

# in touch

BUSINESS NEWSLETTER

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## New Falkirk Campus Build Commences

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## WORK STARTS ON NEW FALKIRK CAMPUS

Work has officially begun on Forth Valley College's new **£78 million** Falkirk Campus.

Scotland's Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science, Shirley-Anne Somerville, cut the first section of turf at the Middlefield site on Friday 10 November 2017.

Accompanied by FVC Principal Dr Ken Thomson, Ross Martin Chair of the FVC Board of Management and supervised by Hector MacAulay, Managing Director of Balfour Beatty's Regional Business in Scotland and Stephen Scott, Managing Director for Balfour Beatty's Central Scotland Delivery Unit, Ms Somerville used a digger to break the first ground on the exciting project.

Also supporting the official groundbreaking ceremony were Modern Apprentices, Jack Armstrong (20) from Helensburgh who works for ScotRail, Grant Watson (18) from Bo'ness who works for INEOS, Ruairidh Little (18) from Broxburn who works for TechnipFMC, Niamh Blanski (17) from Dunfermline who works for ExxonMobil, Amy Hay (21) from Grangemouth who works for Cala Chem and Shannon McAllister (16) from Irvine who works for GlaxoSmithKline.

The new campus - which is earmarked for **completion in November 2019** - will complete FVC's ambitious estates programme which saw their £21 million Alloa Campus opened in 2011 and their £29 million Stirling Campus opened a year later.

The new Falkirk HQ will focus heavily on training facilities designed for **science and technology, engineering, sport and healthcare**, and will also have state-of-the-art provision and capabilities to accommodate a wide range of FVC's courses.



# BACK WARM-UP PROGRAMME SHORTLISTED FOR TES AWARD



An innovative back warm-up initiative developed by two Forth Valley College Departments has been shortlisted for a TES Further Education award.



The 'I am the Machine' back care programme - a team effort between the staff and students of the Departments of Care, Health and Sport and Construction – has been shortlisted in the Best Teaching and Learning Initiative category of the 2018 TES FE Awards, which will be held at the prestigious Grosvenor House Hotel in London's Park Lane on the evening of Friday 23 February 2018.

The initiative aims to change the mind-set of tradesmen and women so they recognise that pre-work warm-up and post-work cool-down - along with back care exercises - are vital to reduce the amount of back or joint injuries to Modern Apprentices (MAs) and young people working in labour intensive industry.

Developed jointly by Sports and Fitness Lecturer Michelle Hamilton with the help of Construction colleagues Peter Nally, Colin Scott, Graeme Williamson and Kevin Bonner – the scheme has now been successfully piloted with all bricklaying and painting and decorating MAs and full-time students, as well as with the learners on the Skills for Work programme. FVC's Leisure Facilities Coordinator Waimun Lee has also been helping Sports students help the Construction students with exercise programmes if they attend the gym.

Forth Valley College Principal Dr Ken Thomson, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have been shortlisted for this award. We feel it is great recognition for a wonderful

teaching and learning initiative developed through close inter-departmental collaboration, which Forth Valley College is becoming well known for through our Making Learning Work ethos.

"Initiatives such as these show how forward thinking we are here at Forth Valley College. We are proud to offer excellent academic and vocational training and qualifications, but it is also very important to help our Modern Apprentices to look after themselves in the workplace. Michelle and the Construction lecturers should be congratulated on developing this innovative warm-up and cool down programme, that will help prevent back pain in the next generation of construction professionals."

**The initiative can be adapted for all industries - from construction and engineering to office work places and retail premises. If any company is interested in finding out more they should contact Michelle Hamilton at [Michelle.Adams-Hamilton@forthvalley.ac.uk](mailto:Michelle.Adams-Hamilton@forthvalley.ac.uk)**

An Evening with

# GARY MACLEAN

Enjoy a delicious four-course menu and demonstration by Scotland's National Chef and Winner of Master Chef: The Professionals 2016

Forth Valley College, Stirling Campus

**25 May 2018 - 6pm**

**Standard Ticket -**

4 Course Meal with Cooking Demonstration £95.00

**Premium Ticket -**

4 Course Meal with Drinks Package & Cooking Demonstration - £115.00

Strictly over 18s only

To book please email: [enquiries-hosp@forthvalley.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries-hosp@forthvalley.ac.uk)

or call: **(01786) 406097**

**Gallery**  
RESTAURANT

**Forth Valley College**

Making Learning Work



# NEW ADDITIONS ENHANCE COMPEX PROVISION

Mechanical engineers, operators and technicians will be the latest industry professionals catered for at Forth Valley College's CompEx Training Centre.

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The Mechanical Ex 11 course has been added to FVC's comprehensive range of CompEx courses and completes a full suite of qualifications, which will allow the college to become a 'one stop shop' for companies aiming to attain their Safety Management System (SMS) for effective management of 'Ex' equipment in explosive atmospheres, to the UK's Health and Safety Executive (HSE) standards.

The course determines the core competency of mechanical practitioners working in explosive atmospheres and lasts three days. It consists of a mechanical hazardous area awareness unit including the established CompEx Foundation Module (Ex F), along with a written examination and assessing overall core competency with an installation and inspection practical assessment on mechanical equipment.

Alistair McKean (pictured), Lead Commercial Trainer at Forth Valley College said: "I think this new course is going to be tremendous to be honest. Mechanical Engineers, Operators and Technicians will now be able to come here and become qualified at the same level as their Electrical Engineer colleagues."

"A lot of explosions that have occurred in the workplace have had mechanical causes such as bearings, pipes or pumps overheating and igniting gas which has an auto ignition temperature. But this course will bring mechanical professionals into the competency framework in the same way as those who work in the electrical sector.

"Our talented FVC CompEx team are really looking forward to the challenge of delivering this course at our Falkirk training centre and can't wait to get started with our first cohort of clients who will start in April.

"We are now a one stop shop for all hazardous area industry courses and along with our five day CompEx 12 Design course – which is also set to be rolled out soon at the Falkirk Campus – we will be able to offer the full range of CompEx courses.

"We are building a dynamic business model to meet the ever changing demands of industry, whilst providing the highest level of safety training for employers delivered by a passionate, knowledgeable team of instructors within state of the art facilities."

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**For more information on CompEx courses call 01324 403173 or e-mail [businessdevelopment@forthvalley.ac.uk](mailto:businessdevelopment@forthvalley.ac.uk)**



## College is in the Hot Seat For New Business Comp

Forth Valley College is a sponsor and judge for the HEAT 18 Final – Business Gateway Forth Valley's 'Dragon's Den' competition for start-up businesses.

The final will take place on Thursday 8 February at Gean House, with the College sponsoring the overall award. The competition has welcomed entrants from all over Clackmannanshire with prizes of over £4K up for grabs.

After the winner has been announced, there will also be a networking event from 2pm - 4.30pm with a variety of organisations offering information on how they can support new businesses.

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**Forth Valley College will be hosting a stall - pop by if you have a new business idea and find out about the types of support on offer.**

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## Take advantage of our Business Start-Up Sessions

Those interested in starting their own business should take advantage of a 'Business Start-up Session' being offered by CETERIS.

The workshop will take place on Tuesday 6 February 2018 from 4pm-6pm at Forth Valley College's Alloa Campus.

It will cover a wide range of topics such as funding, support and key steps.

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**To secure your spot, please register at:**  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/business-start-up-awareness-seminar-tickets-42036377938>

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## Have you ever considered taking on an MA?

Employers keen to find out more about hiring an apprentice are being encouraged to come along to a 'Skills for Growth & Modern Apprenticeships' event being held at Forth Valley College's Alloa Campus on Wednesday 7 February 2018.

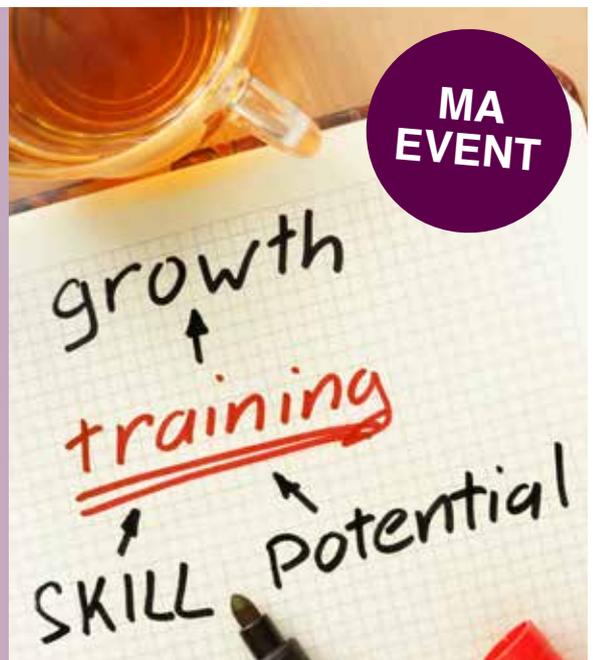
The event has been organised by Forth Valley College and Skills Development Scotland and there will be representatives from both organisations on hand to answer any questions employers may have.

Drop in anytime between 4pm - 6pm.

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**For more information visit:**  
[www.forthvalley.ac.uk/SFG-MA](http://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/SFG-MA)

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Clackmannanshire Council is one of the first employers to take advantage of training at Forth Valley College with the help of the **Scottish Government's Flexible Workforce Development Fund.**

# COUNCIL WORKERS SET TO BENEFIT FROM NEW FUNDING SCHEME

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**The funding is open to all Scottish organisations across the private, public and third sectors who pay the UK Government's Apprenticeship Levy and pay more than £3million in salaries a year.**

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Clackmannanshire Council is one of the first employers to take advantage of training at Forth Valley College with the help of the Scottish Government's Flexible Workforce Development Fund.

The funding is open to all Scottish organisations across the private, public and third sectors who pay both the UK Government's Apprenticeship Levy and more than £3million in salaries a year.

Employers can apply for up to £10K for training in areas such as people skills, human resources and digital skills.

Clackmannanshire Council plan to use the fund to provide digital skills training to employees in manual, trade and support staff roles who may have had limited digital training or experience.

Training courses identified include Basic and Intermediate Level IT Training, and IT for Teaching Assistants.

The Council were also successful in securing funding for a Train the Trainer course so training can continue beyond the initial period,

in addition to some non-legislative health and safety training which will enhance safe working practices.

Overall, up to 88 employees are expected to benefit from the training in the initial period.

Chris Alliston, HR Service Manager for Clackmannanshire Council said:

"This training will ensure candidates will have the digital skills to perform both within their current job roles, any future career progression they may choose to pursue, and within their own personal lives.

"We recognise that digital literacy is key in shaping our workforce of the future particularly as we have faced a shift in ways of working and a move to more digital focused processes. It is therefore vital that the skills of our workforce keep pace and that we increase access to training for those who have not traditionally had the opportunity to upskill.

"The Flexible Workforce Development Fund has proven really beneficial in helping secure training for some of those who need it most."

Jennifer Tempany, Head of Business Development at Forth Valley College said " We are delighted to have received and approved a recent application from Clackmannanshire Council for training through the Flexible Workforce Development Fund.

"Clackmannanshire Council are ensuring that there is a lasting legacy via their recently approved application. As well as using the fund to support the development of existing staff members, they are also tying in the 6502 City & Guilds Award in Education & Training. This will ensure that staff have the skills to confidently facilitate future training sessions, producing lesson plans, assessments and providing constructive feedback."

Are you interested in finding out how your business could benefit from the Flexible Workforce Development Fund?

Visit: [www.forthvalley.ac.uk/FWDF](http://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/FWDF)

**The deadline for applications is Wednesday 28 February 2018.**

# FVC'S BUSINESS DEPARTMENT IS TAKING THE LEAD

IT HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN THAT BEHIND EVERY SUCCESSFUL ORGANISATION IS AN EFFECTIVE WORKFORCE.

Employees who deliver the best results are engaged, feel empowered and are able to adapt quickly to change. This does not happen by chance - it is achieved through managers and leaders guiding and harnessing talent within their organisations.

So it makes sense to ensure your managers and leaders have the skills and knowledge to do this effectively.

Forth Valley College's HNC Management and Leadership Evening course – delivered by their innovative Business Department – is the ideal qualification for first line managers, or those in a supervisory position looking to secure a recognised management qualification.

Course delivery is well structured and professional, but uses an informal format - with lecturer input, class discussion,

interactive activities and exercises - to develop a solid skills and knowledge base. The programme runs for two years and classes are held two evenings per week.

Candidates are also supported by online learning resources and will cover subject areas such as: Leadership at Work; Managing and Working with People; Marketing; Customer Care; Business Law; Finance; Managing Operational Resources; and Change Management.

Completion of the HNC can help the candidate progress towards a Diploma in Management and Leadership and also on to a variety of degree programmes

Jennifer Hogarth, Curriculum Manager, FVC's Department of Business, said: "Our lecturers have a wide range of business experience and expertise and we pride

ourselves on knowing exactly what business professionals need to help them take on the challenges they face on a day to day basis.

"We want to hear from individual employees looking to develop their managerial and leadership skills or organisations themselves looking at development opportunities for their supervisory/management population. Not only is our programme suitable for employees of local firms, but also for business professionals who may live in the Forth Valley area, but work further afield.

"Forth Valley College's mission statement is Making Learning Work; let us help make it work for you!"

Please note that this course is delivered on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

Apply online at [www.forthvalley.ac.uk/courses/business](http://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/courses/business) or contact Kim Cowan by phone on 01324 403123 or email [eveninginfo@forthvalley.ac.uk](mailto:eveninginfo@forthvalley.ac.uk) for further information



# Part Time/ Day Release Construction Courses

Forth Valley College's Construction Department are offering a range of Part-Time/Day Release courses:

HNC Building Surveying

HNC Civil Engineering

HNC Construction  
(Built Environment)

HNC Construction  
Management

We caught up with Charles Cameron (pictured), Curriculum Manager in FVC's Department of Construction, to find out more about these courses and how they could benefit you or your business.

## Why is there a need for these types of courses?

These courses are necessary for two reasons, mainly to allow potential applicants who otherwise would not be able to access higher education due to work or other external commitments, to study on a part-time basis. It also allows them to progress and enhance their knowledge in the Construction Built Environment and Civil Engineering Industry with the prospect of gaining career progression or to change direction.

## Who are they aimed at and who would they benefit?

Initially they are aimed at current industry professionals within, for example, the craft and trade disciplines and at supervisory and management levels. Applicants will be considered with relevant academic, non-industry qualifications and for those wishing to enter the courses to allow them to study on a part-time basis, where full time would not be possible for them.

## What sort of things will be covered in the courses?

The courses offered will cover a very broad range of subjects such as Domestic and Commercial Building Techniques, Building Science, Site Surveying (setting out of buildings and its hard landscaping areas), Structural Elements of the Construction Process eg. Substructure and Superstructure, Building Surveying Techniques such as Condition Surveying and Reporting and Maintenance and Repair, Construction and Project Management with an Introduction to Quantity Surveying and Estimating Processes. Computer Aided Drawing (CAD) is another skill that will be covered. However, this is only an insight into the content and more information is contained in the Construction section of Forth Valley College's website and can be followed up by discussions at interview stage.

## What skills will be learned by the end?

The skills learned will be varied. Candidates will learn the theory and practical aspects of building technologies and how they all fit together to form buildings and projects and their individual and collective impact. Learners will be able to identify the correct process and procedure required for specific tasks as well as other functions, such as correct and suitable material selection, how to plan, cost and manage a project, problem solving issues that arise pre-build, during the building phase and post-build.

## When will they be held and where?

They will be held at the Falkirk Campus and will run concurrent with the college academic year sessions.

## What can it lead to for those who complete it?

Once completed the courses can lead to enhanced and more in depth knowledge of the Built Environment, Civil Engineering and Construction Industry as a whole, not just a narrow specific area.

It will inspire insight and knowledge of the roles of all the individual trades and professions and how they interact and it will show how those in the industry work collaboratively to complete all of our infrastructure projects and the impact that has on our lives. It will also show those who complete the course what their role could be or how they could enhance their current role.

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To find out more about these courses please visit [www.forthvalley.ac.uk/courses/construction](http://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/courses/construction)

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# Wai's workshops help the NHS

NHS Physiotherapy Learning Disability Services in Stirling and Larbert have benefited from the expertise of Forth Valley College's Department of Care, Health and Sport.

Forth Valley College's Leisure Facility Co-ordinator Wai Mun Lee popped into the Loch View in Larbert and Stirling Council's Riverbank Centre and Streets Ahead social care team to deliver two improvised physical activity workshops recently.

The workshops complement the great work that both services are already doing in providing a positive physical wellbeing service for the wider community throughout Forth Valley. The classes provided new and innovative ideas on how to fully maximise in-house gym equipment and deliver different styles of physical activity to encourage participation, co-ordination, motivation, fitness and most importantly fun.



## Former Student?

You can now join our alumni network.

Our alumni network offers a range of benefits including:

- Stay in touch with your friends and classmates
- Receive our annual alumni magazine
- Share your success to inspire others
- Seek opportunities for personal development
- Get information on training to further your career
- Find out about dedicated alumni events
- Receive exclusive alumni discounts



INDIVIDUAL. INSPIRATIONAL. INFLUENTIAL.

To find out more and register, please visit:

[www.forthvalley.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/alumni)

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# MEET THE TEAM

Each issue, InTouch will introduce a member of the College team offering an insight into what their job involves.

**Stuart Davis**

**Commercial Administrator, Business Development**

## **Describe your role**

As Commercial Administrator I am the first point of contact for external/internal commercial customers for the College and I always ensure a first class customer service experience is provided.

I contribute to the team with ideas on how the department can develop new business, maximize and grow the existing commercial activity. I also work with various teaching departments and support the teaching delivery within the college which falls under commercial activity.

I ensure effective recording, tracking and processing of all activity in relation to commercial contracts. I am responsible for processing candidates' bookings, issuing confirmation letters, resulting and certification.

I work closely with the Lead Commercial Trainers to plan our training course schedule to ensure we are running sufficient quantity of courses to keep up with the demand

## **What's your background?**

My dad worked in the military so we lived in Germany at the time I had my first job. I worked at the N.A.A.F.I (Navy, Army and Air Force Institutes), this was a retail store and I worked there for a couple of years progressing my customer services skills. Whilst working in this job I believe I developed my communication skills and became a friendly face to members of the public and colleagues alike.

I moved to Scotland in 2014 and had a range of different jobs including working at the Vue Cinema, The Aberdeen Health Village and the Royal Cornhill Hospital. My time over the past couple of years in customer service and administration has helped me to gain the skills and knowledge that I use now on a day to day basis.

## **Describe a typical day at work**

A typical day involves providing relevant information to a variety of potential customers who wish to come to Forth Valley College to study one of our commercial courses, which includes First Aid, Health & Safety, Electrical Safety and Business Skills.

## **What's been your biggest achievement so far?**

I started working at Forth Valley College back in May on a five-week contract and I have managed to progress to become a permanent member of staff, working as the Commercial Administrator in the Business Development Department.

## **Describe your job in three words?**

Challenging, demanding and satisfying.

## **Why choose training at Forth Valley College?**

We have highly skilled Commercial Trainers who are passionate about their jobs and are committed to ensure potential customers meet the relevant industrial requirements.

# Training Courses

From January to April 2018

## First Aid at Work

*(Falkirk Campus)*

7 - 9 February 2018

7 - 9 March 2018

4 - 6 April 2018

**£195**

## First Aid Refresher

*(Falkirk Campus)*

26 & 27 February 2018

28 & 29 March 2018

26 & 27 April 2018

**£165**

## First Aid Emergency

*(Falkirk Campus)*

7 February 2018

7 March 2018

4 April 2018

**£99**

## First Aid Paediatric

*(Falkirk Campus)*

6 February 2018

**£99**

## 7300 Train the Trainer

*(Falkirk Campus)*

See website for future dates -

[www.forthvalley.ac.uk](http://www.forthvalley.ac.uk)

**£295**

## Level 3 Award

### Education & Training

*(Falkirk Campus)*

See website for future dates -

[www.forthvalley.ac.uk](http://www.forthvalley.ac.uk)

**£495**

## IOSH Working Safely

*(Falkirk Campus)*

16 March 2018

**£130**

## IOSH Managing Safely

*(Falkirk Campus)*

20 - 23 February 2018

**£410**

## NEBOSH General Certificate

*(Falkirk Campus)*

See website for future dates -

[www.forthvalley.ac.uk](http://www.forthvalley.ac.uk)

**£1500**

## City & Guilds 17th Edition

*(Falkirk Campus)*

5 - 8 March 2018

Exam: 9 March 2018

**£395**

## CompEx EX01-04 Refresher

*(Falkirk Campus)*

6 & 7 March 2018

13 & 14 March 2018

27 & 28 March 2018

10 & 11 April 2018

**£525**

## CompEx EX01-04

*(Falkirk Campus)*

5 - 9 February 2018

19 - 23 February 2018

26 February - 2 March 2018

19 - 23 March 2018

16 - 20 April 2018

23 - 27 April 2018

30 April - 4 May 2018

**£995**

## CompEx EX14

### Responsible Persons

*(Falkirk Campus)*

9 - 12 April 2018

**£1550**

## CompEx EX05 & EX06 Dust

*(Falkirk Campus)*

26 - 28 February 2018

16 - 18 April 2018

**£695**



## TOP TWEETS

**Luke Graham OSP MP**

**@LukeGrahamMP**

Thanks to @principal\_fvc for showing me around the fantastic facilities @FVCollege. Great to discuss lifelong learning & City Deal for Clacks

**The Robertson Trust**

**@RobertsonTrust**

We are backing a new #mentoring scheme @FVCollege which aims to help more young people make a successful transition from school into college life - <https://t.co/wPMGT8LgnD>

**S-A Somerville**

**@S\_A\_Somerville**

Delighted to mark the start of new campus in Falkirk for @FVCollege. Another @scotgov investment in our colleges and #STEM.

**@FVCollege**

An innovative back warm-up initiative developed by two FVC Departments has been shortlisted for a TES Further Education award. <http://bit.ly/2CzTEjx>

**Stirling Council**

**@StirlingCouncil**

Stirling Council were Appy for the help of @FVCollege HND Sound Production students in developing a new service to enhance local tourism. The Council recently approached the students to help them create audio content for the Explore Stirling App. <http://ow.ly/rq9U30hFsnT>

## Forces Friendly Training Provider



**Call: 01324 403000** or  
email **[businessdevelopment@forthvalley.ac.uk](mailto:businessdevelopment@forthvalley.ac.uk)**  
for more information or to book a course.

Information contained within this document was correct at time of publishing but may be subject to change.  
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**Forth  
Valley  
College**

**Making Learning Work**