

CAMPUS

Round and about at Shrewsbury College
Issue No 2 November 2009



This special issue has been produced to mark national Colleges Week so that readers around Shrewsbury and Shropshire can see just how much quality and variety Shrewsbury College has to offer

ROCK 'N ROLAND!

College is home to prestigious new music academy



Two leading names from the music world joined students at the college to launch a new music academy.

Charlatans drummer Jon Brooks and Perry Ap Gywnedd, the guitarist from Pendulum, opened the new Roland Music Academy at the London Road campus.

Roland is one of the world's biggest manufacturers of musical instruments and it has chosen Shrewsbury College as home for its latest specialist academy in the UK. Jon formally opened the Roland Academy and then held a drums workshop, while Perry held a guitar workshop in the afternoon.

Jon is a founder member of the Charlatans, which has notched up record sales of over two million and had three number one albums. In a long career as a session guitarist, Perry worked with such artists as Fatboyslim, Natalie Imbruglia, Sophie Ellis Bextor and Mylene Farmer before joining Pendulum in 2006.



Other workshops were staged in the new purpose-built Synthesiser, V-drums and Production suites – as well as the Roland studio. Shrewsbury College is one of only two colleges to have such a facility.

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College accepts 160 students without funding

THE COLLEGE has recruited more than 160 extra young people this year for whom it will not be funded. This follows a similar experience in 2008 when young people unable to obtain jobs or apprenticeships swelled the numbers looking for college places.

“The College is funded up to a fixed number of young people. We either have to turn them away or accept them without additional funding,” said Principal Greg Molan.

“We feel that we have to help to ensure that sufficient places are available for all who wish to study, but we are left with the bill for these extra students.

“In the past, colleges exceeding their recruitment targets would have had this recognised with a higher level of funding in the following year, but this hasn't happened for this year.”

Last year, the College missed out on £300,000 of funding and this figure is set to grow.

It is clear that young people are choosing to study vocational qualifications which will improve their chances in a difficult employment market.

Greg Molan continued: “The country and the county cannot afford to have a generation of young people who are out of work and without qualifications. Here at College we recognise that public funds are tight, but we feel that properly funding the education of the next generation should be well up the list of priorities for any government.”

Apprentices round-up



One local employer who has long appreciated the value of training his Apprentices in conjunction with Shrewsbury College is Grant Mitchell, founder of Telford-based GM Heating and Plumbing. "I have had a lot of Apprentices with the College over the years," he said. Four of the current generation are pictured above: from left, James Jenks (level 3), Ben Brooks (level 2), Greg Rushton (level 3) and Kevin Hollyhead (level 2).



Half the county of Shropshire is represented by this group of Advanced Apprentices. The companies that employ them are based in Shrewsbury, Telford, Broseley, Ludlow and Bridgnorth – and demonstrate just how widespread and important the county's manufacturing base is. These five will complete their Advanced Apprenticeships this year, which makes them very valuable asset to their employers. From left to right are Richard Holland, an Apprentice with William A Lewis of Shrewsbury; David Heale, with Pelloby of Halesfield; Simon Adams, with Staunton Manufacturing of Ludlow; Ben Oliver, with Syspal of Broseley; and Will Marsh, with Severn Valley Railway in Bridgnorth.

Acorn Electrical in Market Drayton have trained seven Apprentices in conjunction with Shrewsbury College over the past 10 years - and three of them are there now. Owner Lee Payne is seen congratulating the latest to achieve his certificate, Adrian Hubbard.



It was a desire to get his hands dirty that led Finn Walton to give up civil engineering at university and seek an Apprenticeship at the local garage where he lives in Pontesbury. Two years on he has no regrets.

"It was the right thing for me to do. I had been at university

nearly two years when I realised that I didn't want to be a civil engineer, I wanted to work with cars. I really wanted to be hands-on, so I asked the Plough Garage about taking me on as an Apprentice and they agreed."

Finn has now completed his Apprenticeship, spending one day a week at Shrewsbury College and four days a week at the garage, and is going on to do his Advanced Apprenticeship. The quality of his work and his commitment won him the Apprentice of the Year trophy at the recent College Technology School awards. Plough Garage owner Terry Evans is seen congratulating Finn on completing his Apprenticeship



As well as teaching Apprentices for companies around the county, the college now has some Apprentices of its own.

At right is Robert Bound, who is seen with the certificate awarded to mark the end of his basic Apprenticeship. "I am now on my Advanced Apprenticeship. I had done a year of general engineering and was going on to do a higher level course when the chance for an Apprenticeship came up. Once I complete the apprenticeship I hope to stay on and do the HNC."



Pictured above are three new Apprentices - Jodie Hillage, Ellie Walton and Lewis Hooper. Jodie and Ellie are doing their Apprenticeships in Business Administration, with Jodie based in the School of Service Industries at Radbrook campus and Ellie in Human Resources at London Road. Lewis started at the college as a brickwork student and after a year was accepted for an Apprenticeship in the Estates Department.



Apprentice Nathan Buckley won the annual Skillbuild competition between Carpentry & Joinery and Bricklaying, which is sponsored by the Federation of Master Builders. Nathan is an Apprentice with local builder David English, like his brother Jack before him.

Coming up at College

November

Wednesday 4th, 5.30–8pm, Open evening at Radbrook Campus

Wednesday 11th, 5.30–8pm, Open evening at Main Campus

Thursday 19th, 5.30–8pm, Open evening Telford Construction Centre

W/C 16 Nov, 4–6pm, subject tasters for Years 9, 10 and 11

January 2010

Thursday 21st, 5–7.30pm, Advice event at Main Campus, ALL courses

February

W/C 1st, 4–6pm, subject tasters for Years 9, 10 and 11

Thursday 4th, 3–7pm, Apprenticeship event at Main Campus

May

Tuesday 4th, 5–7.30pm, Advice event at Main Campus - ALL courses

June

End of year Art Show and Fashion Show – dates to be confirmed

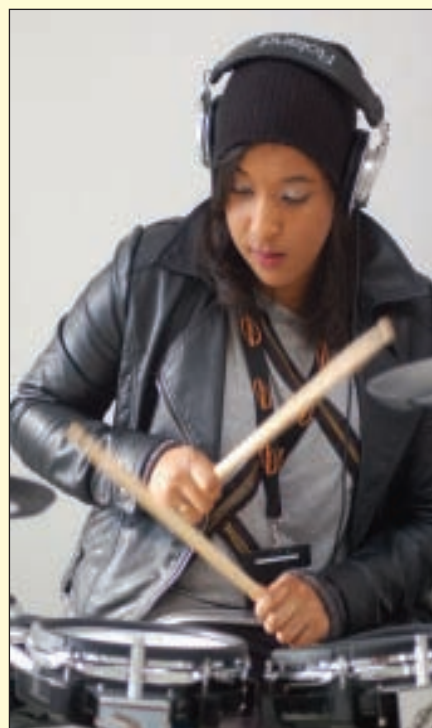
Tuesday 22nd, 5–7.30pm, Advice event at Main Campus - ALL courses

July

Wed 14th, 5–7.30pm, Advice event at Main Campus - for ALL courses



Roland launch day was a great chance for students to play with Perry, drum with Jon and try out the hi-tech equipment in the new workshops that becoming a Roland Academy has brought to the College

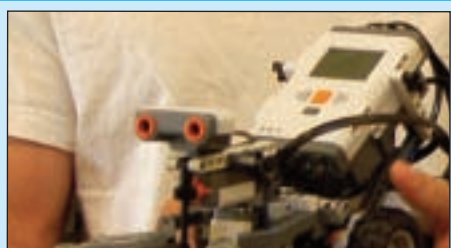


Gavin kicks off new year

This year's Activate - the Freshers' Fair to introduce new students to the College - was kicked off in style by Telford United defender Gavin Cowan at London Road.

The College attracts many students from the Telford area and it also has a construction centre at Stafford Park, so Gavin was the perfect choice to launch the day, especially as he has been a student at the College and done so much for sport here. He's also played for Shrewsbury Town as well as Telford United.

Part-time Higher Ed numbers up by 20%



Mars mission

Since introducing the National Diploma IT Practitioners course the college has invested in 10 miniature robots which the students need for the second year of their studies. They programme the robots and have to develop a robotic system themselves - building it, testing it and running it. The most recent challenge was to create a Mars Rover, designed to tackle the terrain that America's real Mars Rover came across. As this is something that has actually happened there was a great sense of realism about it.

MORE THAN 220 people are now studying part-time for university level qualifications at the College, a record increase of 20% on the previous year. In addition, almost 50 full-time university level students are enrolled with us.

The biggest increases have been in Business HNC, which has risen to 21 and Accountancy Technician which has jumped to 26. Foundation Degrees have been a major growth area. The college has a total of 69 enrolments and is steadily increasing the subjects available.

The College teaches HE in partnership with Staffordshire and Edge Hill universities and a number of professional

bodies. College university level courses include some BA Honours Degrees, Foundation Degrees, Higher National Diplomas and Higher National Certificates.

Going away to university is expensive but that doesn't have to be the case. The big rise in part-time enrolments for this academic year show that Shropshire people are getting the message about learning locally.

Students in Italy for Red Cross event

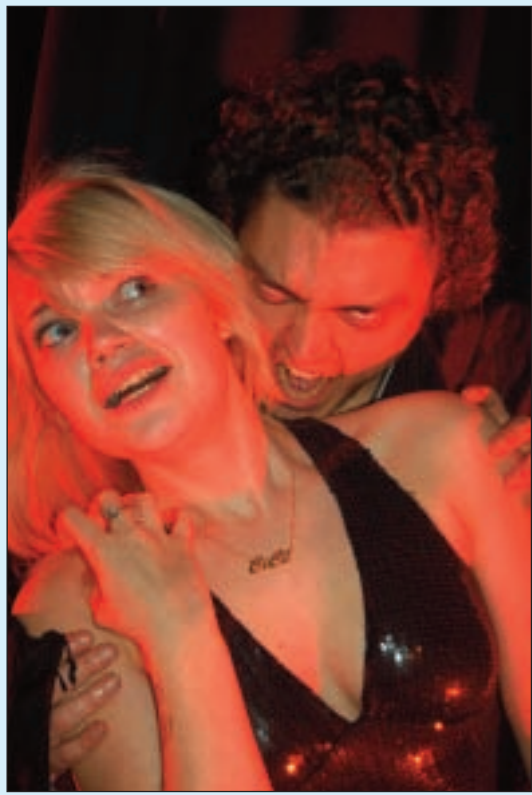
Throughout last year a group of Travel & Tourism students raised cash for the Red Cross (total £1,000) and held workshops for other tutor groups on the work of the Red Cross. So when the international aid organisation held its 150th anniversary celebrations in Italy they were invited to be part of the group representing the British red Cross - among thousands from around the world.



The power of pink

As part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month Travel & Tourism students held a range of 'pink' events at London Road and Radbrook which raised a total of some £300.





Drac's snack sets tone for terror!

Two Fright Night shows at College gave students the chance to reveal their true selves. Getting ready for the evenings of "blood, gore and performing arts" in the college theatre are Chris Wheway as Dracula and Cici Howells as his lunch, while the fearful foursome peering through the curtain are Chris, Josh Meredith, Adam Clark and A.J. Groves.



Edge Hill at Radbrook Students will benefit from new relationship

THE COLLEGE and Edge Hill University have greatly extended their co-operation – the start of a much closer strategic relationship for the long-term benefit of both. Edge Hill's local base is now at Radbrook, with administration and course delivery based there.

The move fits in well with our own curriculum, as Care, Childcare, Education and Counselling are taught at Radbrook.

Edge Hill is teaching the part-time BA Honours Degree in Primary Teaching; Foundation Degrees in Supporting Teaching and Learning, Early Years, and Professional Development; the Post-Graduate Certificate in Specific Learning

Difficulties; and Early Years Professional Status. The emphasis being put on continuing professional development at Radbrook will benefit teachers and teaching assistants.

Looking to the longer term, the University and the College are developing a strategic partnership agreement that they believe will have beneficial funding implications for students.



One of the first students to benefit from Edge Hill's relocation to Radbrook is Ruth Ferguson (left) who studied Health and Social Care at Radbrook. "My big ambition is to be a primary school teacher but if Edge Hill had not come to Shrewsbury I would have had to go away to university full-time, which is something I didn't want to do and probably would not have been able to do," says Ruth. "Edge Hill being local will make all the difference in being able to fulfil my ambition to teach. It means a lot to me - I can stay with my family, save a lot of money and study what I really want."



A set of "interactive babies" that starkly show the effects of drug and alcohol abuse on babies in the womb has been bought by the College to raise awareness of what the unborn can suffer.

The set also includes a "shaken baby" to highlight how easily violence can cause brain damage. Tutor Teresa Spiers and student Cathy Nurser are seen with some of the "babies".

As well as using them in the College, they will be taken into schools to explain this very important message to pupils.

Women show the way in technology success

WOMEN have shown they are a force to be reckoned with in technology subjects and a match for men in winning top honours in vocational skills.

Of the 28 cups and salvers presented at the College's School of Technology annual awards, 25% went to women. The skills in which they excelled included engineering, motor vehicle, painting and decorating, welding and construction.

According to Harkesh Ram, Head of the School of Technology, this group will be followed by many more. "Our results compare very favourably with national standards. Every year our Technology Awards celebrate the success of students who have tried hardest and achieved most against



strong competition, which underlines just how impressive the success of these women really is."

The group of women has broken down another barrier as well – age. They range in age from 16 to 42, demonstrating that in modern Further Education age is no barrier to gaining vocational qualifications. The group

included full-time and part-time students, and apprentices. The seven were only a few of the total number of women in the School - a number that has risen in the new academic year

Pictured, from left, are: Hayley-Anne Rollings, 23, of Bridgnorth (Foundation Degree in Construction); Hayley Jones, 25, of Whitchurch, (National Certificate in Construction); Kay Pritchett, 42, of Leegomery (Foundation Degree in Construction); Sarah Price, 21, of Broseley (welding apprenticeship); Sharon Trowsdale, 38, of Shrewsbury (C&G Certificate in Painting and Decorating); Leanne Jones, 18, of Shrewsbury (National Diploma in Engineering). Sian Oliver, 16, of Broseley (Motor Vehicle Certificate) was unable to attend the ceremony.

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