

Learner Newsletter



Summer Edition

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Welcome

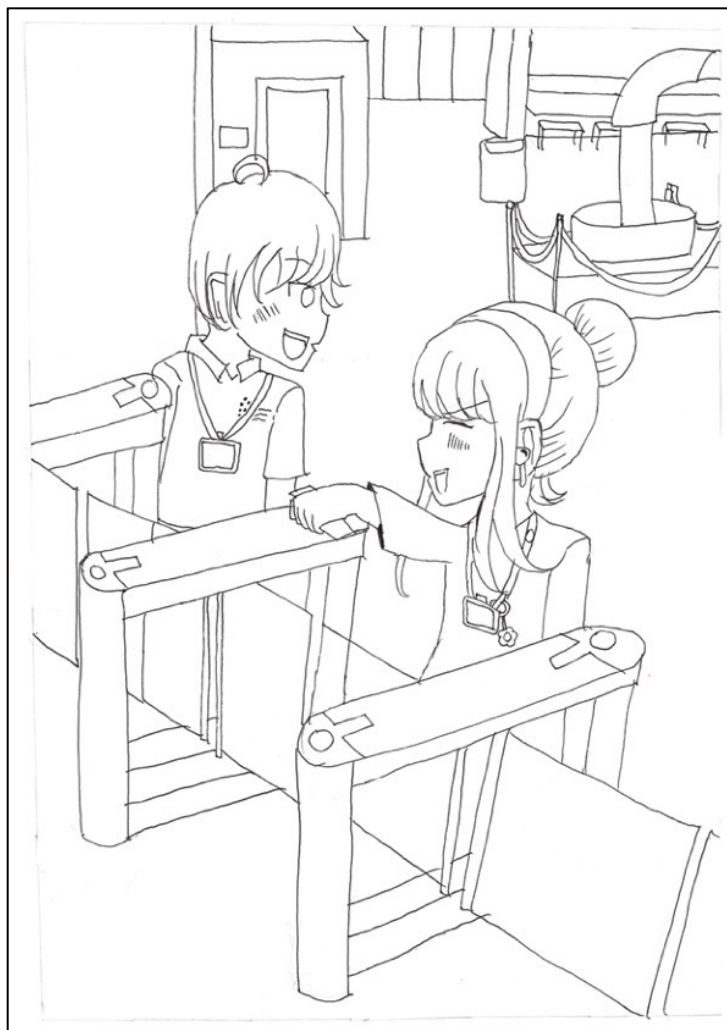
Lewis Richmond – Resident Poet

There has been so much to celebrate across every term at LDE and I have the delightful (but impossible job) of trying to collate it all into one newsletter. Within these pages is a glimpse of all the amazing work our learners and staff have done across the different faculties and areas in the college.

We have seen an increase in the number of employer engagements across all our faculties, with more than double the number of employer experiences than we had the previous year, continuing our commitment to connecting our learners with industry leaders. As we go from strength to strength with our blending learning provision, our learners are being exposed to all the careers that the hard work they are putting in during their time in the college can lead them to in the future.

Learners have continued to spearhead the shaping of our college culture by seizing every opportunity of playing a leading role in projects related to wellbeing, equality, inclusion and diversity. Through their efforts, we have seen our college community continue to strengthen.

Finally, I move onto the Learner newspaper society and the four members who have embedded themselves into the heartbeat of the college and helped to celebrate all our success from the most valued perspective we have – the learners. It has been an immense pleasure to work with Sean, Lorena, Srija and Nina throughout this year and see how passionately they advocate for the college. This term, our learners have been given the freedom to explore their interests and, as a result, have crafted some insightful opinion pieces.



Artwork by year 9 learner Kierrana

Innovation Unleashed: TDI Challenge

Learners from our Engineering and Design Faculties ranging from Year 10 to 13 were invited to participate in an exciting opportunity to develop and showcase their products, aiming to demonstrate innovative and practical solutions for everyday challenges. Learners were invited to present their work to a panel of industry experts with the aspiration of being selected for the finals. This session was not just a competition but a celebration of the creative process, from the initial conception of an idea to the product prototype.

Learners presented a variety of projects, each designed to solve everyday problems. The presentations detailed the journey of each product, including design iterations, incorporation of client feedback, and future development plans. Learners demonstrated their proficiency with a variety of advanced technological tools and programs during their presentations, skillfully incorporating Fusion 360, LEGO models, technical drawings, 3D printing, laser cutters, and Sketch Fab to illustrate the development process of their designs. All the teams addressed the judges' questions, showcasing their understanding of, and commitment to their projects.

"I found the presentation was a mental challenge at first because the thought of presenting in front of leading industry professionals was quite daunting. However, I find that being nervous is just like being excited, so I used this to help calm me down, and prepare me to present. Once I started presented, I grew in confidence and enjoyed it," Competition winner Max.



Our winners pictured with the judges

After some deliberation, the judges selected two projects to advance to the TDI Challenge finals. The first project developed by Alfonso addressed a challenge he and his friends faced in using their mobile phone in the gym. Eesa and Max are also progressing onto the final with their adaptation of the Anglepoise lamp. The judges were impressed with the design and could see many uses for it.

Institution of Lighting Professionals' Centenary Celebration

This Employer Engagement not only supported learners with their curriculum but also fulfilled Gatsby benchmark 2,4 and 5.

Our year 12 Engineering learners were invited to the Institute of Lighting Professionals Centenary Lighting Summit – a landmark event celebrating 100 years of innovation in the lighting profession – in preparation for Unit 10: Computer Aided Design and Unit 17 Computer Aided Manufacturing on the Engineering Design and Manufacture course. As well as this visit supporting learners with these units, they also had the chance to gain insight into this unique industry which has many engineering vocational opportunities. Thanks to this event, our engineering learners were given the opportunity to broaden their understanding of the varied avenues engineering can take you in.

The highlight of the summit was the networking event where different lighting companies set up stalls to showcase the work they do in the industry. The learners were given a questionnaire to fill out, encouraging them to explore specific topics related to design, manufacturing, quality control and marketing to deepen their understanding as to how these key curriculum areas relate to each other, when applied in an industry context. Through this activity, learners found out about different companies, had technical discussions and meaningful conversations, offering them the perfect professional perspective to introduce them to topics related to the units 10 and 17.

“It was a very enlightening day! We were able to talk with so many different companies. It was particularly interesting hearing about how they market and manufacture different products that were all really innovative,” Corina, year 12 learner.

To top off an amazing event, learners had the opportunity to hear from Perry, President of ILP, and Tom, a UTC apprentice alumnus who now works as an engineer in the lighting industry. Perry spoke passionately about the industry and shared all the opportunities for advancement within it for our aspiring engineers. Tom shared how UTCs can open doors to a range of industries and spoke about how his experience of apprenticeships has led him to where he is today. It was invaluable for our learners to hear these two perspectives of professionals at different stages of their career.

“This trip was a fantastic opportunity that was a completely different experience for our learners. Thanks to The ILP for allowing us to be a part of it and organising activities catered to our learners’ introduction into this vibrant industry,” Mark, Head of Engineering.



Engineering learners posing with Perry!

Learners Tackle City Regeneration Challenge

This Employer Led Project fulfilled GCSE Unit 1 (sector, trades, employment and careers) and A level Construction Design & Sustainability sections of the curriculum.



Our Year 10 and 12 Built Environment learners recently participated in a dynamic Employer Led Project, facilitated by Carla and Richard from the Urban Land Institute. This project tested their skills in urban planning through a realistic simulation of regenerating a fictional city centre site, where they competed to design viable commercial and residential spaces. The Urban Land Institute, renowned for being the world's oldest and largest network of cross-disciplinary real estate and land use professionals, provided the perfect backdrop for this project.



Reflecting the pressures of real-world urban planning, our learners navigated financial, design, ethical, and environmental challenges to devise a viable mixed-use development scheme. While typical urban planning projects span 5-10 years, our learners faced the challenge of compressing this extensive process into just four hours. Each learner assumed a position within their company and were chosen to fulfil the following roles: finance director, head of marketing, head of community, head of planning and head of environment.



Learners were supported by two industry professionals, Nigel and Martin, who work in the urban planning sector. By the end of the challenge, learners worked together produce amazing results. Each company created a plan to regenerate the fictional city, alongside a 3D models. Andrew, Built Environment teacher, shared, *"This project not only brings to life Unit 2 Construction Design of the curriculum, but also highlights the integral role of teamwork and cross-disciplinary thinking in building sustainable communities."*

Author Delivers Inspiring Masterclass

It was so impactful to see how engaged and enthusiastic the students were throughout the session!" Dan Freedman.



Our year 10 English learners had the privilege of welcoming Dan Freedman, an author with an exciting pathway to success, for a masterclass about his journey, the publishing industry and creative writing. During the session, Dan spoke about his past as an aspiring footballer. Although he didn't become a professional footballer, he was able to use his experience playing academy football to write a successful fiction series about a footballer named Jamie Johnson. Thanks to his experiences and dedication to storytelling, Dan published eight books with Scholastic and had a TV show produced and aired based on his stories.

Dan shared that his journey was not one of instant success. He shared his turbulent journey of facing rejection from publishing companies and even nearly giving up. Through this insight learners could step into the story behind the storyteller, gaining insight into the difficulties Dan had to overcome for his writing to reach the world. This perspective not only motivated our learners but prepared them for the difficulties one might face when pursuing their aspirations.



Thanks to Dan for truly inspiring our learners! It is an immense benefit for our learners to be exposed to such a successful author and hear insights about his industry and the way he has navigated through it to reach success.

Wellbeing: Celebrating Sports

Since starting sports in 2022 I have seen increased motivation and engagement in college activities, as well as sports being a motivating factor for regular attendance. The learners at LDE UTC have gained enhanced communication skills and ability to work in and as a team.

Building friendships and a sense of community, the learners have improved overall health and fitness levels. Due to regular physical activity the learners have shown resilience and determination through matches during the football and basketball seasons. Currently we have boys and girls football teams, a basketball team, a netball team and we also participate in table tennis tournaments. In a short period, I have seen the growth and leadership development within our learners and sense of happiness and joy representing LDE UTC.

Abdoulaye Taylor, Head of Year 11 & Head of PE



Sports at LDE

Learners across the college



How has sports helped you develop important skills?

“It has helped me to become a leader, work on listening and communication skills and also to be able to develop teamwork,” Orges, year 11 football team.

What has been your best sporting memory at LDE?



“My most memorable moment was probably helping Abdoul to create a girl's football team, which has had success this season even though we are a relatively new team with not much time together.” Scarlet, year 10 football team captain.

What do you do to celebrate after a win?



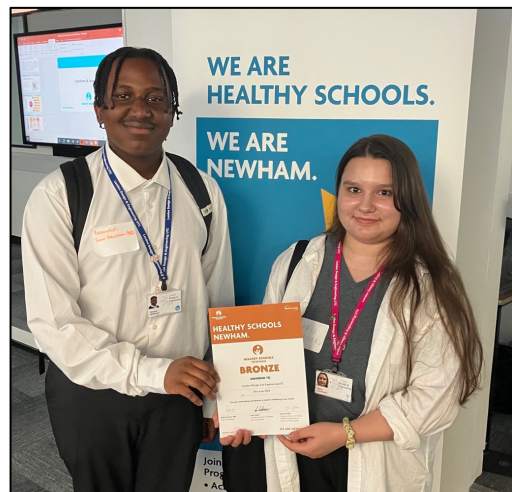
“We all go out together or hang out. Sometimes we are too tired though, so we make our way home after a match or competition,” Maryam, Year 10 football and rowing team.



We are very pleased to share that we have been awarded the Bronze Healthy Schools Award at the University of East London Stratford Campus. This was presented to Stewart and our two Sixth Form learners Maria and Brandon who showed great initiative and diligence by spearheading this project. The Healthy Schools Awards are to recognise schools' achievements in supporting the health and wellbeing of their pupils. Our two sixth form learners collated a document celebrating all the efforts the college put in to ensure that it is a healthy environment.

Head of Year Stewart, who liaised with the learners throughout this project shared, *"huge thanks to Maria and Brandon for working so hard to complete the most difficult application ever , it is inspiring to see how passionately they advocated for the college."*

Thanks to Shafina for getting this exciting project started and Stewart and Gloria for working alongside our learners to achieve this award.





As a part of our activities for schools' diversity week, we celebrated our first official Cultural Day where learners had the opportunity to wear an outfit to celebrate their heritage and they truly dressed to impress!

As well as celebrating their culture through clothing, learners had the opportunity to take part in quizzes during break and lunchtimes exploring different cultures and testing their flag knowledge with a chance to win prizes.



EDI: Cultural Day

"For me Cultural Day is a day to represent where you come from and your background. It gives us a chance to celebrate our culture." Aleyna, Year 9.



"It's been such a colourful and vibrant day! Celebrations like Cultural Day, and other EDI events, are important because they bring everyone together and truly showcase how diverse our college is!" Abbie, year 12.

The Stanford Prison Experiment

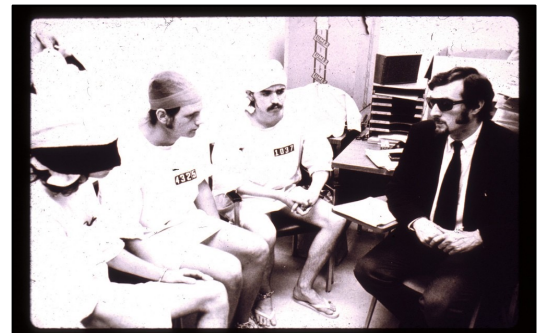
Learner articles: Lorena

In the early hours of August 17, 1971, nine young men were abruptly thrust into a simulated prison environment at Stanford University. Arrested for fictitious crimes, they were subjected to the full array of police procedures—searches, handcuffs, and blindfolds—before being placed into the so-called Stanford County Prison, a setup carefully orchestrated by Philip G. Zimbardo in the university's psychology department. The intent was to explore the psychological impacts of perceived power and authority in a controlled environment.



The Stanford Prison Experiment, designed to last two weeks, was halted after just six days due to the extreme and disturbing behavior exhibited by participants. Guards began to engage in psychological and emotional abuse towards the prisoners, who, in turn, displayed a worrying degree of passivity and submission. This swift escalation of abusive behaviour echoed the earlier findings of the Milgram obedience study, which demonstrated the extent to which ordinary individuals might follow authoritative commands to inflict harm. To many, the Stanford experiment seemed to reinforce this notion, suggesting that ordinary people could rapidly become tyrannical under the right circumstances.

However, the narrative surrounding the Stanford Prison Experiment is not as straightforward as it might appear. While it does hint at the malleability of human behavior under duress, it also raises questions about the experiment's design and its implications. Were the results a testament to human nature's dark side or a reflection of the study's inherent flaws? To understand the true impact of the experiment, it's crucial to delve into its nuanced reality.



First, consider the experiment's design. The Stanford County Prison was not a neutral backdrop, but a meticulously controlled setting intended to simulate a brutal prison environment. The roles and conditions were carefully crafted, with Zimbardo himself taking on the role of prison superintendent and the "warden" being another researcher. This setup was designed to enforce a specific dynamic between guards and prisoners, encouraging behaviours that matched the roles they were assigned. The lack of intervention or correction from the experiment's leaders when the situation escalated signaled to the guards that their actions were acceptable.



Furthermore, the participants were not just any university students. They were self-selected volunteers who responded to an ad for a “psychological study of prison life,” a phrase that may have attracted individuals with particular predispositions. Research by psychologists Thomas Carnahan and Sam McFarland in 2007 revealed that those who responded to the ad with “prison life” in mind displayed higher levels of aggressiveness and authoritarianism compared to those who did not. This suggests that the study’s participants were not an entirely representative sample of the general population.



The guards' behavior varied significantly. While some adopted cruel and oppressive stances, others acted more compassionately. Similarly, some prisoners resisted and formed bonds of solidarity, countering the notion that all participants uniformly succumbed to their roles. Richard Yacco, a prisoner, recalled actively resisting abusive orders and even opting for solitary confinement as a form of protest.

Thus, the story of the Stanford Prison Experiment reveals a more intricate picture than the widely circulated myth suggests. The experiment indeed demonstrated the potential for cruelty under specific conditions, but it also highlighted the importance of the environment and the roles assigned in shaping behavior. While the experiment’s setup and the nature of the participants played a significant role in the observed outcomes, the complexity of human behaviour and institutional influence complicate the broader lessons drawn from the study.



In essence, the Stanford Prison Experiment offers insights into the power of situational forces and role expectations in shaping human behavior, but it should be understood within the context of its design and the specific characteristics of its participants

At the time of writing this article, the French Parliament has just been through a round of elections. Tactical voting and massively high voter turnout managed to steer the country away from the predicted far-right majority, but the scandal-embroiled National Rally (RN) still showed large growth in the election, garnering more support than ever before. Across the channel in the UK, Labour is expected to win the election, but only after both a large shift towards the centre under Keir Starmer and undoubtably one of the worst reigns this country has ever seen under the Conservatives in the last 4 years, plummeting their approval from +20% to -49%. In fact, elsewhere in Europe, the percentage of right-wing governments is over 40%, the highest it has been in 3 decades. All the above demonstrates that, while we may not exactly be seeing the same here in the UK, Europe is moving closer to right wing politics... right?

Let's start with the numbers. Interestingly, there is in fact, one less right-wing party in Europe today than there were 30 years ago, and one more left. Well, that's it right? Article over, Europe has for all intents and purposes, moved slightly to the left? Well, these numbers aren't everything. Let's take some examples – in both 1994 and 2024, our very own UK Conservative Party has been in power. However, that same party is very different today to what it was 30 years ago. In 1994, the Conservative Party was still right-wing, demonstrated by their privatisation of the British Rail, the effects of which our country still feels today. However, they still had centrist policies – for example, they had the Citizen's Charter, introduced by Prime Minister John Major, which specifically aimed to increase the effectiveness and value of taxpayer money of public services by increasing transparency and accountability, done so through settings clear targets for specific services, for example time limits on consultations for the NHS. This greatly differs from the policies and attitude of today's Conservative Party. Where we once had efforts to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the NHS, we now have NHS waiting lists at all-time highs, satisfaction ratings at all-time lows, and over 10% of 111 calls being abandoned.

It is not, however, just right-wing parties moving to the right – it's also left-wing parties moving to the centre. An example of this is Germany's Social Democratic Party (SPD), who, while they were not in power in 1994, held 33.5% of the seats in the government and had major influence over policies, and is now in charge of the country today. In 1994, they showed large support for social welfare, serving as the primary opposition to cuts in social welfare programs during a time in which the German government was struggling for money due to the cost of the reunification of East and West Germany, and fighting for increases in unemployment pay. Today, however, this is different. Even soon after, from 2003 to 2005, the Hartz Reforms were implemented, drastically changing the stance of the SPD on the labour market. The most infamous of these was "Hartz IV", which severely cut unemployment benefits and protections, and attempted to push public unemployment responsibilities onto private businesses, with a person's benefits being cut if they didn't take a "reasonable offer of work." This also included requirements such as getting financial assistance from your spouse and family before going to the government for Hartz unemployment insurance, implemented alongside decreases in the longer-term "unemployment assistance." While some of the Hartz reforms proved to be effective in decreasing unemployment, Hartz IV marked a shift in the attitude of the SPD towards social welfare and unemployment pay, one much less socialist than their policy in the 1990s may suggest. They have continued since to demonstrate a political stance much closer to the centre left, with increased emphasis on fiscal responsibility and economic growth.

While these shifts to the centre aim to appeal to a wider audience, perhaps one that would formerly vote for a further right party, as Keir Starmer and Tony Blair both did with voters who would normally vote Conservative, they often have a side effect of diluting the original voter base, where they end up losing the initial support they had in their original voters. This can result in a split of votes between multiple left and centre parties, resulting in better results for the right.



It is not just changes within parties, however. In 2015, the Polish public voted in the Law and Justice Party, replacing Civic Platform, who led from 2007 to 2015. This move drastically changed Poland's representation both at home and on the world stage, clearly taking a shift to the right, despite Civic Platform already being centre-right – Poland began conflicting with the EU over autonomy, rejecting the EU's migrant quotas, and increasing government control of public media. These shifts from centre to far-right have been sweeping the continent, and demonstrate not just a change in parties' attitudes, but a change in people's too.

Partisan politics is tiring. For decades, the public has watched as parties fight with each other for legislation, attempting to please donors and follow global consensus on the environment, immigration, and many other issues. This constant footrace has led a large majority of the European public to feel left behind by these parties, abandoned to take things into their own hands, with their government having seemingly no interest in making meaningful differences to their lives. Populism aims to appeal to these people. Populism doesn't want all these migrants coming in "taking jobs", it wants to protect your local jobs. Its policies don't represent the small financial elite, they represent you. They present themselves not as one of these entrenched bureaucratic political "elites", but as outsiders of the system that will not fall victim to the scandals and inefficiency of traditional parties. This sentiment has fuelled the rise of figures like Nigel Farage, who leverages anti-immigration rhetoric to position himself as a defender of the common person against the perceived failures of the political establishment.

One example of this "outsider" representation within campaigns is Italy's Five Star Movement, who gained massive traction in the country and led them to become the largest individual party in the 2018 election, with 32.7% of the country's vote. They were not founded by a businessman like Donald Trump, or a long-time bureaucrat like Joe Biden, but a political comedian, critical of the government like anyone in the country would be, in 2009. This separation between "the pure people" (populists) and "the corrupt elite" is also achieved through other, more authoritative methods, one of which being the Law and Justice Party's control of Polish media.



This allows them not just to frictionlessly spread their message throughout the country but portray the other media and those opposing them simply as part of this "corrupt elite," and their taking control of the media another great act of "the pure people." This separation, however, is not the only appeal of populism to the everyday citizen of Europe.

Returning to Poland and the Law and Justice Party (PiS), their judicial overhaul represents another overarching theme of populism. Firstly, we have to understand that, like they did with the media, populist parties often twist moves to consolidate power (which they do ironically enough, while scolding other governments for being “elites”) to serve these agendas, allowing them to hit many birds with one stone. Perhaps the PiS’s most egregious example of this was their overhaul of the Polish judicial system in 2021. This overhaul included many policies that, mostly, allowed the PiS to force some senior judges to retire, and give themselves more power over the process of picking their replacements. This politicises the judge’s bench, intended in every country where it is present across the world to be an unpartisan voice of authority. The European Union, as you might expect, were not happy about this. These policies violated multiple EU regulations surrounding the rule of law, democracy, and judicial independence. The undermining of the EU (performed by going through with this overhaul) also places them firmly between its citizens and the rest of the globe, “protecting” them from globalisation and influence on their actions from other within Europe. Despite all of this, however, through their depiction of their measures, not as power consolidation of course, but as “rooting out corrupt elitists,” they managed to keep some of their voter base on board. This voter base did not prove enough to win a majority in the next election, but it speaks volumes that they still managed to retain enough seats to be a powerful political force, only beaten by a coalition of multiple parties from their opposition, still keeping hold of 35.38% of the vote share. Their retention of such a large number of votes also serves as evidence that both their supposedly humanistic appeal through initiatives such as the “500+” child benefit program clearly aid the party’s popularity, and that their left-wing counterparts struggle to campaign effectively to pounce on mistakes and win elections. This is a notion that has been sweeping European populations in the last few years, that many left-wing parties are simply not competent enough, whether it be due to a lack of charismatic leaders, fragmentation, or a lack of a clear vision/direction, to compete with right-wing populist and far-right parties.

While they may be similar and be on the same side of the 2D political spectrum, some of their policies and attitudes differ. A large similarity is their protectionist positions on anti-immigration. One quality that populism prides itself on is its focus on the jobs of locals of their cities, rather than immigrants. Even though migrants all across Europe surely help balance labour markets and certainly add billions to GDPs, with estimates in Italy for example being 143.9 billion euros contributed to their economy in 2021, the populist right coalition remains insistent on passing blatantly anti-immigration laws such as the Cutro Decree, named after a shipwreck that killed 200 migrants of the coast of Calabria, Italy, which extended detention periods, limited asylum grants, increased penalties, and reduced humanitarian protections. Immigration remains a contentious issue across Europe, including the UK, with the EU receiving 5.1 million immigrants in 2022, and hundreds of thousands more attempting to enter countries illegally. Citizens especially become concerned when they see these kinds of immigration numbers, and this is for multiple reasons. Many may feel like they will have a harder time finding a job in the market with more competition from outside of their country and that these immigrants will stretch public services and drive demand in already exasperated housing markets. These are the people that populism targets with these policies, the “problems” that it attempts to solve. Far-right parties, on the other hand, generally enforce anti-immigration policies for other reasons. An example of this is Alternative for Germany (AfD), and their extremely negative attitudes towards immigration. This is driven, not by concern for the jobs of their citizens necessarily, but an extremely strong sense of nationalism, their co-chairman describing the immigration to Germany, which was 2.7 million people in 2022, as an “invasion of foreigners.” The AfD’s views were so extreme, in fact, that a large amount of the party is currently under intelligence surveillance as a “suspected extremist group.”

The far-right, in fact, is characterised in Europe by a sense of extreme nationalism that often results in racism, xenophobia, rejection of liberal democracy, and even in some cases extremism or violence. On the European stage, however, they are having a hard time finding allies among their populist counterparts. Many far-right parties are turning to populism to get more votes among their people and appeal to wider audiences, and already established populists, such as Italy's Brothers of Italy, wants to distance itself from the extreme nationalism of parties like The AfD, and are cutting them out of partnerships within the European parliament.



The definition of far-right, however, should not be this extreme. There was a time when the populist parties of today would be considered the extreme nationalists, and our far-right simply groups of chaos. Today, this has changed. Our baseline is moving further and further to the right, until one day populist parties like the Law and Justice Party will be the centre, and Labour extremist left. This has been intentional by the populist parties in Europe – they are trying to distance themselves from the far-right of yesterday, dodging the terrifyingly nationalist and extremist connotations. In Europe, this will have a sweeping effect in their European parliament. The Identity & Democracy group (ID), containing populist players such as Lega (Italy) and National Rally (France), was forecasted to gain 40 seats in June, along with the European Conservatives and Reformists, containing the PiS, the Brothers of Italy, and more, were expected to grow by 18 seats. While this was, like the French election, held off by left-wing voters, and the far right did not grow as much as some may have expected, they still rose through the power hierarchy of the EU parliament. And, once the floodgates open, there will be a much steeper rise in power for these coalitions. When it comes, this dramatic increase in power will finally give these, frankly, far-right parties a foothold in policy-making within the EU parliament and is expected to have repercussions such as stagnation on climate policy, splitting of foreign policy (including potentially increased sympathy towards Russia), and the erosion of democratic values within the EU, allowing for more “judicial overhauls” and media control as we saw with the Law and Justice Party in Poland.

Thank you for taking the time to delve into the shifting political landscape of Europe with me. The rise of right-wing populism and far-right parties is more than just a political trend—it’s a profound shift that challenges the very fabric of our democratic values and social cohesion. Personally, I find this deeply unsettling. The increasing polarization and erosion of inclusive values threaten to divide us further. What do these changes mean for the future of Europe, and how might they impact our own communities? I urge you to stay informed and engage in meaningful discussions about these issues. Consider how you can actively contribute to upholding the principles of democracy, equality, and inclusion in your own spheres. This isn’t just about politics; it’s about the kind of society we want to build together. Let’s ensure that we are vigilant and proactive in protecting the democratic values that unite us all.

How Labour Leadership Changes Dentistry

Learner articles: Srija

Keir Starmer's recent triumph in the UK elections has placed NHS dentistry under the spotlight, with the Labour Party leader pledging significant reforms to address the longstanding challenges within the sector. Starmer's agenda is centered on making dental care more accessible, affordable, and high-quality for everyone, addressing the urgent needs of both patients and practitioners.



One of the cornerstone promises of Starmer's Labour is the injection of substantial new funding into NHS dental services. Chronic underfunding over the years has left many dental practices struggling to meet demand, resulting in long waiting times and limited availability of appointments. In fact, a 2023 survey by the British Dental Association (BDA) found that 91% of NHS dental practices in England were unable to accept new adult patients, highlighting the severe access issues. The proposed additional funds aim to expand NHS dental capacity significantly. This would involve hiring more staff, including dentists, hygienists, and support personnel, as well as upgrading outdated dental equipment. By improving these resources, Labour hopes to reduce wait times and enhance the overall quality of patient care.

A critical aspect of the planned reforms is the overhaul of the current NHS dental contract. The existing contract has been widely criticized for its emphasis on the number of treatments provided rather than the quality of care. This approach often pressures dentists to see more patients in less time, which can compromise the quality of service and preventive care. A study published in the British Dental Journal in 2022 indicated that 70% of dentists felt the current contract did not allow them to deliver the quality of care they wished to provide. Labour's proposed contract reform would shift the focus towards preventive care and patient outcomes, allowing dentists to spend more time with each patient. This change aims to promote better oral health, increase patient satisfaction, and ultimately reduce the need for more extensive treatments in the future.

The shortage of NHS dentists is another pressing issue that Labour intends to tackle head-on. Many dentists are drawn to private practice due to better pay and working conditions, leading to a significant shortfall in NHS dental services. According to NHS Digital, there were 24,684 dentists working in NHS primary care in England in 2021/22, down from 24,684 in 2019/20, illustrating the decline in NHS dental professionals. To counter this, Labour plans to expand dental training programs and introduce incentives to attract more dentists to the NHS. These incentives may include financial bonuses, loan forgiveness, and improved working conditions, making NHS careers more appealing to new and existing dental professionals.

In conclusion, Keir Starmer's leadership and Labour's ambitious plans for NHS dentistry signal a potential turning point for the sector. With increased funding, reformed contracts, and targeted incentives for dental professionals, there is hope for a brighter future where dental care is accessible, affordable, and of the highest quality for everyone in the UK.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW LDE?

Nina

1. What year did the college open?

2. What is the name of the robot in the robotics lab?

3. What is Geoffrey's favourite quote?

4. What are the college colours?

5. How many books are in the library?

6. Which department has the most teachers?

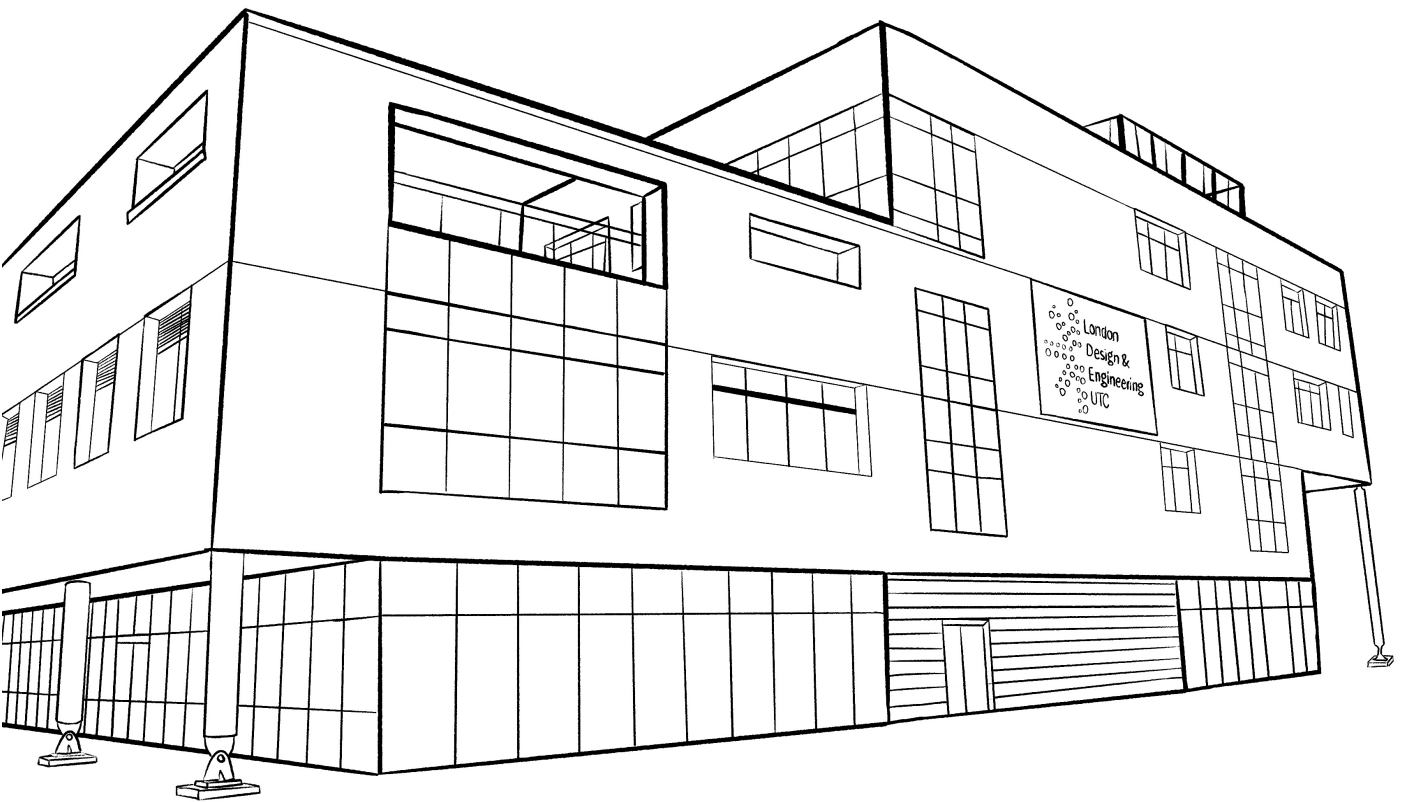
7. Who are our sponsors?

8. On average, how many learners are enrolled each year?

Score: /8

LDE COLOURING PAGE

Nina



Cez

Thanks for reading our newsletter. Take a break and print out a colouring page of LDE UTC!