influence and help shape the skills choices and opportunities available to young people in our county."

The Suffolk Skills Show is open to all – including anyone with an interest in skills and careers.

People are welcome to drop in anytime from 9am – 6pm (last entry 5.30pm) free parking available, and refreshments on site.

■ More information for both businesses wishing to sponsor, exhibit and people wanting to attend can be found via the Suffolk Skills website - [www.suffolkskillsshow.com](http://www.suffolkskillsshow.com)