



**FE WEEK ON LOCATION AT EUROSILLS 2014**



**OCTOBER 2 TO 4, LILLE, FRANCE**

A SUPPLEMENT  
PRODUCED  
BY



IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH





# IN COMPETITION TO IMPROVE ON ALL FRONTS



@REBECCACOONEY  
REBECCA.COONEY@FEWEEK.CO.UK

Welcome to this special *FE Week* supplement brought to you on location from EuroSkills 2014 Lille — where TeamUK picked up an amazing three golds, six silvers and three medallions for excellence (but more about that later).

Travelling to Lille with the talented 21 young men and women representing their country in 16 different skills, the message I heard over and over again from former competitors, training managers and even current competitors was that skills competitions change lives.

Competitors find skills and confidence they never knew they had and see their job prospects flourish, but they in turn change lives by inspiring other people.

Skills Minister Nick Boles acknowledged this in his message of support for TeamUK

ahead of the competition, saying: “I am completely in awe of anybody who actually has a practical skill which they are excellent at, since I have precisely none.

“They are ambassadors for their country and I hope they make us and their families very proud.”

The competitors were all chosen from the WorldSkills UK squad — a group of more than 100 young people who are training for WorldSkills in Sao Paulo, Brazil, next year.

The squad will be whittled down to a team early next year.

The UK treats EuroSkills as a training opportunity, to see how competitors will cope on the international stage, so getting into the EuroSkills team doesn't mean competitors will necessarily go onto WorldSkills.

Nevertheless, EuroSkills team members will be hoping that a good performance in Lille could push them one step

nearer to Brazil.

Skills competitions can also help drive up standards at home as Keith Smith, interim chief executive of the Skills Funding Agency and Jenny Shackleton, WorldSkills assessment adviser told me, which you can read more about on page three.

On pages four and five read about what I got up to during the competitions and on pages six, seven, 10 and 11 you can find out more about the competitions and the competitors themselves.

On pages 12 and 13 you can read coverage of the closing ceremony (and more on who from TeamUK won what) and on pages 14 and 15 we have the results and interviews with some of the top performers.

Our coverage of WorldSkills will continue online in the run up the Skills Show in November and WorldSkills next year so to keep up with the action, visit the *FE Week* website or follow @FEWeek.

# WHY DO WE BOTHER WITH SKILL COMPETITIONS?



MICHAEL OSBALDESTON  
SKILLS ADVISER, CITY & GUILDS GROUP

hand it can lead to tension, uneasiness and bad feelings between two peers. On the other hand, it can also push them to be the best they can possibly be.

Ultimately, it's about embracing competition and channelling it in the right way. It might not always make for a harmonious office environment for example, but when it comes to skills it can be instrumental in raising standards.

I've been an advocate of skills competitions for many years, and it's encouraging to see the ever-increasing enthusiasm for them. I think about WorldSkills London 2011; although the UK had been involved in WorldSkills for many years, to host it in our own capital brought the power of skills competitions to the foreground.

And since then, we've seen WorldSkills' international profile continuing to grow. In fact, the impact of 2011 led to the government pledging to support a UK version of WorldSkills — aka The Skills Show. Every year, this huge event takes over the NEC and hosts upwards of 80,000 young people — our future workforce. It's now a firm date on the education calendar.

So why is this such good news? Think about what I've just said about the

benefits of competition and how it raises standards. Why is this?

We're competitive by nature. And by encouraging individuals, and indeed whole nations, to be seen as the best of the best in a chosen skill means they'll strive for excellence. They'll always look to better themselves.

For young people, they'll want to do everything they can to win. They'll try and up their game to win the accolade of being the best at their chosen skill in the country, and in the whole world.

And this in turn pushes tutors and trainers to improve their practices. Overall, standards are raised across the board.

And of course skills competitions are also there to inspire. Whether it's WorldSkills, EuroSkills, or The Skills Show, it's an opportunity for young people to try out different skills, meet experts and employers from different industries, and ultimately think about what they want to do in the future.

We're always hearing about how poor careers advice is in schools; teachers don't have the time, or even the knowledge of all the different routes available to young people, and all too often we hear about

young people being directed down the university route because it's the norm. So skills competitions and events are a brilliant opportunity to open people's eyes — and potentially open doors — to their futures.

What next? The world is clearly committed to skills competitions. I'm writing from Lille as we celebrate EuroSkills and recently spent the week at Swiss Skills, which brought together 200,000 young people.

Next month is the third annual Skills Show in Birmingham. And of course, next year is WorldSkills Sao Paolo.

I'm not alone in thinking that we need to keep this momentum going and work to make skills competitions bigger and better, with even more of a 'wow' factor. In the face of skills gaps and high youth unemployment across the world, it has never been more important to highlight the incredible career opportunities skills can offer, and drive standards up.

EuroSkills Lille has been a brilliant event. The Skills Show 2014 promises to be even better than last year. Doing even better in 2015 and beyond will be a challenge, but one we should grab with both hands.

# The benefits of critical reflection

The UK skills sector has to be prepared to look critically at itself in order to fully benefit from all that skills competitions have to offer, WorldSkills assessment adviser Jenny Shackleton has warned.

Speaking exclusively to *FE Week* on location at EuroSkill 2014 in Lille, the former Wirral Metropolitan College principal said the UK needed to be prepared to learn from other countries.

Ms Shackleton, whose role includes regulating competition standards to make sure competitors are being tested to the right level, and making sure those high standards feed back into providers, said there was no one country that the UK should be emulating, but there were useful ideas to draw upon from a range of countries.

“Switzerland is an attainable, recognisable role model,” she said.

“We use the term skill too readily in the UK — we've reduced its importance. Whereas Switzerland more readily recognises what a skill is and they're more readily tied to registration and recognition.

“Also, their system hasn't been tinkered with forever in the way ours has — they probably don't invest any more than the UK does in their education and training system, but because they're not constantly pulling it up by the roots, actually they've been able to build.

“So it's very stable not necessarily flexible, whereas the UK is flexible, but not necessarily skilful.”

The other role model, she said, was Finland.

“They are superb — they have mandatory competitions within their education system,” she said.

“They have a very collaborative, very co-operative education and training system and they use the WorldSkills competitions for a very broad improvement and development programme for their country.

“They don't pick out the winners, they assume that everybody, properly educated and trained will be a winner and they're generally proved pretty right, so they don't come in the top five but they're always up there.

“So I would say doing it a combination of the Finnish way and the Swiss way is perfectly doable.”

She added: “There so lots of things that could be done, there's almost a blueprint there, if only people would see it and look beyond the short term and the quick buck.”

She added that the UK had a tendency to focus on qualifications rather than standards.

“There is a distinction,” she said. “Qualifications enable you to go into a job of work and do it probably perfectly satisfactorily. They're for entry but they do not keep up with the standards.”

Instead, she said, we need to move towards a system of recognition and registration, where teachers and experts are recognised through industry bodies.

The easiest way to begin raising standards, she said, was through the new apprenticeship trailblazers being developed by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), along with employers.

“We know that for the trailblazers there is the expectation that standards will be concise and that there will be an end test — which is almost an exact replica of a WorldSkills competition,” she said.

“So the model is there but there's an awful lot of noise in the middle — agencies, awarding bodies, past practice, old machinery, lots and lots of potential blockages for which we need solutions.”

And Ms Shackleton said the UK's FE sector had to capitalise on the momentum created by involvement in



WorldSkills assessment adviser Jenny Shackleton at EuroSkills

skills competitions to ensure a lasting impact.

She said: “The structure is there, the opportunity is there — but the UK has to recognise this opportunity and seize it with both hands.”

EuroSkills also provided *FE Week* with the opportunity to catch up with Team UK official delegate Keith Smith in his first skills competition in the role.

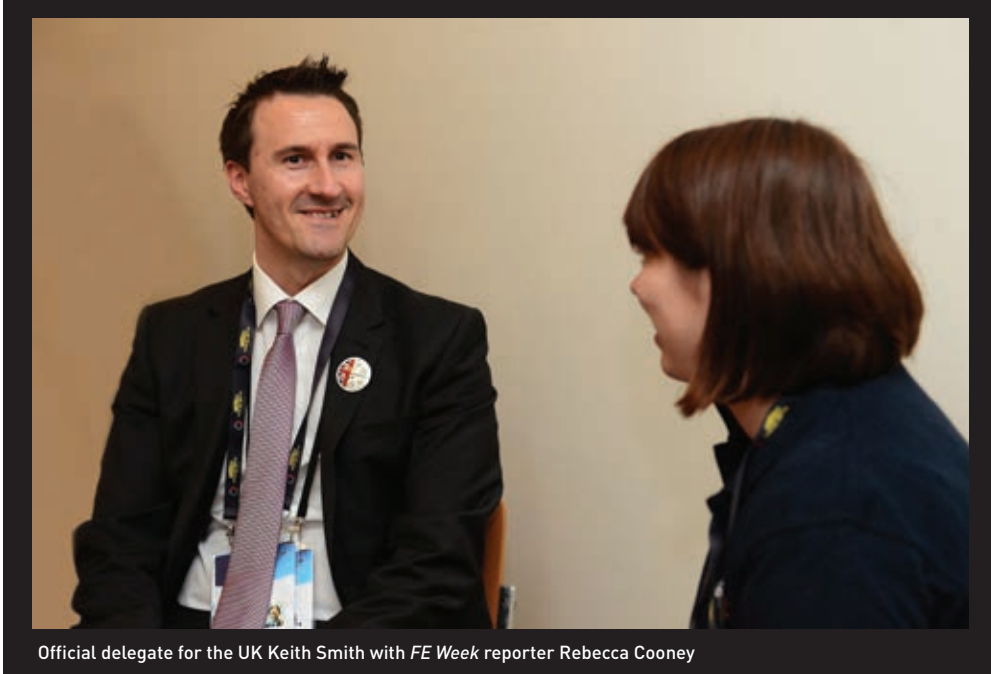
The interim chief executive of the Skills Funding Agency said: “Events such as EuroSkills are so special, because it's not just competitors that are coming.

“As with the UK annual Skills Show in England you've got the centrepiece of the competitions, but you've got tens of thousands of people — primary school kids, secondary school kids or parents, who are normally outside the sector — to come and have that emotional connection to what FE is all about.

“And I just think we need more of that. The future's bright in that sense — I think we've got a really solid base to build on.”

He added it was important to use competitions to help set new standards.

“Competitors set the benchmark for what that top



Official delegate for the UK Keith Smith with *FE Week* reporter Rebecca Cooney

competitor has to be,” he said. “Whether you're doing bricklaying or hairdressing, and we want to try and learn from that and help colleges and providers in the UK to benefit from that.”

And he believed WorldSkills has an important role to play in reminding the sector what it is that policy and funding mechanisms achieve.

“At the centre of every skills competition we have young people showcasing why we're all doing to job,” he said.

“When you're involved in trying to create the right conditions for a thriving FE sector and you come out to the show and you see the reality of it, after all the stuff you do back in the day job, it gives you the motivation to keep doing the job.”

# FE Week

Editor:	Chris Henwood	Financials:	Helen Neilly	Sponsor:	City and Guilds
Head designer:	Nicky Phillips		Victoria Boyle	Managing director:	Shane Mann
Designer:	Rob Galt	Sales manager:	Hannah Smith		
Sub editor:	Paul Offord	Sales executive:	Negar Sharifi		
Reporters:	Freddie Whittaker	Administration:	Frances Ogefere Dell		
	Rebecca Cooney			Special thanks to	City & Guilds,
Photographer:	Ellis O'Brien				WorldSkills UK and Find a Future
					for supporting the production of this
					supplement.

# Getting out and about at EuroSkills 2014

Here are a few of the *FE Week* highlights from the competition with Rebecca Cooney

Over the three days of EuroSkills competition, around 120,000 visitors flooded into the 40,000sq m hall of the Grand Palais venue, in Lille.

More than 300 judges, experts and observers examined the work of 500 competitors, produced in a cumulative total of 9,000 hours of competitions.

The buzz in the massive exhibition centre throughout was incredible — amid the competitors there were schoolchildren, team mascots, college principals, provider bosses, business men and women and, rumour has it, even a couple of bats flying around.

In the crowd, I bumped into South Staffordshire College principal Graham Morley.

“Being here is really exciting,” he said.

“It’s great to see so many young people here from across Europe competing, and the atmosphere is incredible — I can’t believe it’s so crowded.”

Former South Staffordshire College student Louisa Cooper competed in floristry.

“The whole college is behind her,” he said.

“I feel really, really proud. All principals are proud of their students, but when you’ve got a student that reaches this level it is something really special.

“One of the biggest things with competitions is it raises aspiration. When you’re able to talk to 14 or 15-year-olds, kids from deprived areas, about career progression and offer them the chance to compete internationally, something they may never have thought of, that is the stuff of dreams.”

UK Team leaders Sam Andrews and Rachel Carr told me

the atmosphere and supportive, curious crowds can both help and distract competitors — and they should know, as both competed in the manufacturing team challenge at WorldSkills London in 2011.

Many of the competitors get something similar to stage fright, said Rachel, but as team leader it’s her job to help them overcome the nerves.

“They might be worried about competing in front of so many people,” she said.

“And it’s just about making sure that they turn that off and focus on what they’re doing in front of them, not looking at the crowds, not looking at other competitors — making sure their head is completely in the game to be the best that they can be.”

Sam agreed, saying: “The competitors here have a great opportunity which we didn’t have — which is EuroSkills, because it really gets them on a level to compete at WorldSkills.

“This may seem like a very busy competition, but in comparison to WorldSkills it’s actually quite small, so this is a good chance to get on that level and get used to it.”

Each day brings different challenges for the competitors



The work of former EuroSkills hairdressing competitor Caroline Schmitt on display at the opening ceremony



Top inset: Former EuroSkills competitor Victor Delpierre wows the opening ceremony with his restaurant service skills. Bottom inset: Jos De Goeij president of WorldSkills Europe

the duo told me — from first day nerves, to keeping the momentum going on day two to the last minute rush to get everything finished on time in day three.

But, despite the challenges, Sam told me, the experience is unforgettable.

“Watching them, in a way I’m jealous because I know what I felt like when I competed and the buzz when you know it’s going well,” he said.

“I want to be back where they are.”

## Like father like daughter

Hairdressing is a family passion for the Constantinous, from Cardiff.

Dad Tino, aged 58, runs Tino Constantinou Hairdressing, where 21-year-old daughter Eleni is turning heads with her own skills with the scissors.

But not only is he her employer, he’s also her trainer — and has closely followed her EuroSkills journey and was in the audience when her silver medal was announced.

“She’s been involved in hairdressing all her life. And now whenever we’re not working, we’re training,” he said.

“If you added up all the hours she’s been putting in it’s phenomenal, but it’s not as if it’s hard work because it’s part and parcel of what she does.

“The last week before we got here we were working really hard trying to find out what styles the judges might like and perfecting Eleni’s approach to that.

“I didn’t think she was going to be a hairdresser, but

she just decided one day that was what she wanted and she’s probably the most stubborn of all of the family.

“Hairdressers either love competitions or they hate them. Ones that love them get into doing them over and over again.”

Eleni, the youngest of five (the other four siblings are all brothers), said: “Having my dad here at EuroSkills wasn’t an added stress. It takes it away if anything.

“Me and my dad, we’re very close — he’s my trainer and my dad and he always gives me good advice. He’s always very honest with me and so I can take any criticism he gives because I know where it’s coming from.”

And there was nobody prouder than Tino in the Zenith Arena when Eleni’s second place was revealed.

He even broke the good news to Eleni’s mum, 53-year-old Debbie, back in South Wales via text.



Hairdressing competitor Eleni Constantinou with her father and trainer Tino

And she messaged back: “I know!! Just been all over Twitter. Brilliant.”

He said: “It was brilliant. I was quite nervous and thought she deserved something, perhaps even a joint gold, but silver was right. My real fear was that something might have gone wrong and she wouldn’t get anything. But she did great and I’m very proud.”



Hairdressing competitor Eleni Constantinou



Carpentry competitor Simon McCall. Top inset: FE Week reporter Rebecca Cooney with superhero themed EuroSkills mascots. Bottom inset: Beauty therapy competitor O Chester



# COMPETITION FINALS EUROSKILLS



## TRADES OF EUROPE

The 41 skill competitions at EuroSkills were divided into five categories — transportation and logistics, construction and building technology, manufacturing and engineering technology, creative arts and fashion, information and communication technology and social and personal services. Throughout the competition, we dropped in to find out a bit more about what's involved in each category, and had a chat with the TeamUK competitor. The range of skills on show at EuroSkills is slightly different to the range at WorldSkills, so Team UK does not have a competitor in every category.



Architectural stonemasonry competitor Connor Crawford



Painting and decorating competitor Connor Lambton



Carpenter Simon McCall



Mechatronics competitor John Peerless

## CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING TECHNOLOGY

This section includes architectural stonemasonry, wall and floor tiling, plumbing and heating, refrigeration and air conditioning, electrical installations, bricklaying, plastering and dry wall systems, painting and decorating, road building, joinery, cabinet making, wood machining, carpentry, metal roofing and floor laying. Team UK has two competitors in plastering and dry wall systems, one competitor in architectural stonemasonry, one in wall and floor tiling, one in painting and decorating and two in carpentry, which for EuroSkills is a team challenge. Painting and decorating deputy chief expert Peter Walters said: "We see so much development. "They make the jump from regional and national level to international so it's nice to see that journey to where they're more professional and more rounded and more mature and just a better vocational worker." Daryl Dailly, aged 20, was competing in wall and floor tiling. "I was really excited and quite nervous, but I felt less nervous after preparation day, getting everything all set up, now that I know what I'm doing, what it looks like and where I am," he said.

"It's been really good so far, I've enjoyed it. I think it's gone well." Nathan Roblin, 21, competing in plastering and dry wall systems said: "I'm cautiously optimistic. "Because of doing WorldSkills competitions, my confidence is so high now, knowing that I can work to a particular standard." Ian Magee, aged 18, from Belfast Metropolitan College and employed by Gordon Scott, completed his plastering and dry wall lining competition and

spoke to FE Week. He said: "EuroSkills has been a great experience — and a new one for my boss, so he's been keen to see how it works. "I was worried about my timings in the task, but I never suffered nerves. Some people got more done than I did but it's not just how much you do, but how well you do it." Connor Lambton, aged 18, Furness College and employed by Horrocks, spoke to FE Week just after his painting and decorating competition ended. He said: "I'm glad it's over — it's been a long and hard 18 hours of work. "On the first day I made a few little errors that put me behind, but that was a good lesson for me. "I'm pleased with my finished work — I'm not sure I'd have done anything differently." Carpenters Simon McCall, aged 20,

from Coleg Sir Gar, in South Wales, and employed by Jones & Johnson, and Mark Hawthorne, 21, from South Eastern Regional College, in Northern Ireland and employed by Trainor Contracts, finished their small roof frame task and then spoke to FE Week. Simon said: "The opening ceremony has been a real highlight — it was really nice to see all the other countries competing here. "During our task we looked at the rest of

the competitors' work and it was of high standard — you can't experience that anywhere else." Mark said: "My bosses have been 100 per cent supportive and it's been no bother getting time off work for training and competitions. "Me and Simon hadn't worked together before this competition and training for it, but we worked well — he's a great lad and we got on well."

**Connor Crawford**  
Architectural stonemasonry  
Provider: Elgin Training Unit  
Employer: Historic Scotland

**Mark Hawthorne**  
Carpentry  
College: South Eastern Regional College  
Employer: Trainor Contracts

**Simon McCall**  
Carpentry  
College: Coleg Sir Gar  
Employer: Jones & Johnson

**Connor Lambton**  
Painting and decorating  
College: Furness College  
Employer: Horrocks

**Nathan Roblin**  
Plastering & dry wall lining  
College: Coleg Sir Gar  
Employer: DJ Plastering

**Ian Magee**  
Plastering & dry wall lining  
College: Belfast Metropolitan College  
Employer: Gordon Scott

**Daryl Dailly**  
Wall and floor tiling  
College: City Glasgow College  
Employer: DNA Tiling Specialists

## TRANSPORTATION AND LOGISTICS



The transportation and logistics section covers anything related to creating, repairing, and maintaining transport vehicles. The skills in this category represented at EuroSkills include automotive technology, agricultural mechanics and motorcycle technology. The automotive technology section is designed to recreate the role of a light vehicle automotive technician, so usually competitors will have to diagnose a problem with a car and repair and replace a component.

**Declan McGrath**  
Automotive technology  
College: South West College  
Employer: Bundron Motors

At EuroSkills 2014, Team UK has a competitor in the automotive technology section, Declan McGrath, aged 20, who trains at South West College and is employed by Bundoran Motors. He put a wheel back on his car as he completed his competition and then spoke to FE Week.

"It was hard — there was lots to do in the space of time we had," he said. "I feel all right about it, but I could have done better. I've been keeping my head down and concentrating on my task, but I've seen my lecturer, Ray Fitzpatrick, watching and it's been great to have him supporting me here."



Congratulations to all of TeamUK

PROUD TO BE THE  
OFFICIAL MEDIA  
PARTNER OF TEAM UK



IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH

**City &  
Guilds**



# SOCIAL & PERSONAL SERVICES

This section includes hairdressing, beauty therapy, health and social care, cooking, restaurant service, maintenance cleaning, surface cleaning, hotel reception and entrepreneurship team challenge. The UK has a competitor in hairdressing, beauty therapy, cooking and restaurant service.

At EuroSkills, unlike WorldSkills, cooking and restaurant service competitors act as a team with the restaurant service competitor serving the cook's food to the table and explaining the meal to the customers. In hairdressing, candidates create and showcase a look they have designed as well as recreating a style from a photograph.

In beauty therapy, competitors carry out a range of treatments and are marked both on their techniques and manner with the customers.

Hairdresser Eleni Constantinou, aged 21, spoke to *FE Week* straight after getting a big hug from her dad — employer and trainer — Tino Constantinou having finished cutting and styling six mannequin heads.

"I'm happy, but it's intimidating when you see other good work. I was happy with the perm I did, but men's fashion was my weakest."

Beauty therapist Rianne Chester, 21, said: "I've competed at the NEC which is on a big scale but I've never competed internationally before and it's just been amazing. I wasn't shortlisted for Leipzig and I was devastated but when I went and watched it I just realised I wasn't ready, I was too inexperienced, coming round a second time I know what to expect and how to behave."

Danny Hoang, aged 20, who is competing in cooking, said: "I think there's more motivation to train when you know you have the chance to represent your country, because how many chance like that do you get?"

Lucy Jones, also 20 and competing in restaurant service, said: "It's been amazing, I'm really happy. On the first day the customers were nice but didn't speak any English so that made communicating very difficult — today [day two] was better."

"There's definitely been a difference in the level between squad selection and WorldSkills, we're stepping it up a level."

"I know we're treating EuroSkills as training but I still want to do well."



Chef Danny Huang



Beauty therapy competitor Rianne Chester



CNC milling competitor Michael Watson



Floristry competitor Louisa Cooper



Welder Reece Taylor

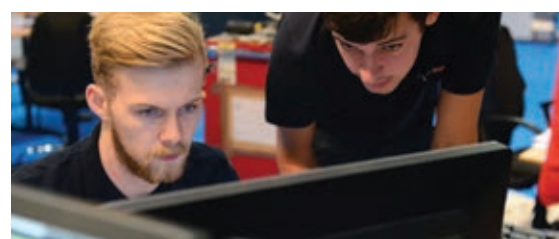


The visual merchandising team's silver medal winning project



From left, cook Danny Huang and restaurant service competitor Lucy Jones

# MANUFACTURING & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY



This section includes competitions in mechatronics, CNC milling, mechanical engineering computer aided design (CAD), industrial control, welding, mobile robotics, and electronics.

Team UK has two competitors in mechatronics, a team discipline where competitors must design and create a computer-controlled mechanical system — so for example, a system that monitors conditions like humidity and temperature in a factory and adjusts them automatically.

There is also one competitor in CNC milling, where competitors create the components used in engineering and manufacturing, and one in mechanical engineering CAD, where competitors use computers to design and model mechanical engineering systems, and one in welding.

John Peerless, 22, competing in mechatronics, said: "The atmosphere's been excellent — a very high-pressure good competition atmosphere."

"It's been very sociable talking to the other competitors, they're a very talented bunch of people who are great to be around."

"We're working now on the advanced stations, the ones we'd use at WorldSkills, so it's very exciting."

His mechatronics partner, Calum Knott, 21, said: "The quality of skills is incredibly high there are some very fierce competitors, there are people who have come second at EuroSkills before."

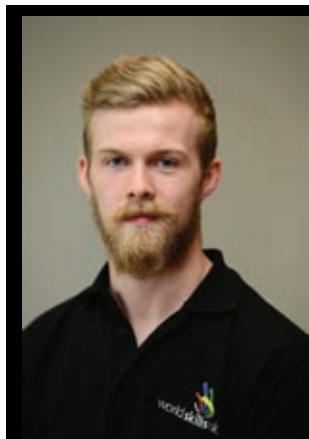
"But I looked forward to the challenge. There's no point competing against people you're better than, it gains nothing."

Michael Watson, 21, CNC milling competitor, said: "We've met lots of new people and made new friends."

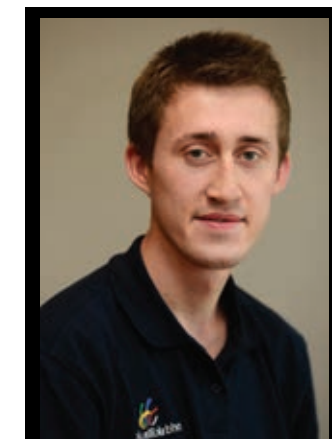
"It's given me the chance to do extra, new things, instead of doing the same old stuff."

"It's a lot more pressure, which is interesting and it has changed me and developed me. I'm a lot more confident and I'm doing things that would have taken me seven hours in three."

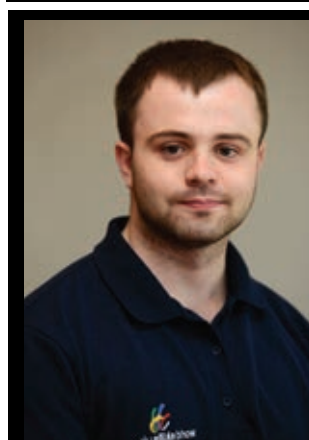
Andrew Beel, 20, who is competing in mechanical engineering CAD, said: "It's been great being here — I had a difficult first day when the computer just didn't want to do what I was telling it but since I've been involved with WorldSkills, my maturity has increased so much."



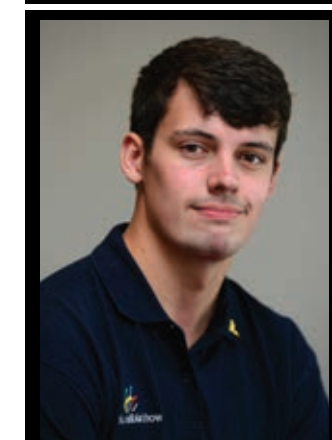
**Andrew Beel**  
Mechanical engineering CAD  
College: New College Lanarkshire  
Employer: Pacson Valves



**John Peerless**  
Mechatronics  
University: Middlesex University



**Calum Knott**  
Mechatronics  
University: Middlesex University

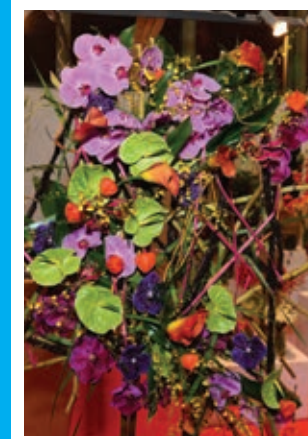


**Michael Watson**  
CNC Milling  
College: City of Bristol College Lanarkshire  
Employer: GKN Aer



**Reece Taylor**  
Welding  
College: Derwentside  
Employer: Dyer Engineering

# CREATIVE ARTS & FASHION



This section includes floristry, fashion technology and visual merchandising.

In floristry, the competitors are given a number of briefs over the two days. They are graded on their knowledge of the principles of design and colour harmony, as well as their originality and use of wirework techniques. They are also marked on their workspace presentation, so have the extra challenge of keeping the space laid out neatly, like a shop, while they work.

In visual merchandising, competitors must come up with a marketing presentation for a theme or range of clothing. The centrepiece of this is a shop window display created by competitors, which must be innovative, eye catching and promote their merchandise. At EuroSkills, unlike WorldSkills, this is a team event.

Louisa Cooper, South Staffordshire College and employed by School Farm Shop, and floristry team-mate Zoe Rowlinson, both aged 20, Warwickshire College, spoke to *FE Week* as soon as they completed their competition.

Louisa said: "We're happy with what we did — and nothing catastrophic happened."

Zoe said: "I was a bit nervous to start off with, but once we got into the swing of things I was fine."

Jasmine Field, aged 19, visual merchandising competitor said: "It's been so good, but so eventful — you have so many different emotions running through you, but having to control that as well has just been crazy but I've loved every second of it."

Catherine Abbott, 18, competing alongside Jasmine in visual merchandising, said: "We definitely learned from our mistakes in the first day."

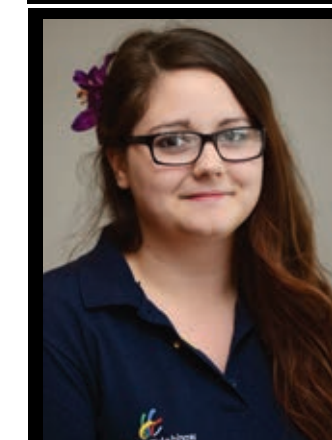
"EuroSkills has been a lot more intense than anything I've done so far."



**Catherine Abbott**  
Visual Merchandising  
College: East Berkshire College  
Employer: Topshop



**Jasmine Field**  
Visual Merchandising  
College: Fashion Retail Academy  
Employer: Marks and Spencer



**Louisa Copper**  
Floristry  
College: South Staffordshire College  
Employer: School Farm Shop



**Zoe Rowlinson**  
Floristry  
College: Warwickshire College  
Employer: The Garden

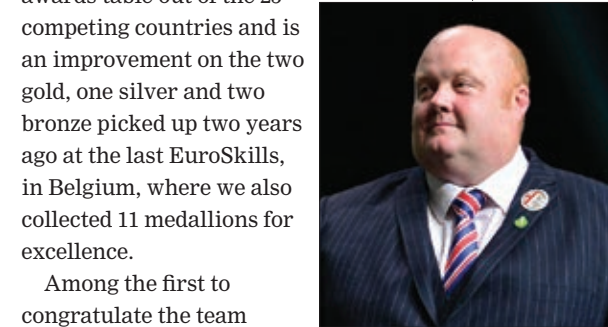
# GOLD, SILVER AND EXCELLENCE MEDALLIONS OUTSHINE CEREMONY

It had high-ranking politicians and it had breakdancers, but for all the glitz and glamour of the EuroSkills closing ceremony, nothing could outdo the magnificence of TeamUK's haul of three gold medals and six silvers.

Andrew Beel, Declan McGrath and Danny Hoang, all aged 20, claimed first in their competitions, while Rianne Chester, 21, Simon McCall, 20, Mark Hawthorne, Eleni Constantinou, both 21, Jasmine Field, 19, and Catherine Abbott, 18, all came second.

There were also three medallions for excellence — handed out when competitors hit the 500-mark point, yet miss out on a place on the podium — for Lucy Jones, 20, John Peerless, 22, and Calum Knott, 21.

TeamUK's incredible achievement, crowned on Sunday night (October 5) at Lille's Zenith Arena, put it at fifth in the awards table out of the 25 competing countries and is an improvement on the two gold, one silver and two bronze picked up two years ago at the last EuroSkills, in Belgium, where we also collected 11 medallions for excellence.



Among the first to congratulate the team was Skills Minister Nick Boles, who said: "Congratulations to Team UK. They have demonstrated that when it comes to skills the UK has world class ability."

"Team UK are ambassadors for our country and demonstrate how high quality apprenticeships can lead to successful careers. I offer my congratulations to Team UK who delivered an outstanding performance at EuroSkills 2014."

The golds came in mechanical engineering CAD, where Andrew was also crowned TeamUK's best competitor,

automobile technology and cooking, respectively.

The silvers were for beauty therapy, two in carpentry, hairdressing, and two in visual merchandising, and the medallions for excellence were in restaurant Service and two in mechatronics, respectively.

The awards had been preceded by an address from French Minister for sport, youth and urban affairs Patrick Kanner and also Jos De Goey, president of WorldSkills Europe.

Ross Maloney, chief executive of Find a Future, which manages the UK's entry into international skills competitions, said: "Team UK is an incredible group of young people, that act as great ambassadors for our country."

"Through their international success, and the wider work of Find a Future, we want to inspire young people about the different careers that exist and provide

them with the chance to unlock their potential and get excited about the world of work. Many congratulations to Team UK."

All members of Team UK for EuroSkills Lille 2014 are currently in training as part of Squad UK and their participation in the Lille event forms part of their training programme ahead of selection for Team UK to compete at WorldSkills São Paulo 2015.

Eugene Incerti (pictured left), head of skills competitions at Find a Future, said: "We've done much better than I expected considering we're here at EuroSkills for the development of the team towards next year's WorldSkills."

"All our medals were great, but I'm particularly pleased with our medallions of excellence mechatronics — which is a really difficult thing to do. Calum Knott and John Peerless finished in fourth, but just three competitions ago, we



The closing ceremony at the Zenith arena, Lille



Silver medal winning visual merchandising competitors from left: Jasmine Field and Catherine Abbott



A jubilant team UK



Andrew Beel, mechanical engineering CAD competitor with a Portuguese competitor



Automotive engineering competitor Declan McGrath



Gold medal winning chef Danny Huang

didn't even enter in it, which proves our development programme is working on skills that really do matter to the UK."

Carole Stott, chair of Find a Future and chair of governors at City of Bath College, said: "Congratulations to all of TeamUK. They have all achieved impressively high standards to reach the finals of EuroSkills and we are immensely proud of their

achievements.

"The team's medal results are impressive and are a testament to the strong training network that we have in the UK, and to the dedication and hard work of the competitors and those who support them."

"By entering international skills competitions we in the UK can benchmark our standards and training with the very

best from other countries, and we can use that experience to continuously improve standards. Alongside that these young people in TeamUK are great role models and an inspiration to others."

Keith Smith, interim chief executive of the Skills Funding Agency and the UK's official WorldSkills delegate, said: "Tonight it has been really special to see so many young

people who've made such a positive choice to do vocational or technical skills, and that really does make me proud. I'd like to pay a special thank you to all of the officials and technical experts who make this possible and, of course, a big huge congratulations to every competitor from the UK that's done such a fantastic job over the last few days of competitions."

The team's medal results are impressive and are a testament to the strong training network that we have in the UK.

**Carole Stott, chair, Find a Future**



# TeamUK hall of fame from EuroSkills 2014

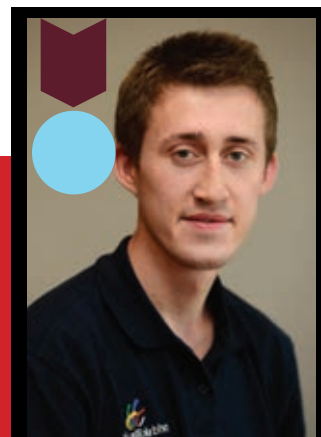


Silver medal winning carpentry competitors from left: Simon McCall and Mark Hawthorne

## MEDALLIONS OF EXCELLENCE WINNERS



**Lucy Jones**  
Restaurant services  
College: Brockenhurst College  
Employer: Chewton Glen Hotel & Spa



**John Peerless**  
Mechatronics  
University: Middlesex University



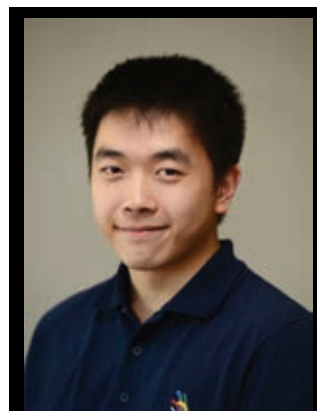
**Calum Knott**  
Mechatronics  
University: Middlesex University



**Declan Mc Grath**  
Automotive technology  
College: South West College  
Employer: Bundron Motors

**"I'm delighted and wasn't expecting that at all, but it means the world to me. I can't wait to tell my family when I get home."**

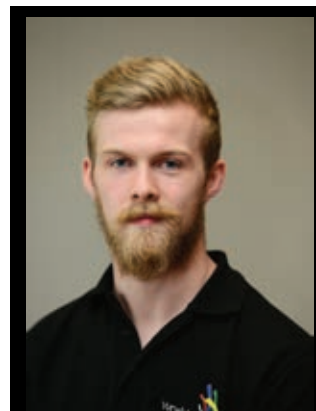
John Dawson, automotive technology lecturer at Emtech, part of Central College Nottingham and Declan McGrath's training manager, said: "It was very hard watching Declan work because I'm his training manager and so his performance and welfare is my concern, but I'm also an expert and judge. "But he was confident and put in a really good performance and did excellently in all the areas we thought he would."



**Danny Hoang**  
Cook and serve  
College: Westminster Kingsway  
Employer: The Grove Hotel

**"I totally didn't expect that. I knew there were areas where I could do better. I knew the competition was tough, but now I'm one step closer to WorldSkills."**

Peter Anderson, North Warwickshire & Hinckley College cookery lecturer, supported Danny Hoang. "I've known Danny for two years and he's brilliant. He's totally dedicated to what he does and is one of the most respectful competitors I've ever known. He had the perfect competition."



**Andrew Beel**  
Mechanical engineering CAD  
College: New College Lanarkshire  
Employer: Pacson Valves

**I was ecstatic both times and jumped about six foot in the air. Now I've got Sao Paulo in my sights - I'm desperate to go there."**

**BEST IN NATION**

Barry Skea, assistant head of faculty for engineering and automotive at New College Lanarkshire and training manager for Andrew Beel, said: "Andrew demonstrated the highest levels of ability and professionalism throughout the whole week and trained so hard to be here. He has a real hope for Sao Paulo next year and is an example as to how to do the job."



Hairdresser Eleni Constantinou



**Eleni Constantinou**  
Hairdressing  
Employer: Tino Constantinou



**Rianne Chester**  
Beauty Therapy  
College: Warrington Collegiate  
Employer: Akira Nails & Beauty



**Simon McCall**  
Carpentry  
College: Coleg Sir Gar  
Employer: Jones & Johnson



**Mark Hawthorne**  
Carpentry  
South Eastern Regional College  
Employer: Trainor Contracts



**Jasmine Field**  
Visual Merchandising  
College: Fashion Retail Academy  
Employer: Marks and Spencer



**Catherine Abbott**  
Visual Merchandising  
College: East Berkshire College  
Employer: Topshop



Chef Danny Huang



Restaurant service competitor Lucy Jones with training manager Katie Kyrousis



Gold medal winning mechanical engineering CAD competitor Andrew Beel



Beauty therapy competitor Rianne Chester





**WHO COULD**

**YOU BE**

**TOMORROW?**

**#OPENDOORS**

Year 11+? Meet employers and find out what doors are open to you. Our Employer Speed Dating sessions take place every hour on our stand.

**THE SKILLS SHOW**  
THE NEC, BIRMINGHAM  
13 - 15 NOV 2014