

# CAMPUS

Round and about at Shrewsbury College  
Issue No 5 December 2010



## Work begins on £3m Technology refurb

Completion date set  
for next August



### What Katie did next ...

Travel and Tourism student Katie Pearce came such a close second in the national ITT Student of the Year awards that the judges decided - for the first time ever - formally to acknowledge her impressive attitude and achievements with a special award. So Katie found herself heading for the House of Commons, along with tutor Phil Castle, to receive her well-earned honour. It was through her T&T work that Katie discovered the British Red Cross, and she is now a volunteer supporter of their work. She is also a qualified trampoline coach and offers taster courses to get other students interested.

### 50 not out!

Next year marks the 50th anniversary of the official opening of London Road campus - and we would like to hear from anyone with information about the College's history over the half century. Just call us on 01743 342444

**The College has appointed a Shropshire firm to carry out a £3 million refurbishment of the Technology Block at the London Road campus.**

Knockin-based PaveAway, which started on site last month, also has other prestigious local schemes to its credit, including Ludlow Library and two projects for Concord College near Shrewsbury.

The College moved quickly after receiving a £1 million grant from the Government to which we added £2 million from our reserves to make the project possible.

"Several companies bid for the contract but we appointed PaveAway because, in addition to meeting the required tender criteria, it is a Shropshire company, so the project is assisting the local economy," said Greg Molan. "Support for Apprenticeships was one of the selection criteria and PaveAway already has two Apprentices who are training at this College and will recruit a third to work on the project."

The work will be completed by August 2011 ready for the block to be occupied by students the following month. Temporary classrooms and workshops are being set up to minimise disruption to classes.

### Big investment in new college IT and phones

The College has invested £600,000 in a world-class IT network across the two Shrewsbury campuses, with the high-speed infrastructure being installed by Extreme Networks in partnership with Vodafone over recent weeks.

In addition, the College has installed new phone systems at each campus. "Our existing IT and comms infrastructure was showing its age and it was time for change," said Technical and Information Services

Manager Robin Breakwell. "The new IT network is a secure and reliable foundation for us to introduce innovative new services and applications to benefit staff and students."

As the College is a local centre for the delivery of Degree and Post Graduate level courses in partnership with Staffordshire and Edge Hill Universities, that was another reason to go for the highest quality facilities available.



Joe Price and his winning work, with two joints in detail

## Apprentice picked to represent UK

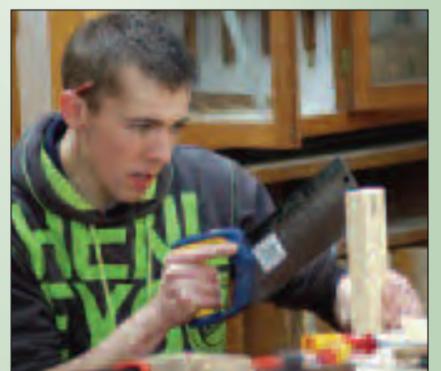
A Shropshire Apprentice has been selected for the UK team that will take part in next year's WorldSkills competition in London. Described as the 'Skills Olympics', over a thousand competitors from 52 countries will take part in the four days of competition next October, with 150,000 visitors expected.

WorldSkills began 60 years ago but this is only the third time it has been held in the UK - and Shrewsbury College site carpentry Apprentice Joe Price will be part of the home team. Joe is an Apprentice with Shrewsbury-based builders JR Slee.

Joe's quest to be part of the UK team began when he won the West Midlands regional heat of SkillBuild for site joinery in April. That was a major achievement in itself but he went on to compete in Squad UK elimination events in England and Northern Ireland, finally winning through to a place in the squad. The next step for Joe as part of Squad UK will be specialist coaching in psychology and fitness.

### Jack joins the top three in country

Another of our Carpentry & Joinery Apprentices has been named one of the top three bench joiners in the UK. Jack Counsell won bronze in a tough three-day competition at Coleg Menai in Bangor. To get to the national final of Skillbuild he first of all won the West Midlands regional competition - one of 15 regional heats with over 1,500 students from more than 180 colleges competing. The 100 highest scoring Apprentices were then invited to compete in the national finals at Bangor. Jack is apprenticed to restoration and conservation specialists Treasure and Son of Ludlow, who have been very supportive.



# Major makeovers at campuses

New look helps get message out

The Reception areas at London Road and Radbrook have had major makeovers as part of the "Getting the Message out" project, with LR also seeing a reorganisation of accommodation for some support staff departments.

The emphasis as you walk through the main entrances at both campuses is now on information about the College, its students, purpose and achievements.

The large and eye-catching panels now decorating the walls have been designed to help inform internal and external customers about our key messages. The introduction of Plasma screens at receptions not only means we can highlight the various successes and achievements of our students but that we can keep these fresh and updated.

Two apprentices taken on by the Estates team were a great help in getting the work done in time for the start of term.

This is very much work in progress and there are plans to have 'flagship' panels for many areas of the College, in addition to those for BYFA and Roland. Now also in place at Radbrook are panels for Hospitality & Catering and Hair & Beauty.

In addition to the Reception area, work at Radbrook has included a new training kitchen within the refectory,



The welcoming new layout at London Road. Also welcoming, the pool table in the new common room is proving a major attraction.



upgrading a hair salon, upgrading of Elements reception, redecoration of the beauty salons and creation of a spa.

At London Road, Reception has been moved closer to the main entrance and the whole area has been redecorated; the statue of Archimedes has come out of storage and is now a permanent feature in front of Reception; the student common room has been moved and its new facilities include a jukebox, pool table, games machine and laptop workstations; Student

Services now occupy the space vacated by Reception and the office previously occupied by Marketing, which has moved to D3.

The A floor corridor from the main entrance now contains student focused facilities and help.



Catering Foundation Learning students, from left, Daniel Thomas, Chris Rees, and Gareth Locke. Below are three of last year's initial group, Elizabeth Humphreys, Liam Mills and Nathan Piggott.



## New learning route launched at College

The latest stage in the reform of education for 14-19 year olds, Foundation Learning, has been introduced full-time at College this term after being successfully trialled last year.

Foundation Learning brings to four the number of qualification routes available to young people, the others being Apprenticeships, GCSEs and Diplomas.

Foundation Learning combines vocational learning with functional skills and personal and social development, giving students choice and opportunity to specialise. We first offered it in four subject areas - Care, Construction, Catering and Motor Vehicle - and the concept proved so successful that it has now been extended. Catering is again among the subject areas offering Foundation Learning, along with Art, Performing Arts, IT, Sport and Public Services, Construction, Electrical, Plumbing, Motor Vehicle, Engineering, Care, and Hair and Beauty.

"If you come to college straight from school without great results, Foundation Learning can get you started on the road to a career," said catering tutor Brenda Norton.

"Many of our students come here with little in the way of skills or self-confidence and building their confidence is an important part of the programme.

"It takes perseverance but Foundation Learning offers a route to gaining higher level qualifications and going on to a rewarding career."

## Ellie says farewell ... and hello again!

HR's first Apprentice, Ellie Walton, said farewell recently as her Apprenticeship came to a successful conclusion .... and was back a few days later in a full-time role as Job Centre Plus administrator for Business Development. Ellie is seen at her 'farewell' receiving her certificate from Jayne Spence, with HR colleagues Louise Yates and Carmen Bliss watching.



Halloween gave Performing Arts students the chance to stage a three-evening run of a spooky revue at the London Road theatre. Jamie Edwards is seen getting the frighteners put on him by fellow HND students (from left) Katie Brisbourne, Amy Hart, Dinah Richardson and Sophie Pitcher. Below, Jemma Game is spell-ing it out for Libby Randall watched by (from left) Thomas Moreton, Rikki Pacini, Amber Brooks and Joe Milward.



## 'Mini-EU' in Admin

The Office Administration course has become something of a mini-EU, with students from several European countries working for qualifications that will help them get jobs in the UK. Pictured are two girls from Poland and one each from Romania and Hungary, all of whom already speak excellent



English and are looking to work and settle in Shropshire. "I wanted a qualification that would help me either to get a good job or go to university, and that is why I chose to come here and do Admin," said Magda Kowalewska from Poland, who spoke no English at all when she moved to Much Wenlock with her family five years ago. She is pictured at left along with Martyna Migas, also from Poland, Ramona Gaspar from Hungary, and Cristina Tofan from Romania

Student Lauren Walsh reflects on how she has been helped along a difficult path from troubled school years to planning for university



I started college in September 2007, enrolling on Combined Hair and Beauty as I had an interest in this area. I was so glad to get on to the course as I hadn't had the best experience at school and had been a bit of a troublesome pupil!

Because of this I was really scared that it was all going to go wrong for me at college. My tutor thought it would be a good idea if I started meeting Jill Ashford (Inclusion Co-ordinator) for support. At first I didn't think it would work but I actually soon started to find these weekly meetings really helpful because we could talk about anything and she seemed to understand me.

I soon found that even though there were some aspects of the course I liked, it wasn't what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. I had a good hard think and decided that I would like to work in travel and tourism as I know it is a growing industry with plenty of opportunities.

Jill helped me with my application to Level 3 Travel and Tourism and I was really pleased when they accepted me! I love all aspect of the course, I love learning about the different places in the world and it has made me want to travel and experience all different cultures – something I would never have even had the confidence of doing when I walked in through the doors of this College in 2007.

I like all my tutors on the course and they have helped and encouraged me such a lot. I am certain that I will get

this qualification and I am now in the process of applying to university – which is unbelievable when I think back to those dark days of school!

**Jill Ashford writes:** Lauren is an amazing person. She had all sorts of issues that she needed help with when she first came here and I was really pleased to be given the opportunity to mentor and monitor her.

We gradually built up a trusting relationship and were able to talk through scenarios and work out better ways for Lauren to deal with the sticky bits. She has been committed to working with me all along and has just grown into someone who I am really proud of.

**Phil Castle writes:** I have known Lauren for 18 months as a full-time Travel and Tourism student, and have seen her progression in terms of personal and social development during this time. She has matured into a responsible, hard working young lady with good communication skills.

Lauren has overcome many personal issues and barriers to become a determined and motivated student who has set herself high goals and aims in order to achieve her ambitions for a successful future.

Well done Lauren we are proud of your achievement – both academically and personally.

**Lauren is pictured above with Jill and Phil**



## Chris is contest tops

**Welding Apprentice Chris Parry (pictured left) has won a first prize in a national competition organised by the Institute of Sheet Metal Engineers. Chris is employed by Doncasters Aerospace in Shrewsbury and spends four days a week at his employers and one at College. He was one of five Shrewsbury College Apprentices who travelled to Nottingham for the finals.**

**Three other Apprentices won their way through to the regional finals of the annual welding competition sponsored by BOC - Ryan Pearson, Will Davis and Wayne Pritchard.**

## WorldSkills UK

### Media trio are in the medals

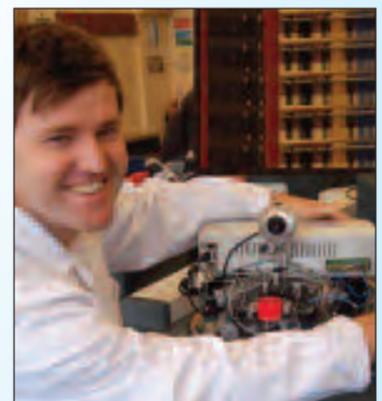
Three of our Media students won bronze in WorldSkills UK. The trio came up against colleges from all over England in the competition, the winners from which will go forward to compete in the international event in London next year. From left to right are Mike Dowgill, Eleanor Plant and Allan Riley.



## Robotics course to follow from skills contest

The College is to introduce a course in robotics, the first of its kind in Shropshire, after competing successfully in SkillBuild against universities and colleges that are well-established in the field.

We teamed up with Staffordshire University to enter a two-man team in the Mobile Robotics category at WorldSkills UK – with Michael Maguire, who is studying for a Foundation Degree in Electrical and Electronic Technology, flying the flag for the College. "I was the only part-time student in the competition and although we didn't win it was a great experience," he said. "The first challenge was to completely strip down our robot and rebuild it. A series of tasks followed, such as programming the robot to follow a particular course, detecting colours and object shapes, and then collect an item and bring it back to us." The two-day competition was held at Middlesex University in London.



Mike and the robot

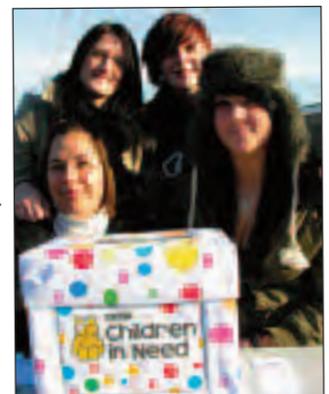
Said tutor John Watts: "We were very encouraged by how well our joint team performed against very strong and experienced competition from six other universities and colleges. It has confirmed our belief that adding robotics to our curriculum will be a good investment for future generations of students, helping Shrewsbury College to remain competitive with much larger city colleges and offering Shropshire students a very high standard of electrical and electronic engineering education."

## Pudsey power on campus

Four Administration students spent Children in Need day sitting next to a Ford Ka stuffed with balloons, selling guesses as to how many the car would hold.

Sallyann Evans, Lynsey Pattison (owner of the Ka), Emily Carson and Rosie Baldwin raised £80, with the winners, Mary and Alex, actually guessing the exact number - 162.

Meanwhile, Combined Hair & Beauty and Level 2 Hair students got together to hold a nails and hair pamper morning, with a cake stall as well, and raised some £260. One of the groups is pictured below.



These were just two of the numerous events that were organised at London Road and Radbrook on behalf of Children in Need and altogether the College's students and staff raised well over £400.



# College among select few chosen for ICC showcase

**The College was one of only 14 in England offered the chance to showcase skills at the Birmingham ICC for two days – and we were given the largest display area of any college**



**Clare Grant at work on the arch, and Jason Osmond with Barry Mason standing in front of the finished work**



The skills demonstrated by the team included Trompe L'oeil Stonework (imitation stonework); 3D effect lettering to create the AOC logo); an ageing effect; imitation marble; homemade ivy stencilling and imitation oak graining.

The College's work and our prime position attracted a great deal of interest from the delegates, many of whom had never really seen some of these skills before.

Construction demonstrated the full range of painting and decorating skills at the Annual Conference and Exhibition of the Association of Colleges, a prestigious event that brings together more than 1500 delegates from across the Further Education sector and attracts top speakers, including Vince Cable, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills.

A hundred colleges applied for showcase space and organisers told us we were among the chosen few because our application "stood

## Painting & Decorating star at conference

out". More than 90 companies and organisations had exhibition space in three halls at the ICC during the November conference.

Two staff members and five students from our College created a free-standing arch about five metres high, with its own wall, columns and pitched parapet on which to demonstrate.

Barry Mason, Painting & Decorating Lecturer, designed a large scale piece of work that could effectively show some of the traditional skills within the craft. He was assisted by Clare Grant, winner of the 2010 Technology Student of the Year Award, and Jason Osmond, who started on the 14-16 programme and is now an Apprentice with the College.

They were amazed at how it was all done and as the project unfolded it created a real buzz around the stand.



## TCC student is first for new site scheme

Midlands-based builders G F Tomlinson have linked up with our Telford Construction Centre to create a unique programme of work experience opportunities for local college students.

Called Working Together, the initiative aims to involve students from colleges in both Shrewsbury and Telford. The first student chosen to take part was Elliot Brooks, who is on the National Diploma in Construction.

The programme involved spending two weeks with the site team at the Wellington Civic Centre regeneration project. Elliot is seen on site with (from left) Joanne Green of Telford Construction Centre; Dave Wale, project manager for G F Tomlinson; and Councillor Eric Carter, Telford & Wrekin Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration & Property.



## How a crash paid off for Apprentice Chris

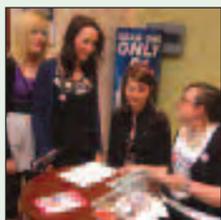
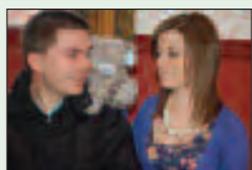
A former Apprentice here is now building a successful career in Australia – thanks to a car accident. Chris Powell, from Wem, says it was a crash in Shrewsbury that finally decided him to try life Down Under.

"A close friend from college had been in Melbourne for some time and kept urging me to join him," said Chris. "I had completed my Apprenticeship as a Painter and Decorator but there wasn't much work around and I was tempted, although I didn't like the idea of such a big upheaval.

"Then one day I was on my way to a job when the car crashed on an icy road. That focused my mind on having to do something with my life. You can't always go with the flow, you sometimes have to make things happen, so I did."

Now he lives in Melbourne and works as a self-employed sub-contractor. "There is a shortage of skilled people across most trades in Australia so what I learned at college and the fact that I served an Apprenticeship means that I have no trouble getting work," said Chris, who is pictured when he turned up at College to say hello during a recent visit home.

**Four groups of Health and Social Care students took up fund-raising long-term, organising a series of events – each for a different charity – over a number of months. They kicked off with a fun fair to benefit a school in Zimbabwe with which one of the students has contacts, and then moved on to a party at the Lord Hill Hotel in aid of Help for Heroes. A sponsored walk followed and finally a quiz night at the Shrewsbury Town ground on behalf of Shrewsbury Ark and Combat Stress. Our pictures are from various events.**



**The Start-up group in Sport and Public Uniformed Services raised more than £60 as part of the recent Guide Dog Awareness Week. Public Services tutor Paula Cleaver said that as Jane Carswell, a member of staff at the College, has a guide dog this had raised the students' awareness and they were keen to learn more about guide dogs and sight impairment - which happened to tie in nicely with Guide Dog Awareness Week. Jane is seen with some of the students involved in the fund-raising.**

**NEW PART-TIME COURSES START IN JANUARY!**  
Tel 01743 342333  
[www.shrewsbury.ac.uk](http://www.shrewsbury.ac.uk)