

CAMPUS ROUND-UP *with Sam King*

Mann inspires women in STEM



One small step for Mann: Dr Phebe Mann, left, with Bradford College bigwigs

One of the country's leading female engineers has unveiled a portrait of herself at Bradford College in the hopes it will inspire girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and maths.

Dr Phebe Mann is the first and only woman in the UK to hold six professional engineering qualifications, and was made an honorary fellow at the college three years ago.

The image was commissioned by the WISE campaign, a national organisation promoting women in STEM, which has also recognised Dr Mann as one of its 'women of outstanding achievement'.

The photograph will go on display in the

college's David Hockney building, alongside a statue of Sir Edward Appleton, a Nobel Prize winner who pioneered in radio physics – and worked as lab technician at the college between 1909 and 1911.

"The perception that engineering is 'not for girls' has gradually been changed over the years," said Dr Mann.

"We should do more to encourage young people, especially girls, to consider engineering as a very worthwhile and rewarding career.

"I sincerely hope that my portrait can encourage more young people to contemplate it as their career."



Food for thought: Robert Halfon takes a tour of the facilities

Mr Halfon gets a hospitable welcome

Robert Halfon, the minister of state for apprenticeships and skills, has paid an official visit to London's first ever hospitality careers college.

The minister was taken on a tour of the Greater London-based Hospitality, Food and Enterprise Career college – part of London South East colleges – and unveiled a plaque to commemorate his visit.

Mr Halfon also had a tour of the college's specialist facilities, including the site of a forthcoming learner-led restaurant, called BR6 Bakehouse, which is due to open later this year, and enjoyed afternoon tea prepared and served by students.

There are currently 60 14- to 16-year-olds studying at the college, and around 150 post-16 students – which will expand to 300 next year.

Mr Halfon said: "The outstanding work of this career college ensures that students get jobs or apprenticeships after their technical courses finish.

"It provides significant support for those from disadvantaged backgrounds to get onto the ladder of opportunity and gain the skills they need for future careers."

Based at London South East Colleges' Orpington site, the career college is part of the town's regeneration programme, contributing to the local growing economy.



Barks fizz: Designers Angel Smith and Gemma Naidoo with their products

Students hit the sweet spot

A team of catering students from Barking and Dagenham college have designed a new fizzy drink that will go on sale in local shops this year.

'Rapple Fizz', a blend of apples and rosehip, will be the latest beverage to hit the shelves in the London borough, following a competition run by Company Drinks, a community drinks enterprise, to find new flavours to add to their existing range.

The students, who study at the college's Technical Skills Academy in Barking, split into two teams for the competition, and underwent a series of drinks-making workshops in preparation, using lab-based experiments to explore the science behind flavouring.

The final creations were tested on members of the public, before the Rapple Fizz team – headed up by 17-year-old Angel Smith – announced the winners. Team 'Grape Licious' were the runners up, with their mix of grapes and blackcurrant.

The winning team will help decide where the drinks will go on sale, and have already overseen their product be processed, bottled and packaged.

"We encouraged them to pick and mix their own ingredients, to extract flavour and to brand and market their creations to the public, ensuring that they've been involved at every stage of the process," said Cam Jarvis of Company Drinks.

Powerchair students vs premier league players

Elite powerchair football students from Queen Alexandra college have taken on some famous faces from the footballing world to celebrate the launch of the college's newest sport course.

The Birmingham-based college recently launched its Elite Powerchair Football programme for young people with high needs aged 16-24, who use either a powered or manual wheelchair.

Students played in a friendly match against Albion Foundation, finalists in the powerchair football Champions League,

and even took on a group of West Bromwich Albion players, including Ben Foster, Claudio Yacob and Salomon Rondon, winning the game 6-0.

The new course involves 12 training hours per week – the recommended time for elite performance – plus a timetabled programme of vocational qualifications, independence, employment and functional skills.

Working in partnership with registered charity, the Albion Foundation, the course is the first collaborative powerchair football study programme of its kind in the UK.



In the hot seat: A player in action

Powerchair football students with West Bromwich Albion players