

CAMPUS ROUND-UP



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Helen Williams with some of her wallpaper designs

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GRAND DESIGNS

AWARD-WINNING EX-LEARNER LANDS JOB WITH TOP INDIAN INTERIOR DESIGN FIRM — PAGE 5

Tongues will be wagging...

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Welcome to CAMPUS ROUND-UP edition 26



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Welcome to Edition 26 of our digital Campus Round-Up magazine.

Our latest guest editor is Hull School of Art and Design second year journalism and digital media degree student Hannah Richardson.

During her time here so far she has mainly concentrated on writing stories and chasing-up information and pictures from a variety of sources.

She has not been afraid to ring college press offices and marketing agencies to set them tight deadlines for responses to her enquiries.

Hannah, aged 21, also showed good judgement when helping



to plan where the stories should be placed in this week's magazine.

She enjoyed studying web and graphic design during the first year of her course, so will help lay out the magazine using InDesign next week.

Highlights of this edition include stories on Bentley Motors opening a manufacturing training base at South Cheshire College and Southampton-based hovercraft company

Griffon Hoverwork being awarded for its growing

apprenticeship scheme.

There is also an article on former Walford and North Shropshire College caretaker Graham Lee who recently retired after 24 years in the post.

The feature is on TyneMet College student Sarah Scott who has been selected to represent Great Britain at the Special Olympics World Summer Games next year in Los Angeles.

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Bentley gears up for car launch with new training base

Bentley Motors has opened a manufacturing training base at South Cheshire College.

The new training facility, which has two classrooms fitted out for academic and practical work, will prepare level three apprentices to help build the luxury car maker's new sport utility vehicle set to be unveiled in two years.

The first 40 apprentices, who will also work at Bentley's manufacturing headquarters in Crewe, will be inducted at the college by the end of the month.

They will be trained at mechanical and electrical engineering, bodywork painting, and crafting fittings such as panelling for car interiors.

Principal Jasbir Dhesi said: "This is a fine example of a college working to provide a bespoke employer-led apprenticeship programme. I am proud that nearly all training associated with high-level technical skills in the production of Bentley cars will be in Crewe."



From left: Crewe and Nantwich Conservative MP Edward Timpson, South Cheshire College principal Jasbir Dhesi and chief executive of Bentley Motors Wolfgang Durheimer at the launch of the new training centre. Inset: Apprentice Laura Taylor, aged 25, practices stitching panelling for the inside of a car

DO YOU WANT TO BE IN CAMPUS ROUND-UP? Send your stories with pictures to campus@feweek.co.uk including names, ages and course details of students where applicable

EDITION 26

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Campus Round-Up is a sister publication of the weekly newspaper *FE Week* — the only newspaper dedicated to further education and skills.

FE Week offers a two-week paid internship for people who want to be journalists. Interns will be guest editors for two editions of the Campus Round-Up magazine, under the guidance of training manager Paul Offord. E-mail us at campus@feweek.co.uk to find out more.

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Former caretaker Graham Lee with his cake. Inset: Graham, who is widely known as 'Flash' by staff and students, riding a motorbike around the grounds at Walford and North Shropshire College

Farewell to 'Flash' after 24 years

A caretaker known for his sense of humour has retired after 24 years of service at Walford and North Shropshire College.

Graham Lee, better known to staff and students as 'Flash', was given a present, leaving card and cake baked by hairdressing tutor Rachel Young at a leaving party organised by his colleagues.

Graham had a reputation for saving the day with a smile on his face and staff recalled how he refused to let his spirits drop when called in to fix a burst pipe that had filled the college basement with water on Christmas Day four years ago.

He was also known for his practical jokes and recalled how he once emptied three hole-

punchers' worth of paper into a teacher's umbrella.

The 65-year-old said: "When it rained the next day, the teacher went out, put up his umbrella and was covered in paper bits. He wasn't best pleased."

Reflecting on almost a quarter of a century at the college, he added: "I really loved my job. I loved the people, mostly."

"We always did whatever it took to keep the college going."

Paul May, deputy principal, said: "The college would like to place on record its thanks for all of Flash's hard work over the past 24 years."

"He's definitely a character who will be missed. We wish him well in his retirement."

Self-published writer delivers message of hope to learners

A crime novelist who was repeatedly rejected by publishers more than 30 years before finding success through selling his books online told students to never give up on their dreams.

Keith Houghton first self-published his books through Kindle Direct Publishing three years ago and has now sold more than 310,000 copies worldwide, topped Amazon International Best Seller lists and received more than 900 five-star reviews.

The author, who is best known for a series of books about detective Gabe Quinn, spoke to students at Wigan and Leigh College about his unusual path to success.

He said afterwards: "I wanted

to explain that despite my 30-year struggle to get published I never gave up on my dream.

"It was my hope to demonstrate that through hard work, determination and stamina anything is achievable and that a good understanding of English and maths is an essential foundation from which to build any career, especially one geared around self-employment."

Louise Gray, divisional manager of beauty at the college, said: "Keith demonstrated that there are many different routes to success. Many of our beauty students, for example, go on to set up their own businesses so Keith offered valuable insight into going it alone and how he promotes himself."



Crime novelist Keith Houghton. Inset: the author speaking to students at Wigan and Leigh College

Helen's grand designs on Indian adventure



Helen Williams with a selection of designs she produced at Cleveland College of Art and Design that impressed the British Interior Textiles Association Emerging Talent Awards judges. Right: Helen with more of her designs



An award-winning former Cleveland College of Art and Design student is working in India with one of the country's leading interior design companies.

Helen Williams jetted off to Mumbai last month to work with one of the country's top interior design companies, GM & Syntex PVT, that supplies soft fabrics and

furnishings to high-end retailers across the UK.

The 22-year-old will be using knowledge gained on her higher level surface and textile course at the college, which she graduated from in June, to produce collages known in the trade as 'trend boards' of fabrics she comes across that could sell in Britain.

She will also work on the company's website and communication forums.

Helen's flair for design was recognised when she won the first runner up prize at the British Interior Textiles Association Emerging Talent Awards in October.

She said: "This is an incredible opportunity. I've always wanted to

work in the interior design industry and to be able to do that in India is a dream come true.

"I'm hoping that the skills I've learned at college and the experience I'll gain in India will stand me in good stead for a long career in the interior design industry."

Plain sailing for award-winning hovercraft firm

A Southampton-based hovercraft company has been recognised for its fast-expanding apprenticeship scheme.

Griffon Hoverwork, which launched six years ago, was named regional medium employer of the year at the National Apprenticeship Service Awards South Central.

The company is currently training 20 level two and three apprentices, in partnership with City College Southampton, in marine engineering, electrical engineering and hovercraft-building and outfitting.

Michael Chalkley, Griffon Hoverwork engineering director, said: "We are delighted to have been honoured for our apprenticeship programme. We launched it three years ago and decided to really expand last year by taking on 15 apprentices in one go."

"There is a skills shortage in our sector and we decided the best way to counter that was to train our own trainees."

Principal Sarah Stannard said: "Griffon Hoverwork is a great example of a local company that has been able to grow and sustain its business by developing new skilled staff."



Main from left: Fiona Willmot, from the Skills Funding Agency, Melissa Wooldridge and Michael Chalkley from Griffon Hoverwork and James Cryer, from building, and repairs firm Mears Ltd which won last year. Inset: Griffon Hoverwork apprentices by a hovercraft

Student makes British judo team for the Special Olympics

TyneMet College student Sarah Scott has been selected to represent Great Britain at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles where she hopes to meet Barack Obama, writes Paul Offord.

Athlete Sarah Scott has had a lot to contend with on her journey to the top level of special needs sport.

The 21-year-old TyneMet College learner, studying preparation for life and work, was diagnosed with Down's Syndrome and a hole in the heart shortly after birth.

Her parents, Ronnie and Jean, both 58, feared Sarah would struggle to even walk when she was a baby, but she quickly became fully mobile and took up judo aged seven.

Now, after enjoying success in a number of special needs sports competitions for British-only competitors over the last five years, she has been selected to represent her country in the martial art at the Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles next July and August.

Sarah, who is also a keen swimmer, plays badminton and canoes, said: "I'm really excited. I haven't been to America before and this will definitely be my biggest ever competition."

More than 7,000 athletes from 170 countries will compete at the World Summer Games in 28 sports also including basketball, beach volleyball, athletics, table tennis, powerlifting, tennis, golf and football.

They will be hosted by American President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle.

Ronnie said: "Sarah has already seen a video of the President talking enthusiastically about the Games."

"We're also excited because the organisers told us there will be a good chance she will meet the Obamas in person while she's out there."

Sarah was taught Judo by her father who is a martial arts enthusiast.

Jean said: "I'm the chauffeur to all the competitions Sarah takes part in. We are so proud of her."

Sarah excelled over the last two years at Special Olympics competitions for British-only competitors, winning a silver medal in Hastings, Sussex, and gold and bronze in Edinburgh.



Sarah Scott plays badminton

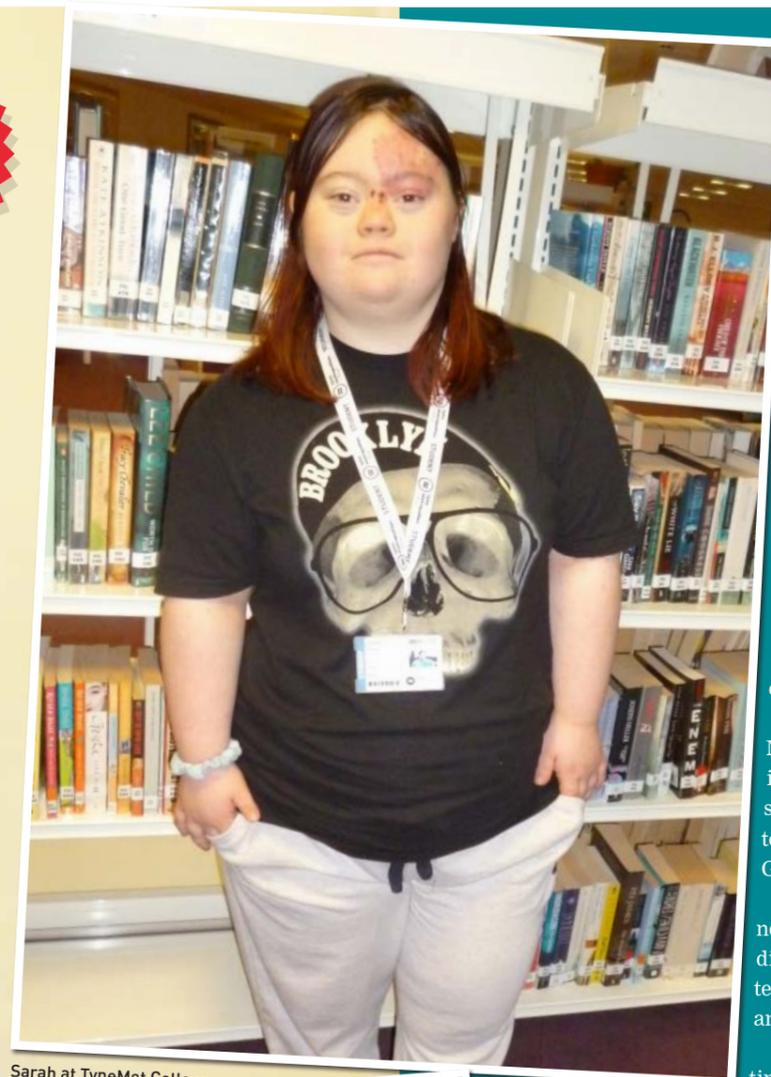


Sarah canoes with brother Andrew

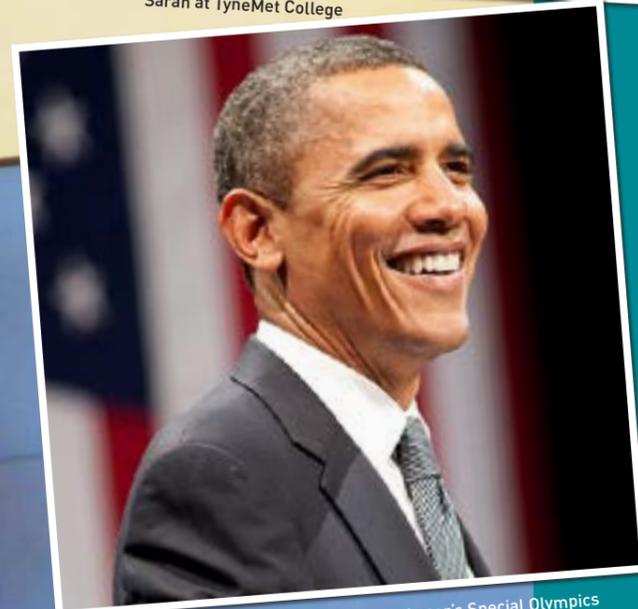


Sarah preparing to throw her friend Jack Ross over her shoulder at Terminus Judo Club in North Shields

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Sarah at TyneMet College



Sarah hopes to meet Barack Obama at next year's Special Olympics

She had previously won a bronze medal in the GB Special Olympics in Leicester five years ago.

Sarah was also a mascot for North East England for the games and carried the torch, as part of its nationwide tour, outside Newcastle Civic Centre.

Ronnie said: "There are many worries that come with having a child with Down's Syndrome, but it has been wonderful to see her develop through sport."

"She's a lovely girl but she's got a real competitive streak that comes out especially with the judo."

Sarah spent a weekend in May away from her family in Runcorn, Cheshire, where she trained with the British team for the World Summer Games.

She said: "I was a bit nervous at first because I didn't know anyone in the team, but they were really nice and I learned a lot."

Ronnie said: "It was the first time she had stayed in a hotel room on her own. That would

be nothing to most people, but for someone with her condition it was a big deal having to think about getting up and dressed on time."

Sarah's course at TyneMet has helped develop her social and employment skills, as well as improving her numeracy and literacy.

Andrea Cochrane, head of preparation for life and work at TyneMet, said: "Sarah works exceptionally hard at college and is a polite and pleasant student."

"This opportunity is a huge honour for Sarah and we all wish her the best of luck in the competition."

Sarah needs to raise £2,600 to compete in the World Summer Games, which will pay for flights and accommodation.

Contact her dad, by emailing ronnie.scott@blueyonder.co.uk, to donate.

College first aid lessons in action

The manager of a Buxton-based motocross track put his recently-learned first aid skills to good use when a rider was left unconscious after falling from his bike.

Barry Dring and four other employees from Track Form UK completed a level three first aid at work course in March with Learning Unlimited, a commercial training arm of Chesterfield College.

A rider suffered severe concussion and a dislocated shoulder after being thrown from his bike while going over a jump on the dirt track. Mr Dring used the skills he learned on the course to put him in a recovery position and check he was breathing until paramedics arrived.

The rider was then taken by air ambulance to Macclesfield Hospital where he made a full recovery.

Barry said: "I felt a lot more comfortable dealing with a serious accident because of the course. I was able to stay calm and go through what I was taught, making sure his airways were clear and he didn't stop breathing."

Paul Champion, Learning Unlimited's operations director, said: "It's wonderful to hear that Track Form UK staff have been able to put the skills they learned to use in helping others."



Motocross track owner Barry Dring standing behind riders. Inset left: Barry treating the injured rider

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Contemporary art exhibition

Curriculum manager of fine art at Havering College of Further and Higher Education Chris Stevens is curating a contemporary art exhibition.

He will present work by British artists including Francis Bacon and David Hockney at The Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, in Norwich, from Saturday (September 27) until March 1. His own paintings will also be exhibited.

He said: "It is a privilege to bring together artists who have been a major influence on my personal development as a painter."

Book-keeping teaching award

The Manchester College has been recognised for its high teaching standards for book-keeping-related courses.

The college earned a Gold Centre Award through being named one of the top-performing English providers of courses by awarding body The International Association of Book-keepers (IAB), which will be presented at a ceremony in The House of Commons on November 20.

Principal Jack Carney said: "The Manchester College is proud to have earned the highest possible IAB award. We very much look forward to accepting it at such a prestigious venue."

Talk from PM Somalia

The Prime Minister of Somalia Abdiweli Sheikh Ahmed spoke at Birmingham-based Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College as part of his tour of Britain.

His speech, which was watched by college staff and more than 200 members of the local Somali community, addressed a variety of topics from education to terrorism.

Mr Tobin said: "We were delighted to play host to such a high profile and influential guest. It was an honour to have him engage in interesting conversation about education and world affairs."



Main from left: A-level learner Labake Abioye, aged 17, Shadow Health Secretary Andy Burnham and A-level learner Will Poole, 17. Left: Mr Burnham with students on the medics, dentists and vets programme

NHS talk by Shadow Health Minister

Shadow Health Secretary Andy Burnham spoke to learners at Wigan-based Winstanley College who hope to become doctors, dentists or vets.

The Labour MP for Leigh, in Greater Manchester, addressed around 100 A-level learners who also attend the college's medics, dentists and vets programme which prepares them to apply for university courses related to the professions.

He spoke about the importance of the NHS and opportunities it gives to students training to work in the

medical sector.

Biology, chemistry and geography A-level learner Leake Abioye, aged 17, said: "Mr Burnham's speech gave us a really good insight into the NHS."

Dave Woods, medics, dentists and vets programme co-ordinator, said: "Andy's talk was really thought provoking for these students who want to pursue a medical career."

"We are so grateful to him for visiting us at Winstanley College and taking such an interest in our students."



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