

PRESS RELEASE



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YEOVIL COLLEGE HOSTS FIRST SKILLS CHALLENGE

Yeovil College has hosted its first Skills Challenge competition to highlight the technical ability of its Hospitality, Hair, Beauty and Construction students.

Over the course of a day, the students had to produce an entry for the competition which demonstrated their skill and talent in their particular subject. Their work was judged by a panel of staff and employers and the winners were presented with medals in an Olympics-style ceremony.

The Hospitality competitors were a mixture of full and part-time Professional Cookery students. They were asked to produce a signature dish of their own choice and could create a main meal or a dessert. The bronze medal went to Naomi Haskell, who works for the George Hotel in Crewkerne. She created a highly-praised trio of desserts, including cheesecake, pavlova and lime mousse. The silver medallist was Dorset County Council employee Donna Clements, who created a chocolate tart described by the judges as the best they had ever tasted and of commercial quality. Alvina Neal, who works for The Green in Sherborne, was awarded the gold medal and a gift voucher from employer-sponsor Hayne Butchers for her guinea fowl. The judges described the dish as wonderful and having a gorgeous flavour.



The Hair contestants each created a fantastic design, which included make up and costume as well as hair style. The judging panel included Caroline Gerrard of Gerrard's Hairdressers in Yeovil and the students received additional prizes kindly donated by Matrix. The silver medal went to Sara McQuillan for her floral creation, while Phoebe Gregoriades' Swan Princess took the gold.



The Beauty students also showed off significant creative talent at the event. Saffron Delakaye was presented with the bronze medal for her 'rock chick' look, while Jazmine Williams received silver for a very intricate make up design. The gold medal was awarded to Sorrell Hopkins, who created a stunning out-of-this-world design featuring silver body paint and delicate bead work. The students received additional prizes donated by Jane Iredale Mineral Make Up.

The construction prizes were presented in three categories, carpentry, plumbing and electrical. The students taking part included Level 1 and Level 2 students.

The carpentry bronze medal went to Jordan Slater, while the silver was awarded to Steve Smith, who was described by judges as showing every sign that he has the skills to develop into an excellent carpenter. Described by judges as an outstanding student who will make a very good apprentice, George Calcott received the gold medal.



In plumbing, the bronze medal went to Callum Otter, while Owen Brister received Silver. Owen has progressed from a Level 1 course at the College and recently completed his Level 2 qualification. The gold medal winner was Charles Cable, who was described as always demonstrating a high standard of work both in College and on site.

The bronze and silver medal winners for electrical were Ben Maddox and Ian Fry respectively. Gold medal winner Chris Williams was highly praised by the judges, who said that he had maintained a high standard throughout his course and achieved Distinctions in all his exams. Chris was also described as someone who is an excellent example to his peers, always encouraging and willing to help.

The medals were presented by Yeovil College Principal James Hampton. He said *“Yeovil College decided to hold its own Skills Championship competition to highlight the talent of students in a number of craft areas. We were delighted that so many employers wanted to get involved today, kindly helping judge the competitions and offering additional prizes. I’m always proud to see the high standard of work produced by our students for events like this and there have been some fantastic entries for this particular competition. They really demonstrate the high standards our students reach and their stunning level of creativity. It’s the result of a lot of hard work by both students and is a credit to the staff who teach them. We hope to hold another Skills Championship in 2012 and next year’s students will have a tough act to follow!”*

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Notes to Editors

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