

Highlights

REPORT 21/22



Message from the Principal

Dear Partners,

Session 2021/22 has been another busy year for Forth Valley College - full of further challenges due to the pandemic - however, once again I'm proud that the College as a whole, has risen to all the challenges we have faced.

Our annual 'Highlights Report' reflects on our activities over the past session. It's been a year of hope, strong community spirit and a clear desire to use our experiences to make things even better.



As we now move forward beyond the pandemic, we are looking to the future and 'Making Learning Work' even further with the launch of our new 2022-25 Strategic Plan in order to work towards achieving our 2030 vision.

Once again, staff across the College have exceeded my expectations with their professionalism, resilience and determination to ensure our students have every opportunity to succeed and at the heart of this success is the way in which colleagues have supported each other.

The past session has embedded the foundations for further Forth Valley College success and we look forward to the future with eagerness and excitement.

I look forward to working with you in session 2022/23.

Best wishes,

Professor Ken Thomson OBE,
Principal

Our Success

Full-time Further Education (FE)

FE performance is at **67.9%** – **7%** above the sector average.

Full-time Higher Education (HE)

HE performance is at **71%**

77.1% achievement rate across all levels and modes of study - **5%** above the sector average.



COLLEGE PURPOSE

We deliver the right learning, in the right place, at the right time for the communities and the economy of Forth Valley.

Part-time FE and HE

Part-time FE **82%**
6% above the sector average

Part-time HE **83.6%**
2% above the sector average

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|---|
| GENDER | 71.1% | FE FEMALES , 5% above the sector average |
| | 67.6% | FE MALES , 1% above the sector average |
| | 77.5% | HE FEMALES , 1% above the sector average |
| | 74.1% | HE MALES , 4% above the sector average |

| | |
|------------|--|
| AGE | Under 18 – 60.5% SLIGHTLY ABOVE THE SECTOR AVERAGE |
| | 18-20 – 72.2% 4% ABOVE THE SECTOR AVERAGE |
| | 21-24 – 76.6% 5% ABOVE THE SECTOR AVERAGE |
| | 25-40 – 78.8% 5% ABOVE THE SECTOR AVERAGE |
| | 41 and over – 80.8% 5% ABOVE THE SECTOR AVERAGE |

College gets in gear with Kickstart Scheme

Forth Valley College successfully secured the services of eight young work placements through the new UK wide Kickstart Scheme.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/college-gets-in-gear-with-kickstart-scheme/>



Results day celebrated at FVC

Students at Forth Valley College celebrated receiving their National and Higher qualification results on Tuesday 10 August, with the College maintaining its impressive recent success rate.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/results-day-celebrated-at-fvc/>



College recognised as Microsoft Showcase School

Microsoft Education recognised Forth Valley College as a Showcase School for session 21/22.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/college-recognised-as-microsoft-showcase-school/>



New ECITB engineering scholarship

Forth Valley College became the first training provider in Scotland to deliver an innovative Engineering, Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB) Scholarship Programme.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/new-ecitb-engineering-scholarship-starts-at-fvc/>

August 2021



FVC thanked for Covid-19 Vaccination support

Specially designed plaques were presented to the College, to thank them for their role in helping to deliver more than 304,000 doses of the Covid-19 vaccine.

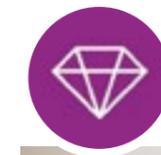
<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/fvc-thanked-for-covid-19-vaccination-support/>



Stacey Graduates with First Class Honours

Information Assistant Stacey Mackay graduated with a First Class BSc Honours in Psychology.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/stacey-graduates-with-first-class-honours/>



September 2021



Laura's academic excellence recognised by Heriot-Watt University

Laura Calder, Forth Valley College's Business Transformation Manager, was awarded a top prize by Heriot-Watt University - the Deputy Principal's Award for 2020-21.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/laura-s-academic-excellence-recognised-by-heriot-watt-university/>



National recognition for Time4Me

Time4Me, Forth Valley College's innovative mentoring programme, was recognised nationally by the Scottish Mentoring Network.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/national-recognition-for-time4me/>



Lou's garden design to be showcased on BBC

BBC's Beechgrove Garden filmed the transformation of the 'Wimpy Park' community open space in Alloa which was designed by Forth Valley College graduate, Louisa Carberry.



New apprenticeship training programme begins at FVC

The BP Mauritania and Senegal National Apprentice Technician Training Programme – a new collaborative project between FVC and Glasgow Caledonian University - was launched.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/new-apprenticeship-training-programme-begins-at-fvc/>

FVC science team find the right formula at Stirling festival

Dedicated Forth Valley College Science lecturers and students passed on their expertise and knowledge at the Stirling Science Festival.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/fvc-science-team-find-the-right-formula-at-stirling-festival/>



College runners-up in ECITB Awards

Forth Valley College just missed out on a top prize at the prestigious Engineering Construction Industry Training and Development Awards 2021.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/college-runners-up-in-ecitb-awards/>



FVC students preparing food for thought at COP26

Five Professional Cookery Level 3 students from Forth Valley College helped to provide sustenance for COP 26 delegates, as they tried to save the word from climate change.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/fvc-students-preparing-food-for-thought-at-cop26/>



Scotland's International Environment Centre launched

An ambitious package of work to support sustainable jobs, growth and inward investment is officially announced, following a high-profile launch event at Forth Valley College's Alloa Campus.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/scotland-s-international-environment-centre-launched/>



October 2021



Black History Month events a success at FVC

Important events to celebrate Black History Month throughout October – with a Proud to be Me theme – proved to be a success for staff and students.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/black-history-month-events-a-success-at-fvc/>



November 2021

Third Project SEARCH Cohort Graduate

A third group of young people with additional support needs in the Falkirk area – graduated from their one year DFN Project SEARCH internship programme.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/third-project-search-cohort-graduate/>



Glowing report for FVC

Work based assessors at Forth Valley College received glowing feedback from Awarding Body External Verification visits, which praised their work in supporting learners to progress through their apprenticeships.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/glowing-report-for-fvc/>



College hosts Net Zero Challenge showcase

Ground breaking solutions to climate change were presented by 16 to 24-year-olds at the final of a Net Zero challenge, supported by INEOS and the Scottish Government.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/college-hosts-net-zero-challenge-showcase/>



Falkirk Campus wins architecture prize

Reiach and Hall Architects won the Higher Education prize at the 2021 AJ Architecture Awards.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/falkirk-campus-wins-architecture-prize/>



93% of FVC students reach a positive destination

Figures recently released show that 93% of Forth Valley College's full-time students move on to a positive destination after completing their course.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/93-of-fvc-students-reach-a-positive-destination/>

Special award to honour Ken and Forth Valley College

A special Institute of Directors Scotland award has been presented to honour Forth Valley College's Principal and the College.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/special-award-to-honour-ken-and-forth-valley-college/>



#LoveScotlandsColleges 2021 campaign a success

The campaign reach across social media increased by 4% on last year to 4.7 million, with individual mentions increasing by over 10% year on year.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/lovescotlandscolleges-2021-campaign-a-success/>



Connect Forth goes live!

Connect Forth Radio - Forth Valley College's innovative student multi-media platform - once again reconnected live with its listeners.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/connect-forth-reconnects-to-go-live/>



School Cookery students step up to plate up for charity

School pupils learning the basics of professional cookery at Forth Valley College, stepped up to the plate to prepare 800 charity Christmas takeaway meals for the Start-Up Stirling Foodbank.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/school-cookery-students-step-up-to-plate-up-for-charity/>

December 2021



St. Andrew's Day celebration to welcome international students

Forth Valley Student Association used Scotland's national day as the ideal date to officially welcome ESOL and international students to Forth Valley College – with a special event.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/st-andrews-day-celebration-to-welcome-international-students/>

Walking the walk to support 16 Days of Action

Staff and students raised awareness of the 16 Days of Action, activism against gender based violence and also the White Ribbon Scotland Campaign, by organising a team walk.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/walking-the-walk-to-support-16-days-of-action/>



Stuart is all booked up for Christmas

Forth Valley College's PR and Media Officer Stuart Hall, put his spare time during lockdown to good use by penning a memoir for a well-respected Scottish football coach.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/stuart-is-all-booked-up-for-christmas/>



January 2022



Staff trio hit long service landmarks

Irene Kane and Dorothy Erskine notched up 40 years each working for the College and Lisa Hachemi has chalked up 25 years' service.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/staff-trio-hit-long-service-landmarks/>

Bronze award for FVSA and FVC after Hedgehog campaign efforts

Forth Valley Student Association and Forth Valley College were recognised for their efforts in promoting the welfare of one of the UK's most loved mammals.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/bronze-award-for-fvsa-and-fvc-after-hedgehog-campaign-efforts/>



2021 Graduation prizewinners celebrate

Forth Valley College hosted two successful graduation events at Stirling Castle (Tuesday 8 February) and Falkirk Town Hall (Wednesday 9 February).

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/2021-graduation-prizewinners-celebrate/>



Honorary Professorship role for FVC Principal

Forth Valley College's Principal received an Honorary Professorship from the University of Stirling in recognition of his contribution to the academic work of the Faculty of Social Sciences.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/honorary-professorship-role-for-fvc-principal/>



Positive feedback from Education Scotland Progress Visit

A delegation of officials from Education Scotland visited Forth Valley College Falkirk Campus in February – and delivered positive feedback.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/positive-feedback-from-education-scotland-progress-visit/>

FVC Open Evenings attract potential students

Two open evening events promoting courses and apprenticeship opportunities available at Forth Valley College – and providing visitors with the opportunity to explore campus facilities – were held at the end of March.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/fvc-open-evenings-attract-potential-students/>



February 2022



New Responsible Tourism course is a landmark for the industry

A new Responsible Tourism course was launched at Forth Valley College aiming to allow students to learn their trade, in tandem with an exciting tourism action plan created by Scottish Canals and the Green Action Trust.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/new-responsible-tourism-course-is-a-landmark-for-the-industry/>



New 'very' Active Travel Officer at FVC

The College's new Active Travel Officer, Craig Coull, is looking to inspire Forth Valley College staff and students to cycle and walk more and enhance their health and wellbeing.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/new-very-active-travel-officer-at-fvc/>



March 2022

Hybrid working model launched at FVC

A hybrid working model for staff was launched at Forth Valley College, which will benefit both employees and students alike.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/hybrid-working-model-launched-at-fvc/>

That was the Scottish Apprenticeship Week that was

It was a busy Scottish Apprenticeship Week (7-11 March) for Forth Valley College from high profile visits to new apprenticeship partnerships.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/that-was-the-scottish-apprenticeship-week-that-was/>



Forth Valley Radio taps into FVC broadcasting talent

A local commercial radio station tapped into Forth Valley College's talented team of media lecturing staff and students, to help enhance their range of on air presenters.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/forth-valley-radio-taps-into-fvc-broadcasting-talent/>

STEM Boxes to inspire Stirling pupils

(STEM) subjects for primary school pupils in the Stirling area are set to enhance their winning formulas – thanks to a Forth Valley College loan scheme supported by Stirling Council and sponsored by CityFibre.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/stem-boxes-to-inspire-stirling-pupils/>



New FVC Mental Health Team

Led by Mental Health Co-ordinator Martin Murray, FVC's new team, funded by the Scottish Government, has been designed to support any student who has been, or is, affected by mental ill health.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/meet-the-new-fvc-mental-health-team/>

Top author inspires FVC students at Book Club

Popular Scottish author Chris McQueer popped in to Forth Valley College's Falkirk, Stirling and Alloa Campuses to promote literacy skills, encourage freedom of expression and raise a laugh or two.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/top-author-inspires-fvc-students-at-book-club/>



College pays tribute to fallen with memorial model

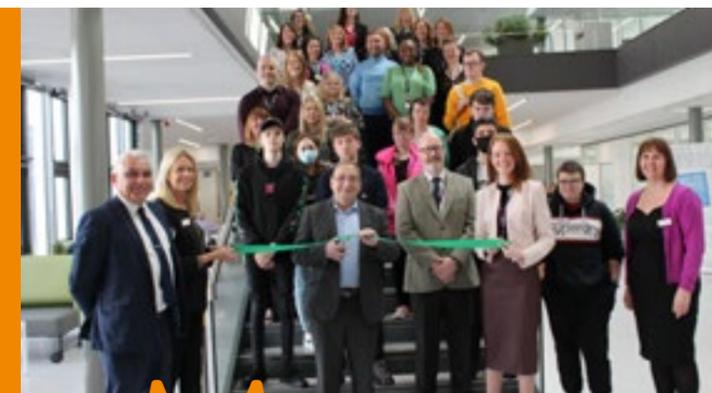
FVC's Falkirk Campus state-of-the-art 3D printer workshop, which is headed by Mechanical Lecturer Ross McGeever, used plans provided by Bainsford War Memorial Association to print off two scale models of the new memorial.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/college-pays-tribute-to-fallen-with-memorial-model/>

Youth Hubs officially launched at FVC Campuses

The Falkirk Youth Hub – a service delivered by the Falkirk Job Centre Plus in partnership with Forth Valley College - was officially opened on Monday 23 May.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/youth-hubs-officially-launched-at-fvc-campuses/>



April 2022



Digital Skills Courses can click for Clacks residents

Funding secured by Forth Valley College will support the running of two new free courses that will aim to provide confidence and inspiration for people across Clackmannanshire, to explore further education in a more in-depth way.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/digital-skills-courses-can-click-for-clacks-residents/>



Powerboat project helping to steer Workstart students on new life course

Workstart students in Alloa will be making a big splash with their skills for work and life this year, via a new and exciting partnership with Vital Spark Racing C.I.C.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/powerboat-project-helping-to-steer-workstart-students-on-new-life-course/>



FVC at the Business end of the industry

A Business and Communities Lecturer teamed up with Forth Valley Chamber of Commerce to organise an event to strengthen links between the College and local firms and organisations.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/fvc-at-the-business-end-of-the-industry/>



May 2022



2022 FVSA Student award winners announced

Nine award winners were announced on Thursday 26 May as Forth Valley Student Association (FVSA) celebrated achievements and success across the College.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/2022-fvsa-student-award-winners-announced/>



FVC Staff Awards night success

Forth Valley College's second annual Staff Awards unveiled its winners at a well-attended evening ceremony, held on Tuesday 31 May at the Falkirk Campus.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/fvc-staff-awards-night-success/>

Falkirk Campus wins another Architecture Prize

Forth Valley College's £78 million Falkirk Campus has won a RIAS (Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland) National Architects Award for 2022.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/falkirk-campus-wins-another-top-architecture-prize/>



Graduation for Forth Valley SCOTS pupils

High school pupils from the Forth Valley area who completed the School-College Opportunities to Succeed (SCOTS) programme, were presented with certificates this week to recognise their achievement.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/graduation-for-forth-valley-scots-pupils/>



June 2022

Bright sparks on display at FVC Falkirk Campus

Scotland's brightest 'sparks' headed to Forth Valley College's Falkirk Campus to compete in a prestigious Electrical Installation competition

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/bright-sparks-on-display-at-fvc-falkirk-campus/>



National Recognition for FVC art and design students

Four Forth Valley College Art and Design students have received recognition from top arts bodies, who sent delegations to view the College's annual End of Year Show at the Stirling Campus.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/national-recognition-for-fvc-art-and-design-students/>



Time to Shine for Lifestart students

Lifestart students took a bow for their excellent efforts, as they were presented with certificates and an award to mark their achievements.

<https://www.forthvalley.ac.uk/news-events/time-to-shine-for-lifestart-students/>



STAFF AWARDS 2022

Colleague of the Year Award Winner

Lisa Hachemi, Contracts Officer

Celebrating her 25th Work Anniversary this year, Lisa Hachemi is a long serving, well-respected colleague with a very strong work ethic, heart of pure gold and a dedicated employee of the College.

COLLEAGUE OF THE YEAR

Community Support Award Winner

Westfield Community Garden Project (Ruth Davis and Moira Weir)

Moira and Ruth developed a partnership with the Westfield Community Centre that allowed students from the Workstart course to gain employability skills - whilst supporting and enhancing the outdoor community areas at the Westfield Community Centre.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT AWARD

Improving Health & Wellbeing Award Winner

Martin Murray, Mental Health Coordinator

Along with his team of dedicated staff, Martin has designed a robust mental health and wellbeing service. In addition to his 'day job' of designing and introducing a new service to the College, Martin has also gone above and beyond to build extensive professional networks across the Forth Valley region, to ensure that students can access mental health support in their community.

IMPROVING HEALTH & WELLBEING AWARD

Innovation Award Winner

Student Journey Project Team

The Student Journey Project is one of five strategic projects under the Springback umbrella. The aim of the project is to ensure FVC continues to be the destination of choice for education and training, by delivering the best student experience from application to achievement. This project covers all modes of attendance from full-time to training courses. The submission focused on the improvements to the College's recruitment and admissions processes.

INNOVATION AWARD

Inspiration Award Winner

Kerstin Doig, Lecturer

For several years now Kerstin has been one of the main inspirational staff members at the forefront of taking STEM learning workshops to primary and secondary school pupils across Forth Valley, inspiring the next generation of potential science students for FVC.

INSPIRATION AWARD

Team of the Year Award Winner

DYW Forth Valley

This team have rolled-out a national government policy to establish a DYW School Coordinator in every secondary school in Forth Valley. This represents an extension of this team from four to 21 across the region, allowing them to understand new operational procedures, measurements and expectations for their schools.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

A massive congratulations to all shortlisted nominees and to our 2022 Staff Award winners!

A huge thank you to our event sponsors:



Looking
forward
to another

Year of Success

www.forthvalley.ac.uk



Making Learning Work