

Clock ticks down to start of Team UK

The clock is well and truly ticking with 880 hours to go before the UK's top apprentices jet off to Brazil to take on the best of the rest at WorldSkills 2015 — and *FE Week* and City & Guilds want to wish them all the very best in the quest for golden glory.

Yes, in 37 days Team UK will be in São Paulo to find out whether all their hard work and training has paid off and if they've got what it takes to be crowned best young person in the world for their skill.

Our 41 young men and women (all pictured below) will compete in 38 different skills, from hairdressing and stone masonry to confectionery and IT security from August 11 to 16 (that's just 53,280 minutes away, by the way).

As the pressure mounts, the UK's official delegate and chief executive of the Skills Funding Agency and the Education Funding Agency, Peter Lauener also wished the competitors good luck in their final preparations.

"Representing your country on the world stage is no easy feat. It takes hard work, determination and a high level of skill," he said.

"As part of Team UK, you have displayed all of these attributes.

"As you now go on to take part in the WorldSkills



finals in São Paulo, you will need to draw on every aspect of your training and experience to be the best you can.

"Best of luck to everyone in the UK team — I look forward to seeing a number of UK medal winners."


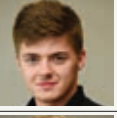
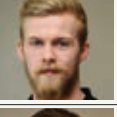
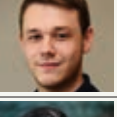
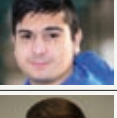




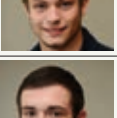

Our competitors will be among 1,230 from more than 60 countries, taking part in 50 different vocational skills. They will be looking to repeat, or even better, the successes of WorldSkills 2013, in Leipzig, Germany, where Team UK finished tenth in

the medals table with two gold, one silver and three bronze, along with a whopping 17 medallions for excellence (handed out when competitors reach a set international standard).

And David Cragg, deputy chair of WorldSkills UK organisers Find a Future, also offered his best wishes to our 2015 crop.

He said: "I would like to offer my congratulations to every member of Team UK.

"They are ambassadors for our nation and I wish

ADRIAN CANNING, 20 — Electrical installation Northern Ireland (region) North West Regional College (provider) — AC Electronics (employer)	
ALEX ELTON, 20 — CNC turning West Midlands North Warwickshire and Hinckley College — Clamonta	
ANDREW BEEL, 21 — Mechanical engineering CAD Scotland New College Lanarkshire — Pacson Valves	
ANDY SMITH, 21 — Mechatronics North West Toyota Manufacturing UK (employer provider)	
BALINT BOGDAN, 22 — Industrial electronics Northern Ireland Belfast Metropolitan College	
BEN PRITCHARD, 20 — Jewellery East of England The Goldsmiths' Company — Emson Haig	
CHRIS RENWICK, 20 — Manufacturing team challenge Yorkshire and the Humber Leeds City College — CarnaudMetalBox Engineering	
CHRISTOPHER BAILIE, 20 — Refrigeration and air conditioning Northern Ireland South Eastern Regional College — BL Refrigeration and AC Limited	
CHRISTOPHER HANSON, 20 — Construction metal work Yorkshire and the Humber City Training Bradford — Richard Allan Engineering	
CURTIS BAKER, 19 — Painting and decorating Yorkshire and the Humber Doncaster College — Togel Contractors	
DALE HODGINS, 22 — Joinery South East OCVC — Oakleigh Joinery	

DANIEL LEVINGS, 19 — Web design South East Highbury College Portsmouth	
DANNY HOANG, 21 — Cooking South East Westminster Kingsway College — Colette's, The Grove Hotel	
DOMINIC TREES, 19 — Manufacturing team challenge Yorkshire and the Humber Bradford College — CarnaudMetalBox Engineering	
EDWARD HARRINGMAN, 21 — Cabinet making South East Chichester College — Harringman Cabinet Making	
ELENI CONSTANTINO, 21 — Hairdressing Wales Tino Constantinou	
ELIJAH SUMNER, 20 — Auto tech Wales ProVQ — Halfords Autocentre	
GARY DOYLE, 20 — Plumbing and heating Northern Ireland Southern Regional College — Kieran Trainor Plumbing and Heating	
HARLEY BRIAN, 20 — Sheet metal technology West Midlands KMF	
HAYLEY EDWARDS, 18 — Health and social care North East Middlesbrough College	
JASMINE FIELD, 19 — Visual merchandising and window dressing South East Fashion Retail Academy — Marks & Spencer	

UK's Brazilian WorldSkills adventure



You can keep up to date with every moment of Team UK's journey to the São Paulo podium (it's going to happen!!), thanks to FE Week.

We've already followed them from squad selection, through their intensive training and the medal glory of EuroSkills competition to finding out who was going all the way to Brazil.

Now we'll be accompanying them for every step of the last, and toughest leg of their journey, from preparation and the flight there, to the opening ceremony, the gruelling tension of the competition and the celebrations at the prizegiving.

You'll find all the action on www.feweek.co.uk and Twitter, by following @FEWeek.

them the best of luck as they prepare to compete against the best in the world."

The event will be staged five kilometres from the centre of Sao Paulo at Anhembi Parque, which at 400,000 square feet is one of the largest event centres in Latin America.

And it won't just be the competitors and their

trainers who are flocking to Anhembi Parque, as 800 volunteers are expected to help keep the show on the road, along with 200,000 visitors — the largest audience in WorldSkills history.

Mr Cragg said it was hoped the competition would inspire more young people to take a vocational route.

"Skills competitions showcase the high levels of

performance that can be achieved by individuals and organisations through high quality further education, skills training and apprenticeships," he said.

"Through skills competitions and the wider work of Find a Future we want to provide every young person with the chance to unlock their potential and get excited about the world of work."

JONATHAN GILL, 20 — Landscape gardening

Northern Ireland

CAFRE — Jonathan Gill Landscapes



LOUISA COOPER, 21 — Floristry

West Midlands

South Staffordshire College — School Farm Shop



LUCY JONES, 21 — Restaurant service

South West

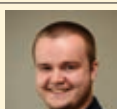
Brockenhurst College — Chewton Glen Hotel & Spa



LUKE ELSMORE, 20 — Industrial control

Wales

University of South Wales — Industrial Automation and Control



MARTIN MCLAUGHLIN, 18 — Wall and floor tiling

Northern Ireland

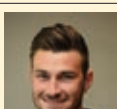
North West Regional College — Limavady Borough Council



MATTHEW BEESLEY, 21 — Landscape gardening

North West

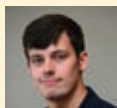
Reaseheath College — Beesley Landscapes



MICHAEL WATSON, 21 — CNC milling

South West

City of Bristol College — GKN Aerospace



MIKAELA WRIGHT, 21 — Patisserie and confectionery

Scotland

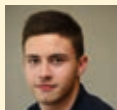
City of Glasgow College



OWAIN JONES, 21 — Carpentry

Wales

Coleg Meirion Dwyfor — Self-employed



PATRICK DEVANNEY, 20 — Manufacturing team challenge

Yorkshire and the Humber

Bradford College — CarnaudMetalBox Engineering



REBECCA WILSON, 22 — Car painting

Northern Ireland

Riverpark Training — CM Accident Repair Centre



Reece Taylor, 22 — Welding

North East

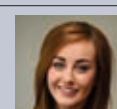
Derwentside College — Dyer Engineering



RIANNE CHESTER, 22 — Beauty therapy

North West

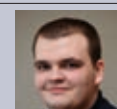
Warrington Collegiate — Beauty by Rianne



RICHARD MILLER, 20 — IT network administration

Scotland

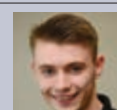
New College Lanarkshire



ROBERT JOHNSON, 22 — Plastering and dry wall systems

North East

Redcar and Cleveland College — Classic Plaster Moulds



ROBYN CLARKE, 22 — Mechatronics

North West

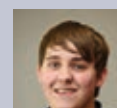
Toyota Manufacturing UK (employer provider)



RYAN JONES, 20 — Autobody repair

East Midlands

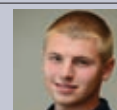
Auto Restore (employer provider)



RYAN STEVENS, 20 — Bricklayng

West Midlands

Shrewsbury College — Craig Chatwood Building Contractors



SAM TURNER, 19 — Architectural stonemasonry

Yorkshire and the Humber

York College — The Dean and Chapter of York Minster



SHAYNE HADLAND, 23 — Aircraft maintenance

South East

RAF Cosford — RAF Benson

