

EVENTS — VQ DAY

Owen's blinder at VQ Day Awards

VQ Day Awards celebrate the learners, employers and teachers who demonstrate the success of vocational learning.

The learner of the year, the newly qualified FE teacher of the year and the employer of the year were all crowned at the ceremony in London on Tuesday night (June 3).

Nine regional learner of the year winners also received awards.

National learner of the year went to 22-year-old Owen Henley, a former Runshaw College BTec media production student, who also won the North West regional award.

Owen, currently a freelance camera assistant on BBC drama *Peaky Blinders*, starring Tom Hardy and Cillian Murphy, said he was "surprised" to win.

Bishop Auckland College sport, fitness and uniformed public services curriculum manager Katy Graham won the newly qualified teacher award.

Katy, a former police officer who has encouraged disadvantaged students to apply for higher level programmes, said: "I'm absolutely over the moon — I love what I do."

VQ Day employer of the year was

claimed by electrical contractors Clarksons Evans. HR and training director Lindsey Young said: "We train young people because it's the right thing to do — it works for them, it works for us and it works for the economy."

Lord Kenneth Baker, chair of VQ Day organisers Edge, said the evening was "a huge collection of talent, originality, creativity and enterprise".



Cillian Murphy as gang leader Tommy Shelby in *Peaky Blinders*

VQ Day learner of the year Owen Henley



Edge chief executive Jan Hodges OBE and the nine regional winners of the VQ Day learner of the year award 2014. From left: Helen Carr, Eva Martin, Ms Hodges, Mitchell Brice, Owen Henley, Antoine Coevoet, Millie Stammers, Zoe Warner, Melissa Jackson, Lee Bellamy

More than 100 honoured at Lion event

The roaring success of vocational learners, employers and tutors was recognised at the Lion Awards, held by awarding body City & Guilds on Thursday (June 5).

Medals were awarded to 104 learners and tutors at the event hosted by former Blue Peter presenter and fundraiser Helen Skelton.

Around 450 guests — medal winners and their family and friends, their nominators and other representatives from the education sector — were treated to performances by 3Run, a freerunning troupe performing daredevil acrobatics and learners at performing arts centre BRIT School.

The award for outstanding achiever of the year went to

The Manchester College bricklaying tutor Andrew Dennis, for his work teaching construction and employability skills to inmates at HMP Maidstone, which has helped more than 50 ex-prisoners find work in the construction industry after release.

Andrew said: "It's great to win a Lion Award, and to be able to help people get the skills they need to re-build their lives after prison. Achieving can change lives and I have seen this first hand."

FE sector learner of the year went to former Lowestoft College student Hannah Parker who studied diplomas in level three travel and tourism and level two hairdressing simultaneously, getting distinctions on all but one piece of work and taking on extra work when she got through the course too quickly.

Apprentice of the year Tyler Mack, from Blackburn, also progressed quickly with North Lancashire Training Group, finishing his level two diploma in business administration with three months left at his employers Spencer Hayes Financial Services.

City & Guilds Group chief executive Chris Jones said: "It's a huge achievement to win a Lion Award."

"We're all about helping people get into a job, progress on the job and move on to the next job, and the Lion Awards are for celebrating those who are really living this."



From left: Helen Skelton, Jake Dennis and his award-winning father, Andrew Dennis, with City & Guilds Group chief executive Chris Jones



City & Guilds 2014 Lion Awards winners

VQ Day

Celebrating Vocational Achievement

A national celebration of vocational qualifications, for students, teachers and employers

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4, 2014

Day of demos, fundraising and more

Across the country colleges and training providers celebrated VQ Day through demonstrations, Have-a-Gos and fun activities for learners and members of the public.

The aim of the day was to show off vocational skills and encourage more people to consider the vocational route.

Here's just a snapshot of the day.



From left: Coleg Gwent, vehicle body repair students David Ridgway, aged 20, and Kyle Saunders, 18



Level two catering students at Richmond upon Thames College celebrated VQ Day by baking more than 150 cupcakes and selling them to help raise £150 for MacMillan Cancer Support and Shooting Stars Chase Children's Hospice



Coleg Gwent principal Jim Bennett models embroidery by fashion students



Tegan Milmore, aged 16, gives a cookery demonstration for VQ Day with HTP Training tutor Dave Egerton-Read



Croydon College level two hospitality student Roshia Forrest, aged 17, gives a taster of life in the kitchen as part of VQ Day



Croydon College level two electrical installation student Joel Crawford, aged 27, gives a thumbs-up after a demo of his skills

Coverage by Rebecca Cooney

VQ Girl, a superhero created by Coleg Gwent students Claudia Gilman, aged 21 (body paint), and Leia Bishop, 18 (hair & makeup), Anna Coleman, 21, was their model



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Learner of the Year Award Sponsor.

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