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WorldSkills UK finalists 2023

A supplement produced by **FEWEEK**

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Worldskills UK

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Together, we can create a world-class skills economy

Our national finals show

just how powerful the UK

skills system can be when

education come together

governments, business and

hat a week we have had in Greater Manchester! There is nothing quite like the buzz of watching the UK's most

talented students and apprentices demonstrate their aptitude, determination and confidence as they compete to be named the UK's best in their chosen industry.

From the 6,000 young people who registered to the 442 who made it through to the finals, it is brilliant to see representation from across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. And what a great honour to be able to announce the winners and celebrate their fantastic achievements.

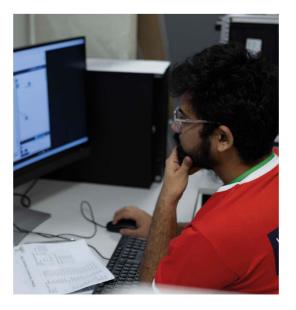
Mayor Andy Burnham's ambition to transform Greater Manchester into the UK's leading technical education city-region made it the perfect backdrop for our celebration of skills.

Our national finals show just how powerful

the UK skills system can be when governments, business and education come together with a shared ambition.

From young people competing, to innovative CPD delivered with Ofsted and cutting-edge employers, to discussions with DfE, the Institute for Apprenticeships and

Technical Education, and industry partners, we



explored how to develop an internationally competitive skills base.

Our national finals represent a chance to benchmark and celebrate the best in the



BLACKLEDGE Chief executive. WorldSkills UK

UK, but this needs to be an ongoing process. We must celebrate excellence but also provide a catalyst to develop it.

That is why we are using the insights we gain as a member of the 86-strong international WorldSkills network to develop new pedagogical techniques that meet employer

We are embedding these in institutions across the UK through our Centre of Excellence, which

> we run in partnership with NCFE.

Since its launch in 2020, our Centre of Excellence has benefited 4.500 educators and over 64,000 learners. The next phase of this programme is now open

to all institutions across

I want to take

the UK

this opportunity to thank the thousands of teachers and trainers who make it possible for their students and apprentices to enter our competitions. Without your support and dedication and indeed the commitment from leaders, investment from employers and support from governments, our competitors would not be able to compete at the highest level. We are truly grateful for your ongoing support

A special thank you goes to the institutions and partners that did such a fantastic job of hosting and delivering our national finals.

To all our finalists and medal winners, you are an inspiration to us all and living proof that the UK has the potential to be a world-class skills economy!

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Greater Manchester - the home of technical education



Manchester has got a really proud heritage of technical education

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reater Manchester mayor Andy Burnham's ambition to create the UK's first "integrated technical education system" was put to the test as the city region's education and business communities

united to host WorldSkills UK's 2023 national finals

It's a place where technical education is "deeply embedded in the culture and history" according to Wigan and Leigh College principal Anna Dawe, whose college was founded in 1857 as a mining college.

Education providers have cultivated "fantastic relationships" with employers in the region, principals say.

"I think Manchester has got a really proud heritage of technical education and we're really fortunate here to have some fantastic colleges who are all committed to technical education," Rachel Curry, principal of one of the host institutions The Manchester College, told FF Week

This commitment has been backed up by an excellent record in WorldSkills UK finalists and medal winners from the area.

More than 6,000 young people applied for the initial stage of the competition, with over a quarter of those coming from Greater Manchester.

Organising all of these competition finals across a network of training providers, colleges and a university showcased the city region's technical education community working together at their best.

Seven of the nine colleges in Greater Manchester had learners in this year's national finals and 13 local competitors even went on to win medals in their specialisms.

At EuroSkills Gdansk in September, the only gold medallist was Isabelle Barron, from Clitheroe, who works for global architects Chapman Taylor in Manchester.

Meanwhile, Trafford College has had the most WorldSkills UK registrations for a single UK college, across 27 skills and three foundation skills for the last two years, according to principal James Scott.

"This is because of the value we attach to the embedding of technical excellence across the curriculum and within our pedagogical practice," he explained.

And Tameside College welcomed back

Lucy Yelland and Ben Love, who won medallions of excellence for mechatronics at EuroSkills Gdansk.

The North West also has 16 institutions in the WorldSkills Centre of Excellence, the highest regional proportion across the country.

On top of all that, Mayor Andy Burnham regularly talks about wanting Greater Manchester to become the UK's first "integrated technical education system" and, this May, revealed his proposals to create a Greater Manchester Baccalaureate to sit alongside the government's EBacc.

"Designed to build resilience and selfconfidence as well as honing technical and employability skills, the WorldSkills UK national finals supports our vision for technical education in our city-region by offering young people up-to-date opportunities that are led by industry need," Burnham said.

Greater Manchester excellence

Over 400 students and apprentices descended upon Greater Manchester to compete in over 50 different skills competitions over three days for this year's UK national finals.

Competitors, training managers, families and members of the public were able to see technical excellence at the ten host FE colleges, universities, and independent training providers.

At a business brunch hosted by The Manchester College held during the finals, industry leaders came together to celebrate the talented young people and the skills they bring back to their employers.

"[The competition] is specific training for our finalists, which upskills them and also makes them more valuable when they go back on the shop floor for their own employers," said Richard Hutchins, competitions manager at The Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI).

"One of the things that WorldSkills UK does brilliantly is it tests us against the best and what it tells us, rather encouragingly, is that our best can compete with the best of the world," added Susan Acland-Hood, permanent secretary at the Department for Education

"The challenge for us is how we try and make sure that we've got a system in which that best is not so exceptional."

Nearly 200 individual gold, silver and bronze medals were awarded at the national final ceremony at the end of the competition. Many will go on to train to become part of Squad UK for WorldSkills Shanghai 2026.

WorldSkills UK Learning Lab
– a digital resource centre for
teachers and trainers offering
free careers, mindset and
technical skills development
tools to use with students
and apprenticess



Powered by international best practice, making world-class skills development accessible for all.



89% of educators rated Learning Lab courses highly, highlighting exceptional quality



77% of learners applied course skills to education, work, and life, demonstrating practical impact



75% of learners improved their technical skills



82% of educators believe their course will significantly enhance learner engagement and attendance





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hough WorldSkills UK is celebrating home-grown technical skills excellence at the national finals in Greater Manchester this year, the success of competitors can be traced to knowledge and innovations from across the continent and beyond.

As WorldSkills UK themselves describe it, the organisation is the international arm of the UK skills system, meaning it can identify and utilise strengths in learning techniques from educators across the globe to upskill UK learners so they are ready to compete on an international level.

Of course, it goes the other way too. WorldSkills UK teams are taking innovations from educators and companies here in the UK and exporting them to other countries, helping them to develop their own competitors in skills that the UK is already excelling in.

We can witness how those other nations are driving innovation in teaching and learning

Parisa Shirazi, director of standards at WorldSkills UK is leading the charge to take international insights and mainstream them back into teaching and learning here at home.

"We can witness how those other nations are driving innovation in teaching and learning, and the richness of that data, that insight, but there wasn't really a formal method of how we can bring that back until now," she told *FE Week*.

Michael McGuire, a WorldSkills UK training manager in digital construction skills, helped to develop the digital construction competition in the UK and consequently worked abroad to help other countries develop their own.

"As we were one of the first ones, I supported other countries in launching and developing competitions in Poland, France, Germany, Austria and Ireland," he said.

Because of the sharing of best practices and competing against other countries, McGuire said the competitors' skills were improving across the board. "We up their skills, they up their skills. Internationally, the projects have only got bigger," he said.

Recently, McGuire took a UK competitor, Paul, to the French national finals, where he placed fourth

"I would expect him to be better than that, but it shows you how the French have definitely upped their skill level and their competition.

"I was able to see that, plus their training and what they're using for their test projects, and I'm bringing that back as I wrote the UK national final [competition] this year," he explained.

WorldSkills UK has been utilising its learning lab to implement lessons learned abroad.

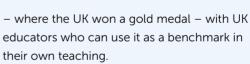
The lab is an on-demand learning platform that provides teaching content but is underpinned by international best practices across a range of different specialisms.

The organisation will also be launching some new benchmarking tools on the learning lab next year across 27 different standards from cyber security to digital construction.

Teachers will have access to ondemand curriculum content and real-time benchmarking on how students and apprentices perform locally and nationwide.

These will be underpinned by the National Standards of Excellence – a UK-wide standardised measure of excellence – the first of its kind, the organisation claims.

McGuire said as part of the national standards, he will be sharing the actual digital construction competition project used at EuroSkills Gdańsk

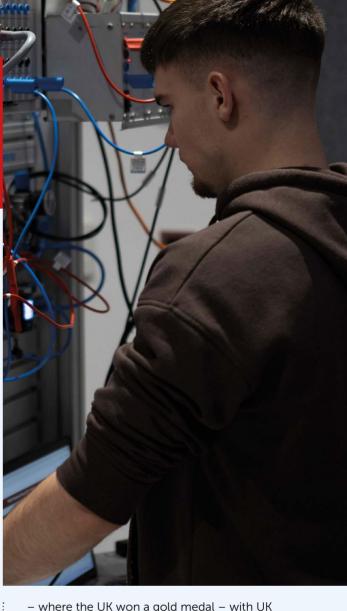


The national standards are essentially trying to bridge the gap between the international WorldSkills standards and our current national standards

"The WorldSkills version is quite highlevel. It's consulted on with industry and education globally and, arguably, is equivalent to like a level 5 [qualification]," Shirazi said. "Those standards are then used to define the international competitions and the way that they're marked and judged."

Shirazi explained that a level three learner might struggle to achieve the international occupational standard in their specialism, hence the need for an in-between goal for learners.

"[National Standards of Excellence] is basically going to be an additional asset or a tool that will be available from our WorldSkills UK learning lab that will sit alongside the different benchmarking tools," she added.





Employers launch new competition to close manufacturing skills gap

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ot everyone can say they are single-handedly trying to close a skills gap in the UK.

But Steve Taylor might be one of them.

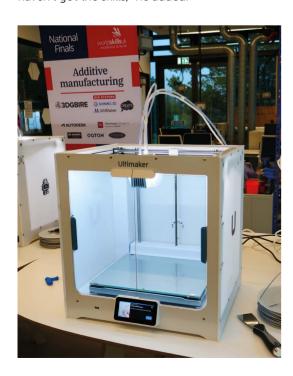
Taylor is a technical trainer at 3DGBIRE, the competition organising partner for the additive manufacturing competition at the WorldSkills UK national finals this year.

This is the first year that the competition is coming to the UK, having been run in other countries for several years.

Taylor approached WorldSkills UK just before the covid-19 lockdown was imposed in England in 2020 to propose bringing additive manufacturing to the competition stage to upskill young learners and address a need he had spotted in the industry.

"We saw in industry that they haven't got these particular skills to get the most out of the upand-coming technologies," he told *FE Week*.

"The thing is, the technologies are changing so quickly, the demand is rising and the complexity [of the job] means that sometimes there's a reluctance to go for it just purely because they haven't got the skills," he added.



"This now is a way to be able to draw out and focus the skills that the industry and individuals are going to need."

Additive manufacturing encompasses multiple learning paths as it is not currently a standalone qualification. 3D printing is applied across several engineering and manufacturing T Levels for example.

This all-encompassing skills area is something that key figures in the Department for Education are keen on encouraging for the future workforce.

Susan Acland-Hood, permanent secretary at the Department for Education, said during the national finals, that a lot of innovation happens "in the intersection between disciplines."

"There's a really strong argument that the person of the future is a T-shaped person with a specialism but also a set of shoulders to broaden their knowledge," she said.

High demand for additive manufacturing

The competition was greenlit when the pandemic subsided and this year, 3DGBIRE hosted a demonstration competition at the national finals.

The competition was held at the University of Salford, where competitors had to complete a design and 3D printing task over two days.

The initial stages of the competition drew in more applications than expected, Taylor said.

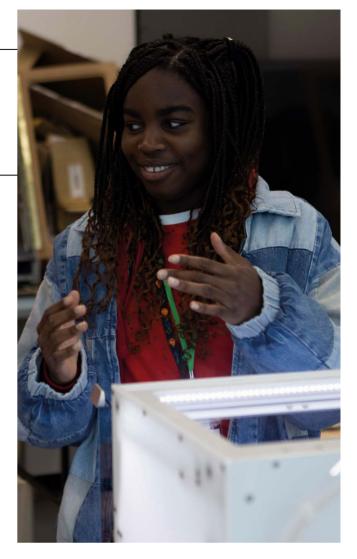
"We were thinking we might get 8-10 competitors to prove the concept, but we had around about 90 registrations for the competition."

The competitors were whittled down to eight finalists for the national final.

UTC Sheffield student Lucas Langley placed first in the demo competition, followed by NWTSF's Oscar McNaughton in second place and Eva Voma from GLLM in third.

A further three high-performing students were highly commended by competition judges; Henry Owen and Nicolae-Alexandru Popa, both also from UTC Sheffield and Jakub Strzelczyk of MTC

Steve Cox, a 3D technology consultant and judge, said he was already seeing some tweaks



to make in next year's competition.

"It's getting the blend right between the creation of the part and then the additive manufacturing of the part," he told *FE Week*.

The competition tasks also must reflect real-life problems. The final test project asked participants to create a 3D-printed replacement for a broken part of a product.

"I'm already involved with companies that are in some cases fixing domestic consumer appliances, using 3D printed parts because spare parts aren't available from the manufacturer,"

What is even more exciting for the sector is WorldSkills UK will be looking to select finalists to join Squad UK for WorldSkills Lyon, next year's global skills competition.

It will be the first time that additive manufacturing competitors will be competing for Team UK internationally.

The move is also part of WorldSkills UK's research into the UK falling short in manufacturing skills and its own pledge to aim for a top-ten finish in manufacturing and engineering at WorldSkills Shanghai 2026.

The WorldSkills UK Competition is delivered by 3DGBIRE and the Create Education Project with sponsorship from industry-leading companies: UltiMaker and Shining 3D.



Construction and Infrastructure



NEW COLLEGE AUTODESK

LANARKSHIRE Balfour Beatty

Digital Construction

Location: The Manchester College

Competition Organising Partner: New College

Lanarkshire

Gold: Calam Kearney, New College Lanarkshire
Silver: Tom Bowles, Sheffield Hallam University
Bronze: Rebekah Over, New College Lanarkshire
Highly Commended: Temiloluwa Popoola, Sheffield
Hallam University and Anthony Pyott, New College

In partnership with Autodesk, Balfour Beatty



Electrical Installation

Location: Oldham College

Competition Organising Partner: NET (National

Electrotechnical Training)

Gold: Danny McBean, SECTT, Grants of Dufftown Silver: Ben Gillin, Lloyd Morris Electrical Bronze: Conor McDonnell, Southern Regional College, W.Nesbit Electrical



Landscaping

Location: Oldham College

 ${\bf Competition\ Organising\ Partner:\ {\bf Horticultural\ Trade}}$

Association (HTA)

Gold: Anna McLoughlin, CAFRE Silver: Aimee Copeland, CAFRE

Bronze: Ceri Furber, Myerscough College,

Gardenscapes



Plumbing

Location: Oldham College

Competition Organising Partner: BPEC (British

Plumbing Employers Council)

Gold: Adam Biddulph, Trafford College Group, Meel
Group

Silver: Keshab Rana Magar, The Royal Engineers, Royal School of Military Engineering, Mid-Kent

 ${\bf Bronze: Tomos\ Evans, Pembrokeshire\ College,\ R.L}$

Evans Plumbing and Heating

Highly Commended: David Bateman Smith, South

West College, Ashley McFarland



Foundation Skills: Horticulture

Location: Oldham College

Competition Organising Partner: Association of

Professional Landscapers

Gold: Rhys Rapado-Evans, Elidyr Communities

Trust

Silver: Anthony Davies, Pembrokeshire College
Bronze: Joshua Miles, NPTC Group and Meaghan

Gwillim, Bridgend College



Digital, Business and Creative



3D Digital Game Art

Location: The Manchester College

Competition Organising Partner: Cheshire College South & West

Gold: Kornel Franczak, City of Glasgow College Silver: Emiley Scott, Cheshire College South and West Bronze: Sam Dyson, The City of Liverpool College Highly Commended: Logan Cook, Coleg Gwent



Accountancy Technician

Location: The Manchester College Competition Organising Partner: Kaplan

Gold: Lucy Doyle, Christian Jones, Ashley Chambers, Surpassing Expectations, Simpkins Edwards LLP

Silver: Rebecca Hocking, Toni Borgia, Elena Cioata, Neath Port

Talbot, Neath Port Talbot College

Bronze: Menna Isaac, Amelia Whittal-Williams, Pibwrlwyd

Power, Coleg Sir Gar / Coleg Ceredigion



Balfour Beatty EC-Council

Cyber Security

Location: The Manchester College

Competition Organising Partner: Glasgow Clyde College Gold: Alan Kraszewski, Sakthivelan Pandy, Logic Not Found,

Devonport Highschool for Boys

Silver: Andrew Cook, Joseph Evans, RAF, Royal Air Force Bronze: Connor Pester, Luke McStravick, Exeter College In partnership with Balfour Beatty, EC Council International Limited

NWSLC

Digital Media Production

Location: The Manchester College

Competition Organising Partner: North Warwickshire & South Leicestershire College

Gold: Katie King, Aime Lovel, Charlie McCarthy, Scarlett Freyone, NESCOT Creative North East Surrey College of Technology

Silver: Jake Venners, Willem Fisk-Nicholson, Naomi Park-Hanson, Matthew Thompson, East Durham College

Bronze: William Race, Nathaniel Hale, Daniel Fleming, Hinkley T3, North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College



Foundation Skills: IT Software **Solutions for Business**

Location: The Manchester College

Competition Organising Partner: New College Durham Gold: Jessica Mercer-Taylor, Preston College Silver: Thomas Taylor, Preston College

Bronze: Emily Sinnott, Prembrokeshire College



Graphic Design

Location: The Manchester College

Competition Organising Partner: The Manchester College

Gold: Billy Baldwin, EKC Group

Silver: Callie Morgan, Gower College Swansea Bronze: Jess Knight, North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College and Ryan Rock, Mid Kent College Highly Commended: Megan King, Cheshire College South and West



IT Support Technician

Location: The Manchester College

Competition Organising Partner: WorldSkills UK Gold: Joseph Dancer, Cardiff and Vale College

Silver: Edward Coldrick, Trafford College Group, Essity UK Ltd

Bronze: Koziah Sylvester, Brother Industries Ltd

Highly Commended: Janai Nash, Castles Technology UK&I Ltd, Remit Training Ltd and Kien Grundy Bury College



Network Infrastructure Technician

Location: The Manchester College

Competition Organising Partner: WorldSkills UK Gold: Finley Graham, City of Glasgow College

Silver: Edward Raul Lopez Melendez, City of Glasgow College Bronze: Vitalijs Mihnevics, Burton & South Derbyshire College Highly Commended: Luna Deards, North Hertfordshire College





Network Systems Administrator

Location: The Manchester College Competition Organising Partner: WorldSkills UK

Gold: Kevin Morrow, New College Lanarkshire Silver: Charlie Priestley, North East Scotland College Bronze: Findlay Pell, Earyn Stewart, North East Scotland



Website Development

Location: The Manchester College

Competition Organising Partner: Weston College

Gold: Mark Kiss, United Colleges Group

Silver: Daniel Cobzariu, The Bedford College Group Bronze: Euan Livingstone, Edinburgh College

Engineering and Technology







Additive Manufacturing

Location: University of Salford

Competition Organising Partner: 3DGBIRE Gold: Lucas Langley, UTC Sheffield City Centre

Silver: Oscar McNaughton, University of Wales Trinity St David

Bronze: Eva Voma, Grwp Llandrillo Menai

In partnership with BAE Systems, Ultimaker, Shining 3D, Create Education



CAMBRIA BAE SYSTEMS

Aircraft Maintenance

Location: Wigan & Leigh College

Competition Organising Partner: Coleg Cambria Gold: Sam Forbes, Marshall Aerospace and Defence Group,

Marshall Skills Academy

Silver: James Donohue, Coleg Cambria, Airbus Bronze: Kinga Gorzelanczyk, Bristow Helicopters

Highly Commended: Leo Tweed, Marshall Aerospace and Defence Group, Marshall Skills Academy and Kieran O'Loan

Coleg Cambria, Airbus

In partnership with BAE Systems



Automation

Location: University of Salford

Competition Organising Partner: Middlesex University Gold: Ross Graham, R-Gen Robotics, Carter McKnight, Randox,

Team 1, Southern Regional College

Silver: Neil King, Sean Treanor, Team 3, Southern Regional College, Norbrook Laboratories

Bronze: Jack Campbell, Warrenpoint Harbour, Karol Czapek, SWC Team 1, South West College

Highly Commended: Bailey Leighton, Benjamin Rounce, The B Squad, UTC Sheffield City Centre

In partnership with Omron, BAE Systems



INSTITUTE OF THE MOTOR INDUSTRY

BAE SYSTEMS

Automotive Body Repair

Location: Tameside College

Competition Organising Partner: Institute of the Motor Industry Gold: Adrian Matthews, S&B Automative Academy, Ultimate **Accident Repair services Ltd**

Silver: Robert Gray, Riverpark Training

Bronze: Alec Archie Macleod, Edinburgh College, Highland Motors Ltd

In partnership with BAE Systems



Automotive Refinishing

Location: Tameside College

Competition Organising Partner: Institute of the Motor Industry Gold: Oisin McKerr, Southern Regional College, Porters

Body shop Silver: Victoria Steele, NPTC Group of Colleges, Sinclair

Bodyshop Bronze: Declan Phillips, Doncaster- Rotherham & District

In partnership with BAE Systems



Automotive Technology

Location: Tameside College

Competition Organising Partner: Institute of the Motor

Gold: Oliver Young, Perth College UHI, JR Auto Services Silver: Ryan Cullen, South West College, Adam Lucas AL Mechanical Services

Highly Commended: Jack Johnston, Perth College UHI,

Bronze: Elliot Ritchie, Calex UK LTD, Weston Mazda Edniburah

JR Auto Services In partnership with BAE Systems

Engineering and Technology



BAE SYSTEMS

Location: Tameside College

Competition Organising Partner: University of Wales Trinity Saint David

Gold: Thomas Pool, Science and Technology Facilities

Council, Oxfordshire Advanced Skills

Silver: Jacob Gibbons, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, **FSG Tool and Die**

Bronze: Samuel Spencer, Science and Technology Facilities Council, Oxfordshire Advanced Skills

In partnership with BAE Systems, Cadline

Prifysgol Cymru **University of Wales** Trinity Saint David



CNC Turning

Location: Tameside College

Competition Organising Partner: University of Wales Trinity Saint David

Gold: Osian Roberts, Grwp Llandrillo Menai, IAQ Ltd Silver: Joshua Lamb, Fort Vale Engineering, Burnley College Bronze: Edward Crisp, Fort Vale Engineering, Training 2000 In partnership with BAE Systems, Cadline



Texecom BAE SYSTEMS

Electronic Security System

Location: Wigan & Leigh College

Competition Organising Partner: Skills for Security Limited Gold: Matt Edmondson, Skills for Security, DCA Security Systems Ltd

Silver: Harry Dickson, EFT Systems Ltd, Skills for Security Bronze: Stephen Hyland, Belfast Metropolitan College.

Highly Commended: Jamie Pearson, New College Lanarkshire, King Communications

In partnership with CSL, Texecom, BAE Systems







DSIO BAE SYSTEMS

Fire Detection and Alarm Systems

Location: Wigan & Leigh College

Competition Organising Partner: Skills for Security Limited Gold: Ross Black, New College Lanarkshire, Fortress Security

Silver: Nicholas Allan, Skills for Security, Connelly's **Security Systems**

Bronze: Jonathan Wilde, Hopwood Hall College, Poppy Fire Highly Commended: Gianluca Mori, Banham Academy In partnership with CSL, BSIA, BAE Systems







Foundation Skills: Motor Vehicle

Location: Tameside College

Competition Organising Partner: North Warwickshire &

South Leicestershire College)

Gold: Harvey Reid, South Staffordshire College Silver: Shannon Renshaw, North Warwickshire and South

Leicestershire College

Bronze: Tre Peele, Trafford College Group In partnership with BAE Systems



Heavy Vehicle Engineering

Location: MAN Truck and Bus Swindon

Competition Organising Partner: Institute of the Motor Industry

Gold: Ben Turner, Skillnet (Harris DAF)

Silver: Aleksander Zielechowski, Man Truck and Bus UK Bronze: Harry Cooper, Sparshatt Truck and Van In partnership with BAE Systems



BAE SYSTEMS

Industrial Electronics

Location: Wigan & Leigh College

Competition Organising Partner: Gower College Gold: Tarran Spooner, Gower College Swansea Silver: Faroz Shahrokh, Gower College Swansea Bronze: Adam Hopley, Grwp Llandrillo Menai In partnership with BAE Systems

BAE SYSTEMS

Industrial Robotics

Location: FANUC

Competition Organising Partner: FANUC

Gold: Peter O'Neill, Hannah Currie, Wrightbus, NRC 1,

Northern Regional College

Silver: Chloe Walford, Martyna Duba, Sony 1, Bridgend College, Sony

Bronze: George Hedges, Jack Evans, SonyUKTec2, **Bridgend College, Sony**

In partnership with FANUC, BAE Systems





Industry 4.0

Location: University of Salford

Competition Organising Partner: Didactic Services Ltd) Gold: David Wilkinson, Waleed Hamad, University of

Sheffield, University of Sheffield

Silver: Chinenye Enyinnaya Basil-Nwachuku, Jack Battersby, Manchester Metropolitan University - UTC

Bronze: Eduard Castells-Carosi, Agomon Hossain Ferdaus, MMU 1, Manchester Metropolitan University In partnership with Festo, BAE Systems



University BAE SYSTEMS

Laboratory Technician

Location: The University of Manchester

Competition Organising Partner: Middlesex University Gold: Rebecca Liggett, Almac, Southern Regional College

Silver: Kasia Gierek, Italmatch Chemicals GB Ltd, Manchester Metroploitan University

In partnership with BAE Systems

Bronze: Dante Senior, Capital City College Group Highly Commended: Emiliano Trulli, Middlesex University





Manufacturing Team Challenge

Location: Tameside College

Competition Organising Partner: Coleg Cambria Gold: Eve Redden, Shrewsbury College Group, Kian Beasley, Harrison Felton, In-Comm, Team Innovation,

Ricoh UK Products Ltd

Silver: Kieran Rowley, Joshua Wynne, Shrewsbury College Group, Team Passion, Ricoh UK Products Ltd Bronze: Jack Pritchard, Josh Jones, Benjamin Daniels, GE

Aerospace Wales, GE Aviation, Coleg y Cymoedd In partnership with BAE Systems, Cadline



BAE SYSTEMS LANARKSHIRE SYMETRI

Mechanical Engineering: CAD

Location: The Manchester College Competition Organising Partner: New College Lanarkshire Gold: Phillip Longstaff, New College Lanarkshire Silver: Blair Foinette, New College Lanarkshire Bronze: Luke Clayton, New College Lanarkshire

Highly Commended: Josh Lloyd, New College Lanarkshire

In partnership with BAE Systems, Symetri Middlesex

BAE SYSTEMS

London Mechatronics

University

Location: University of Salford

Competition Organising Partner: Middlesex University Gold: Harlan Lemon, Joe Mason, Toyota 1, Toyota Manufacturing Ltd, Burton and South Derbyshire College

Silver: Matthew Coutts, Siemens, Dylan Phillips, Amazon, Tameside 1, Tameside College

Bronze: John Doherty, Concrete Batching Systems, Jason McVerry, Red Rock Machinery, Team 1, Southern Regional

In partnership with BAE Systems



BAE SYSTEMS

Metal Fabricator

Location: Wigan & Leigh College

Competition Organising Partner: Engineering Skills Competitions CIC

Gold: Thomas Sadler, Dudley College, Collins Aerospace Ltd Silver: Owen Croft, WEC Group Ltd

Bronze: Oliver Kershaw, WEC Group Ltd Highly Commended: Jimmy Smith, Coleg Cambria, Kendley

In partnership with BAE Systems







Welding

Location: Rochdale Training

Competition Organising Partner: Engineering Skills

Competitions CIC

Gold: Harry Pullen, Luminate Education Group, Byworth **Boilers Ltd**

Silver: Brandon Nicholson, Coleg Cambria, Fabdec Bronze: Charlie Baird, National Gas Transmission,

Highly Commended: Brandon Turton, Benjamin Parsons, The Royal Engineers, Royal School of Military Engineering In partnership with Air Products, BAE Systems,



Health, Hospitality and Lifestyle



Beauty Therapist

Location: Trafford College
Competition Organising Partner: Coleg Cambria
Gold: Neve Dunn, Tyne Coast College
Silver: Kaya Mujica, Pembrokeshire College
Bronze: Erin Owens, Pembrokeshire College



Beauty Therapy Practitioner

Location: Trafford College
Competition Organising Partner: Coleg Cambria
Gold: Mykenzie Cartmill, Southern Regional College
Silver: Carlie-Jayne Dutton, Pembrokeshire College
Bronze: Amy Fairclough, St Helen's College, SK Group
Highly Commended: Adrienne Chastney, Tyne Coast
College and Beth Monro, East Sussex College Group



Commercial Make-up

Location: Trafford College
Competition Organising Partner: Coleg Cambria
Gold: Keeley Mullan, Riverside College
Silver: Natalie Godfrey, Tameside College
Bronze: Crystal Palmer, Wigan and Leigh College
Highly Commended: Becca Wilson, Activate Learning



Confectionery & Patisserie

Location: The Manchester College

Competition Organising Partner: Craft Guild of Chefs Gold: Zoe Wright, City of Glasgow College Silver: Chloe Gillespie, City of Glasgow College Bronze: Shirin Asl, The Manchester College



Creative Media Make-up

Location: Trafford College
Competition Organising Partner: Coleg Cambria
Gold: Lydia Beavis, Coleg Gwent
Silver: Laura James, Coleg Gwent
Bronze: Flo Traini-Cobb, Chichester College Group



Culinary Arts

Location: The Manchester College Competition Organising Partner: Craft Guild of Chefs Gold: Sophie Smith, Ulster University Silver: Georgia Hackett, The City of Liverpool College Bronze: Annabelle Hughes, Southern Regional College Highly Commended: Gabrielle Wilson, NPTC Group



Floristry

Location: Trafford College

Competition Organising Partner: British Floristry Association

(BFA)

Gold: Kirsty Noble, The Floristry School Sheffield, Fresh Ideas Florist

Silver: Edel Michael, CAFRE

Bronze: Emma Rochfort, Warwickshire College Group Highly Commended: Angela Wake, East Durham College



Foundation Skills: Catering

Location: The Manchester College

Competition Organising Partner: North Warwickshire &

South Leicestershire College

Gold: Sophie Trevitt, North Warwickshire and South

Leicestershire College

Silver: Kian Gill, Weston College, Matthew Simmons, Elidyr Communities Trust, Ethan Snell, Elidyr Communities Trust Bronze: Ashton Lewis, North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College



Foundation Skills: Hairdressing

Location: The Manchester College Competition Organising Partner: New College Durham Gold: Emalise Stanley, Rotherham College Silver: Melissa Wood, Wirral Metropolitan College Bronze: Norah Nwikonzor, Salford City College



Foundation Skills: Health and Social Care

Location: Wigan & Leigh - Centre for Technical Skills
Competition Organising Partner: ACTAN
Gold: George Scully, Pembrokeshire College
Silver: Daniel Lock, Pembrokeshire College
Bronze: Sam Mannion, North Warwickshire and South
Leicestershire College, Lily Holland, The Oldham College



Foundation Skills: Restaurant Services

Location: The Manchester College

Competition Organising Partner: New College Durham Gold: Keira Paterson, North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College

Silver: Ester James, Cheshire College South & West Bronze: Lucy-Ann Gibson, New City College



Foundation Skills: Media

Location: The Manchester College Competition Organising Partner: North Warwickshire & South Leicestershire College

Gold: Lee Barnett, William Clark, Jade Oakley, SLCT1, North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College Silver: Jolsna Jestin, Maisie Blackwell, Sunderland College Team 2, Sunderland College

Bronze: Rhys McCann, Izzabella Hughes, Met Productions,

Wirral Metropolitan College



PARIS

Hairdressing

Location: Trafford College

Competition Organising Partner: L'Oreal Professional Gold: Dion Archer, The College Merthyr Tydfil

Silver: Theresa Hayes, Coleg Gwent

Bronze: Amelia Higgins , Dudley College, Dy8 Desinz Highly Commended: Holly Whitehouse, Grwp Llandrillo

Menai



Health & Social Care

Location: Wigan & Leigh - Centre for Technical Skills Competition Organising Partner: ACTAN Gold: Molly Hewitt, The College of West Anglia Silver: Hannah Hillis, Southern Regional College Bronze: Kimberley Jones, Boston College Highly Commended: Abigail Clarkson, Boston College



Nail Technician

Location: Trafford College

Competition Organising Partner: Coleg Cambria
Gold: Daniela Mikute, Hull College
Silver: Amy Martin, Trafford College Group

Bronze: Summer Corcoran, Wigan and Leigh College Highly Commended: Ellie-Mae Bracknell, Walsall College

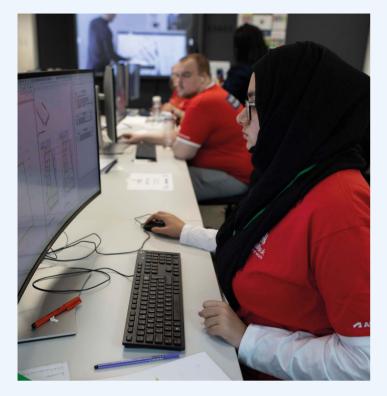


Restaurant Service

Location: The Manchester College
Competition Organising Partner: Craft Guild of Chefs
Gold: Yuliia Batrak, Grwp Llandrillo Menai
Silver: Ella Clements, Coleg Sir Gar / Coleg Ceredigion
Bronze: Katy Law, Coleg Sir Gar / Coleg Ceredigion
Highly Commended: Grace Young, Pembrokeshire College
and Emily Keane, Coleg Sir Gar / Coleg Ceredigion



Competition **photo highlights**

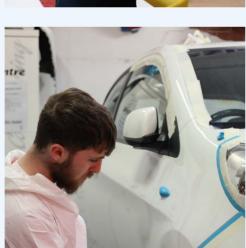


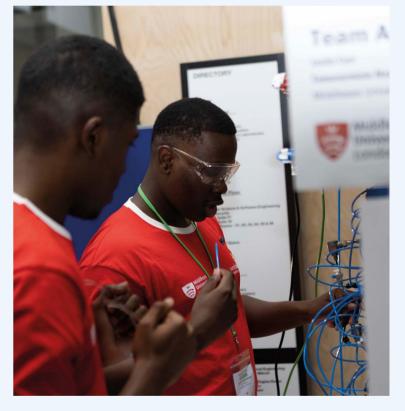


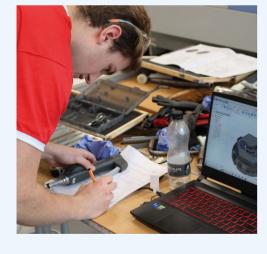


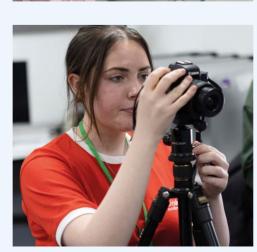
















Top organisations for medal points (not including Foundation Skills)

Total Medal Points	Organisation	Organisation Type	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Highly Commended
28	Southern Regional College	GFEC	4	2	3	
26	New College Lanarkshire	GFEC	4	1	2	3
18	City of Glasgow College	GFEC	3	2		
11	Coleg Gwent	GFEC	1	2		1
11	Grwp Llandrillo Menai	GFEC	2		1	1
11	Pembrokeshire College	GFEC		2	2	1
10	CAFRE	Specialist FE Provider	1	2		
10	Gower College Swansea	GFEC	1	2		
10	Trafford College Group	GFEC	1	2		
8	Coleg Cambria	GFEC		2		2
8	Coleg Sir Gar/Coleg Ceredigion	GFEC		1	2	1

Top organisations for Foundation Skills medal points

- •		_			
Total Medal Points	Organisation	Organisation Type	Gold	Silver	Bronze
19	North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College	GFEC	3	1	2
12	Pembrokeshire College	GFEC	1	2	1
10	Elidyr Communities Trust	Other	1	2	
7	Preston College	GFEC	1	1	
5	Wirral Metropolitan College	GFEC		1	1
4	Rotherham College	GFEC	1		
4	South Staffordshire College	GFEC	1		
3	Cheshire College South and West	GFEC		1	
3	Sunderland College	GFEC		1	
3	Weston College	GFEC		1	
2	Bridgend College	GFEC			1
2	New City College	GFEC			1
2	NPTC Group	GFEC			1
2	Salford City College	GFEC			1
2	The Oldham College	GFEC			1
2	Trafford College Group	GFEC			1

Thank you to the national final host venues























Centre of Excellence programme goes from **strength to strength**

ANVIKSHA PATEL ANVIKSHA.PATEL@FEWEEK.CO.UK

hen WorldSkills UK launched the Centre of Excellence pilot in 2020, the organisation had no idea it would be so popular.

It received over 55 applications from education institutions that wanted to take part in free world-class teacher training and access a network of best practice and international thought leadership.

The three-year pilot, which was developed with NCFE, was initially capped at 20 participating institutions to engage in the programme but ended up accepting 50 organisations to take part

Since then, over 64,000 learners have benefitted from the Centre of Excellence, exceeding an initial target of 42,000 learners and has reached 4,000 teaching practitioners.

The pilot was a hit, and in June this year, WorldSkills UK announced that applications were open to all training organisations, including colleges, training providers, Institutes of Technology and universities, that wanted to take part

Over 85 organisations are now registered members and the number is set to grow.

Firebrand Training was the first independent training provider to be accepted onto the programme.

For Firebrand's managing director for apprenticeships Ben Hansford, the appeal was giving his educators "the opportunity to go from really high levels of competence to world-class."

Firebrand has also embedded WorldSkills UK components into its curriculum.

"Our data apprenticeships have pressure testing in them now, which actually is over and above the requirements for an apprenticeship," Hansford said. "It gives individuals the chance to demonstrate their skills in a pressured environment, which aligns with WorldSkills competitions as well."

For learners, the programme has also made its

mark. For the second year running now, Firebrand has posted a 73 per cent qualification achievement rate across all 13 of its apprenticeship standards.

"Learners are experiencing enriched programmes, ultimately from world-class educators," Hansford added. "That goes on to have a much better impact on employers, the economy, the sector, and these well-rounded individuals are going on to have amazing careers."

The roll-out meant that more than 140,000 young people and nearly 5,000 educators can now access support and development opportunities. WorldSkills UK enlisted the support of two new Centre of Excellence supporting organisations too: Autodesk and Skills and Education Group.

The North West – the home of the 2023 WorldSkills UK national finals – is uniquely benefiting from the programme.

The region has the most institutions in the Centre of Excellence programme so far with 16 of the 67 fully signed up, followed by the West Midlands with nine. Other regions have some catching up to do

London has just three participating training organisations currently making use of the free resources and opportunities through the Centre of Excellence. In the East Midlands, just one college is currently fully registered.

But the numbers are growing. A further 21 UK training organisations are currently being onboarded.

Parisa Shirazi, WorldSkills UK director of standards told *FE Week* that Greater Manchester being the "playground" for the national finals was an inspiration to its involvement in the Centre of Excellence.

"I think it's an embedded culture of competition firstly," she said.

Shirazi explained that the Greater Manchester Colleges Group, the membership body for local colleges, organise their own intercollegiate competitions, "not specifically for WorldSkills UK, but because they see the real value in driving performance of young people," she said.

The expansion of the programme means what's on offer for teachers and trainers is also developing.



Current onboarded WorldSkills UK Centre for Excellence institutions (Nov 2023)

NATION/ENGLISH REGION	CURRENT PARTICIPANTS				
North West	16				
West Midlands	9				
North East	8				
Yorkshire and The Humber	8				
East of England	7				
Wales	6				
South West	4				
South East	4				
London	3				
Northern Ireland	1				
East Midlands	1				

This includes a combination of in-person and virtual CPD delivery. "We're trying to make sure the programme is as accessible as possible, and recognise the time constraints of teachers," Shirazi said.

It also comprises a revamped network of innovation or "a third space", Shirazi says, for like-minded practitioners to discuss upskilling in key growth sectors for the economy such as green skills, digital and advanced manufacturing.

The third strand offers global thought leadership to college principals, training providers CEOs and employer education leaders who can share "challenges and solutions" with UK and international partners.





To all our Investment Partners who support our National Competition programmes, promoting high quality skills throughout the UK.







































WorldSkills UK finalists 2023

Aisin • Logan Cook • Sam

Dyson • Kornel Franczak • David John

Kenneth Martin • Emiley Scott • Leila Sorensen
• Kayleigh Elizabeth Grace Young • Oksana Bielokoz •

Toni Borgia • Ashley Chambers • Elena Cioata • Lucy Doyle • Steffan John Lloyd Evans • Menna Isaac • Christian Jones • Liliana Madariaga • Rose Mathews • Jack McAllister • Emily Medland • Treasure Obi • Tomos Rees • Joanne Rogers • Rebecca Hocking • Nerys Anna Southgate • Amelia Whittal-Williams • Henry Ankers • James Donohue • Sam Forbes • Kinga Gorzelanczyk • Kieran O'Loan • Jack Price • Leo Tweed • Aiden Williams • Jack Campbell • Jastin Carr • Karol Czapek Teagan Dorman • Ross
 Hunter • Neil King • Bailey
 Tamunormiete Manuel • Graham • Yan Hei Wong • Kim Leighton • Elijah Mangnall • Carter McKnight • Benjamin Aidan Cheetham • Robert Rounce • Sean Treanor • Gray • Jonathan Johnston Jordan Lingham • Alec Matthews • Lewis Brayford Maksim Makutonovic • Archie Macleod • Adrian Thomas FearnheadOisin McKerrDeclan Phillips • Victoria Steele Hursey • Jack Johnston • Ryan Cullen • Ashley Hursey • Young Arran Powell
 Elliot Ritchie • Oliver Lorella Booker • Eve McCann • Kaya Mujica Sherratt • Patience Swan Boyde • Neve Dunn • Caitlin Erin Owens • Isabella Mykenzie Cartmill • Adrienne Chastney • Niamh Bratton • Carlie- Jayne
Dutton • Amy Fairclough
• Jessica La Polla • Beth Carlie- Jayne Monroe • Jessica Sharp • Iwan Brewin • Morgan Evans • Jacob Gibbons • Theodore Philip-Holloway Thomas Pool • Harry Rogers • Amelia Rushton • Samuel Spencer • Edward Crisp • Tai Jones • Joshua Lamb • Kian Lloyd • Osian Roberts • Steffi Cairney • Natalie Godfrey • Indy Lamble • Crystal Palmer • Tierney Parker • Evie Vodden • Becca Wilson • Keeley Mullan • Shirin Asl • Ana Christina Cavalcanti Da Silva • Sapphire Francis • Chloe Gillespie • Eleri Jones • Primrose Powell Jazmin Williams
 Zoe Wright Lydia Beavis • Demi Dalgetty
Laura James • Hayley Kibler
Morgan Harrison • Victoria Rathbone • Jodie Rooney Flo Traini-Cobb • Georgia Hackett • Annabelle Hughes • Tyler Richardson • Sophie Smith • Rebecca Stewart • ames Whelan • Gabrielle James Whelan • Wilson • Daisy Glasper Joey Bluett • Andrew Cook Sam Dalgleish
 Joseph
 Evans
 Samuel Kassm
 Alan Kraszewski
 Luke Mcstravick • Sakthivelan Pandy • Connor Pester • James Smee • Tom Bowles • Calam Kearney • Amina Nawaz • Rebekah Over Temiloluwa Popoola • Anthony Pyott • Adam Sloss
• Amy Berridge • Faith
Boot • Nicole Cunningham • Daniel Fleming • Scarlett Freyone • Nathaniel Hale Grace Harrison • Matty
Heward • Isabel Hurcum
 Kaylan Jordan- Sen • Katie King • Callum Littlewood • Aimie Lovell • Charlie
McCarthy • Georgie Mitchell • Rosie-Mae Moody • Willem- Fisk Nicholson •

Naomi Park-Hanson • Rachel Pearson • William Race • Matthew Thompson • Jake Venners • Louis Wright • Lukas Zamecnik • Kevin Boone • Ben Gillin • Thomas Magee • Danny McBean • Connor McDonnell • Jason Robinson • Thomas Turner • Demi Mae Whitehead • Harry Dickson • Matt Edmonson • Sean Edwards • Stephen Hyland • Connor Leddy • Jamie Pearson • Andrei Puscasiu • Thomas Sixsmith • Nicholas Allan • Jamie Rusk • Ross Black • Matthew Blair • Daniel Ditchett • Jack Matthews • Gianluca Mori • Jonathan Wilde • Abigail Dewhurst • Sarah Grinnell • Emma Rochfort • Edel Michael • Kirsty Noble • Jose Sanchez • Angela Wake • Katherine Weekes • Emily Boulton • Robert Dargavel • Kian Gill • Oliver Hemming

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 Jessica Mercer-Taylor • Mohammed Shahid • Emily Sinnott • Thomas Taylor • Lee Barnett • Jestej Bhachu • Maisie Blackwell • William Clark
• Izzabella Hughes • Jolsna
Jestin • Rhys McCann • Jade
Jakley • Lukas Walker • Spencer Orme • Tre Peele • Ízzabella Hughes • Jolsna Oakley • Lukas Walker • Harvey Reid • Shannon Renshaw • Jenson Smith • Gard • Lucy-Ann Gibson • Cameron Bryant • Carly Esther James • Laurina Keira Paterson • Bobby Marr • Marcus Mckay Bendle • Billy Baldwin King • Jess Knight • Callie Navas • Ryan Rock • Heidi Kieran Bufton • Megan Morgan • Ana Moldonado Navas • Ryan Rock • Heidi
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