A supplement produced by

FE WEEK

worldskillsuk

National Finals 2026

18–20 November 2026











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FE WEEK

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FE Week is published by EducationScape Ltd.

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Showcasing the excellence employers are looking for



The WorldSkills UK national finals bring together the most talented and ambitious young people from across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, showcasing the exceptional skills in our FE and skills systems.

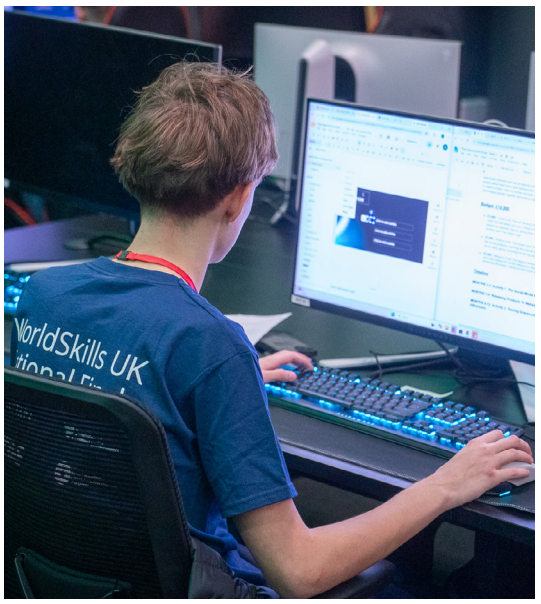
Every competitor has put in countless hours of practice, supported by the educators, employers and families who have helped them along the way. They should all be very proud.

Taking part helps young people develop the work-ready skills that employers value. By connecting them with opportunities, our competitions also play an important role in preventing young people from becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training).

Employers increasingly recognise the value of our competition programme, which offers a pathway from local competitions through to the international stage.

Our research shows that 74 per cent of employers recognise the benefits of taking part in competitions, while 61 per cent would encourage young employees to take part to develop their abilities further.

At WorldSkills UK, we use what we learn through international competition to raise standards across the wider skills system.





Our Centre of Excellence, delivered in partnership with NCFE, is central to this ambition, and I'm delighted it has now grown to 169 members. Since 2023, it has supported more than 17,000 educators through professional development, reaching nearly 352,000 learners.

It is particularly encouraging to see so many members represented at the national finals. It shows how this work translates into real opportunities and achievements for young people.

Our national finals would not be possible without the commitment of our competition organising partners, investment partners and supporters. I want to thank them for helping us engage so many young people and educators across the UK.

I would also like to extend a special thank you to the Welsh Government and Inspiring Skills Excellence in Wales for hosting the national finals since 2025. Their welcome and support have made these events a huge success.

Next year, we're excited to build on that success by taking the national finals to London. Working with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of London will give us a fantastic opportunity to reach new audiences, strengthen our relationships with employers and partners, and showcase the outstanding talent of young people from across the UK.

For this year's finalists, the national finals could be the beginning of an even bigger journey. They could be selected to represent the UK at WorldSkills Aichi 2028, competing against the very best in the world.

Congratulations to everyone competing in this year's national finals. You are showing the talent and potential that UK employers need, and helping to raise the profile and status of technical education.



Wales takes its final bow as WorldSkills UK host

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Glitter tattoos, AI-assisted accounts and a fine-dining lunch served by a future gold medallist: my highlights from the WorldSkills UK national finals in south Wales

Day one: Wednesday 18 November

My first stop was Bridgend College, hosting the finals for the second and final year.

In the accounting technician competition, students and apprentices worked in pairs to review a stack of documents. The twist was that they had to use AI to do it, sticking to free versions of the tools. They then had to build a presentation explaining how they had used AI in their methodology.

The 1,800 schoolchildren who had descended on the college to try its new skills showcase had gone by the time I arrived. The have-a-go stations were still busy with other visitors, among them virtual welding, bird box making and hairdressing.

Marion Plant, chair of WorldSkills UK, was spotted in the college's beauty salon getting a glitter tattoo.

Visitors heard an employer presentation before being led around the college's nine competitions.

Charlotte Collins, trade partnerships manager at DeWalt, said the tools firm launched its DeWalt Academy in the UK early last year, having long been a partner to the French and Polish WorldSkills teams. So far, the academy has equipped 15 FE colleges to train learners on the tools before they get any real-world experience.

"We wanted to make sure that the students were using tools that were representative of what they would use once they moved out into the industry," she said.

Tutors are trained too, so they keep up with new tool technology.

Naomi Leugs, early careers partner at heating firm Baxi, said an ageing workforce had pushed the apprentice employer to bring in more young people.

"Five years ago, we realised that we had engineers that were all [aged] 50-plus and don't know the new technologies," she said. "We've been going for 160 years, but the heating industry has changed."

Ian Grant, Amazon's senior apprenticeship programme manager, said competitions push its apprentices into "genuinely demanding, high-pressure technical challenges".

"That matters to us as an employer, it accelerates the development of problem-solving, resilience and precision that takes years to build through standard on-the-job experience alone," he said.

Amazon had apprentices competing in mechatronics and Industry 4.0.

"The apprentices who compete come back sharper, more confident and more capable. That's exactly what we need on the warehouse floor."

Back on the competition floor, WorldSkills UK training managers were roaming around, looking for competitors with the potential to make the next international squad.

This year's winners can be selected for Squad UK, and could go on to compete in Aichi, Japan, in 2028.

The day ended with a drinks reception, where canapés were served by supported interns from the college's Club Coffi.

Principal Viv Buckley said the college has a deal with Costa Coffee that guarantees interns a job with the chain once they finish the programme and qualify as baristas.



Day two: Thursday 19 November

Breakfast was a business affair at Cardiff and Vale College, hosted with large apprenticeship employer BAE Systems.

During a panel session, Emma Roberts, WorldSkills UK's director of external affairs, said competitions mattered more than ever after Alan Milburn's landmark review, published on Tuesday. It recommended a Youth Opportunity Service in every area of England and legal "guarantees" of work, training or support, to bring down the UK's NEET rate of 13 per cent.

"We like to try and think about skills competitions as a type of work experience, and that's so important given how much work experience is needed for youth employment and to get people into work," she said.

Hannah Sheehan, director of the skills journey directorate at the Department for Education, said the finals showed the "bridge" between education and employability.

"Just seeing the change in young people, when we saw the young people in Shanghai and how much difference it's made to them, and then seeing here with so many more young people, I think it's incredible and a real opportunity," she added.

Peter Jenkins knows that change first-hand. When I last saw him, competing in robot systems integration in Shanghai, his trainer said Jenkins and his partner Pratham Lohia had gone from "absolute panic" at the scale of the competition to finding their rhythm.

"I wouldn't have been on this stage I don't think even six months ago. I wouldn't have had the confidence," he told the audience.

"I've always been a very shy person, so I haven't

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had confidence to do public speaking or to do any sort of thing like this."

The panel also heard from Amelia Candler, a manufacturing apprentice at BAE Systems. She is from a small village in West Wales, and spoke about the transport problems young people face when they try to get on.

WorldSkills UK runs a competitor support fund with the University Vocational Awards Council to help national finalists overcome financial barriers to taking part. It covers essential costs including travel, clothing, equipment and care.

Last year, 63 competitors received funding. Seven of them won silver, seven won bronze and two were highly commended.

Also on the panel was Neil Surman, deputy director for skills at the Welsh Government, who took questions from the audience on the recent draft budget.

David Hagendyk, chief executive of ColegauCymru, estimated that FE allocations of £815 million in 2027-28 would leave around 5,000 learners unfunded.

Cardiff and Vale College principal Sharon James Evans called the news "disappointing".

"It contrasts with the Milburn report in England that was saying invest in apprenticeships, invest in employability, and invest in colleges. So we want that same equity across the border in Wales," she said.

"I think the next few months are going to be about lobbying."

For lunch, I was a guinea pig. The restaurant service competition was in full swing at Cardiff and Vale College, and I sat down with college staff to be served a three-course fine-dining meal by 17-year-old Mari Evans from Coleg Sir Gâr and Coleg Ceredigion.

I'd find out the next night how well she had done.

In the evening, I had the hard job of eating another three-course meal, back at Cardiff and Vale College. This one was locally sourced, cooked and served by catering learners.

Day three: Friday 20 November

The main competitions finished on Thursday, so the last day belonged to the foundation skills competitors, learners with special educational needs and disabilities.

Their competitions ran until lunchtime. Then the reception area of Cardiff and Vale College was turned into the venue for the foundation skills medal ceremony. North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College topped the table, winning medals in six of the eight competitions.

Then it was on to ICC Wales in Newport for the main event.

First came a reception to formally hand the finals over to London. The capital will host them in 2027 and 2028 across three colleges: Capital City College's Mosaic@Soho campus, Waltham Forest College and London South East Colleges' Bromley campus.

WorldSkills UK chair Marion Plant said Wales had "provided a fantastic stage" for the past two years "to show just what young people can achieve when we give them the opportunity to excel".

"We certainly leave Wales with lots of wonderful memories and plenty of inspiration," she said.

Cefin Campbell, the Welsh Government's deputy minister for skills and tertiary education, told competitors that reaching a national final "is a remarkable achievement".

"Skills competitions build confidence. They raise aspirations and encourage individuals to strive for excellence in their respective fields," he said. "We are proud of what we've achieved here in Wales."

Howard Dawber, London's deputy mayor for business and growth, accepted the baton.

"I think the team in south Wales has set a really, really high standard for us to try and meet," he said. He promised next year's finals would be "the largest skills competition that's been held in London for more than a decade".

Then came the moment the competitors had been waiting all week for.

In the hall at ICC Wales, 810 people, including finalists, teachers, families and officials, waited for the results.

One by one, winners from all 36 competitions were announced, each one drawing a roar of cheers from their colleges' delegations in the audience. Some faces were familiar from my week.

The accounting technician gold, in the competition I'd watched them grapple with AI on Wednesday, went to Grŵp Llandrillo Menai's Sam Johnson and Kristin Parry.

Amazon, whose apprenticeship boss had talked about apprentices coming back "sharper", took silver in Industry 4.0 and bronze in mechatronics.

Bridgend College had a gold of its own, with Tegan Thomas winning health and social care.

And Mari Evans, who had served my lunch the day before, went up to collect gold in restaurant service.

"[My mind] went blank, I didn't know what to think," she said afterwards.

Welsh colleges took all three top places in the medal table. Grŵp Llandrillo Menai was first with 19 points, Coleg Sir Gâr and Coleg Ceredigion second, and Coleg Cambria third.

North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College and New College Lanarkshire were joint fourth on 12 points, the top-performing colleges from England and Scotland respectively. CAFRE and Southern Regional College led the way for Northern Ireland's colleges, with seven points each.

After three days and 134 medallists, Wales signed off as host in style. See you in London.



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Technical excellence is excellence: let's end the snobbery



JACQUI SMITH
Skills minister

The skills minister salutes this year's national finalists and sets out how vocational GCSEs and V Levels will put technical routes on a par with academic ones

Technical excellence deserves to be celebrated, and Britain's young people have shown they can compete with the very best in the world.

At WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 in September, I was supporting Team UK as they received medal recognition in 19 of the 25 skills entered, our strongest performance at the international competition since 2017. Two competitors returned home as world champions, taking gold in chemical laboratory technology and refrigeration and air conditioning.

That is an extraordinary achievement and one that the whole country should be proud of.

Team UK's success shows the depth of talent we have among young people across the country, and what they can achieve when they are given the opportunity to develop practical skills to the highest standard.

Whether a young person comes alive in a workshop, a kitchen, a laboratory or a computer design studio, their talent should be recognised and celebrated.

And we have seen that talent on display again at this year's WorldSkills UK national finals. To everyone who competed: congratulations. Getting to the national finals is an achievement in itself and a testament to all the hard work you have put into developing your craft.

Competitions like WorldSkills matter because they demonstrate something we should never lose sight of: technical excellence is excellence.

Practical skills and high standards matter more than ever. Mastering a technical skill takes knowledge, creativity and determination, and these are exactly the skills employers need, and our economy is crying out for.

> **“**
> **Practical skills and high standards matter more than ever**

I saw that on the international stage in Shanghai. Team UK's success demonstrated the strength of our skills system, but it also showed what is possible when young people get excellent training, clear opportunities and the confidence to pursue a technical career.

We want many more young people to have that opportunity.

But outdated attitudes towards vocational and technical education still hold too many young people back. We should never allow snobbery about different routes to put talented young people off pursuing what they love and what they are brilliant at.



Academic excellence and technical excellence should be equally valued. Young people deserve to choose the path that matches their talents and ambitions, knowing it can lead to a rewarding and prosperous career.

We need to close the gap between the classroom and the world of work, making education more relevant and engaging and giving every young person a clear route to success.

That is why we are introducing new, high-esteem technical and vocational qualifications, putting them on a par with academic subjects so every young person leaves education with the skills and confidence to succeed.

Young people want more choice and more opportunities to develop practical skills that lead to rewarding and prosperous careers. By introducing new vocational GCSEs from age 14 alongside new V Levels from age 16, we are creating stronger technical pathways and putting hands-on learning on an equal footing with academic routes.

Whatever their interests or skills, I want every young person to have the opportunity to achieve excellence.

Ultimately, though, the best advert for technical education is the young people succeeding through it.

I hope the national finals have given you enormous pride in how far you have already come. For those invited to join WorldSkills UK's two-year development programme, this could be just the beginning of a journey that leads all the way to the next international WorldSkills competition in Aichi, Japan, in 2028.

So to every competitor, and to the colleges, training providers, employers, teachers and families supporting them, thank you.







Maker to Mentor: how Tameside got engineers teaching and lecturers back on the tools

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Experienced engineers are often expected to train apprentices and mentor colleagues, drawing on years spent on the factory floor. College lecturers, meanwhile, are racing to keep up with the robots, software and 3D printers that are changing the industry.

Tameside College has trialled a project that tackles both problems at once by bringing the two groups together to learn from each other.

Manufacturing accounts for around one in every 15 jobs in Greater Manchester, according to ONS data. But employers say they are struggling to recruit people with the skills the industry increasingly needs, from robotics and automation to digital production and engineering maintenance.

"How do we ensure that educators remain at the forefront of rapidly changing industry practice, whilst also enabling industry experts to develop the skills to teach, train and mentor the next generation?" said Parisa Shirazi, director of standards at WorldSkills UK.

The college's Maker to Mentor programme, funded through the NCFE and WorldSkills UK Centre of Excellence, tested a "dual professionalism" model over 12 months. Lecturers sharpened their industry skills while advanced manufacturing engineers learned to teach.

Two professionals, one stone

Leaders brought the two workforces together across two "strands": technical and teaching.

"Technology is moving so rapidly at the moment that getting staff up to speed and learners ready for industry is a difficult challenge," said Jodie McCormick, assistant principal for vocational education.

"We can heavily invest in equipment, but we need to consider how we then upskill the staff."

Colleges also struggle to recruit and keep staff from industry, said fellow assistant principal Carl Shaw.

"They don't really understand what's involved in teaching, and what we don't want is to lose that person straight away," he said.

The college ran the two strands side by side. On the technical strand, lecturers and learners got 40 hours of employer-led training in robotics, automation, computer-aided design (CAD) and additive manufacturing.

On the teaching strand, which was designed to build a "reciprocal" relationship with employers, industry professionals enrolled on a 12-week level 3 award in education and training.

Building on trust

McCormick first planned to run the project in the college's digital department, but switched to engineering because of its long-standing employer links.

"It was crystal clear to me we had to have that commitment from the employers," she said.

"The project was complex enough without having to try and negotiate partway through how much commitment we were going to get."

Around 80 people took part: roughly 30 college staff, 20 industry representatives and 30 learners and apprentices. More than 10 employers were involved, including Siemens, Amazon and commercial lighting manufacturer Whitecroft Lighting.

McCormick and Shaw didn't ask the companies to give a talk or co-sign a course. They asked them which skills their workforces were missing. Siemens, for example, worked with lecturers to co-design engineering units based on current automation and mechatronics practice.

"I think the real difference was putting employers, educators and learners all in the same environment and seeing that organically develop," said Shaw. "That's something that you would shy away from ordinarily, but it really brought everyone together."

The teaching strand had to change, however. Many employers signed up but struggled to release staff, so the college moved the course online. In the end, five industry professionals took it.

Confidence on the rise

At the start and end of the project, participants rated their confidence out of five in seven technical skill areas.

Average confidence rose from 2.95 to 4.18. Of the 21 learners and educators who gave both ratings, 20 recorded an improvement.

The biggest jumps came from those who started lowest. Two learners who scored themselves nine out of a possible 35 at the start finished on 32 and 33.

Average confidence in quality assurance and ISO procedures rose by around two-thirds to 3.95. Confidence with digital manufacturing tools such as CNC machines and robotics rose by 64 per cent, from 2.52 to 4.14.

Engineers who took the teaching qualification reported more confidence in lesson planning, assessment, learner engagement and inclusive teaching.

The scores are self-reported, and McCormick admitted they are not "independent proof of technical competence".

The college now plans to build on the project. It is reviewing the teaching qualification for employers and exploring whether it could sell it commercially.

It is also building the approach into day-to-day curriculum planning, and plans to take the model into its digital department next academic year, hopefully with further dedicated funding.

"The opportunity now is to institutionalise the principles, improve the evidence, and grow the model, but responsibly," McCormick said.

From NEET to national finalist: the competitions building confidence for learners with SEND

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WorldSkills UK's foundation skills competitions are helping learners with SEND make friends, find jobs and aim for careers they'd never considered. Anviksha Patel met the competitors at this year's national finals

The culmination of months of work was an ornate crown of braids and an intricate fishtail plait scattered with gems and feathers.

Foundation hairdressing competitor Somer-Jade Benn had been going to college every day to practise Viking-themed styles for this year's national finals.

Two years ago, the North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College learner dropped out in the first year of her hairdressing course and was classed as NEET.

"It was more the social side. I was alone every day, so it was not good," she explained. "When I came back, I made friends."

This year, she was one of eight finalists, out of 141 entrants, in the WorldSkills UK foundation skills hairdressing competition.

To get there, Benn went through three rounds. First, she designed a mood board for an under-the-sea, mermaid-themed brief. Then she recreated the style on a practice head. The third round was the national final itself, where the brief was Vikings.

Karly Quinn, the college's curriculum lead for beauty, said the biggest change since Benn returned had been her confidence.

"We're obviously really proud of Somer, from where she started and where she's come now," she said. "She would never have been able to do this last year."

The college built up her confidence gradually, with practice runs to show her what competing would feel like.

> **These awards focus on what learners can do, not what they can't**

"It's been a long journey, and it's not been the easiest sometimes," Quinn said. "We try to break down those barriers to be able to compete, and she's just absolutely smashed it today."

The gold went to The Oldham College's Alicia Moura, with fellow NWSLC learner Lacey Davies taking silver.

Benn said taking part has made a difference outside college too. She now works part time at Costa Coffee.

"I'm so used to now speaking to people in such a different way than before. It's helped me a lot," she said.


Fatimah Patel

She wants to work in a salon and work her way up to running her own business one day. She is also thinking about creative and bridal hairdressing, which she said she would never have considered before competing.

Opening doors

Foundation skills competitions are open to learners aged 16 and over with special educational needs and disabilities or additional needs. Competitors must be working towards entry level 3 or level 1.

NWSLC developed the competitions in 2014 under its principal Marion Plant, when they were known as inclusive skills competitions. This year, the college topped the foundation skills medal table, winning medals in six of the eight competitions.

Plant, who is also chair of WorldSkills UK, said employers "increasingly see skills competitions as a valuable way" to develop the skills young people need for work.

At the medal ceremony, Sharon James Evans, principal of Cardiff and Vale College, told competitors the day was "not simply about certificates and awards. It's about people".

"These foundation awards are particularly special because they focus on what learners can do, not what they can't," she said. "Too often, people are defined by perceived limitations, barriers, or labels, and these awards challenge that way of thinking."

Anna Brychan, the Welsh Government's cabinet minister for education and the Welsh language, said education should "never place limits on someone's

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Somer-Jade Benn


Jasmine Ward

ambition before they've had a chance to explore them".

"Our role is to help learners discover their strengths, support them to achieve, and guide their future choices."

Real-life experience

For Jasmine Ward, a second-year health and social care learner at NWSLC, a hard year at home became a strength in competition.

Ward is a young carer, and she drew on her experience at home in her weekly practice.

Her tutor Julie Dean said she had had a difficult year at home, but preparing for the competition had made her "blossom and bloom".

Ward first won an internal college competition, then progressed through the WorldSkills UK rounds. These included an online role play in which the judges "threw a curveball" she hadn't practised.

At the national finals, she had to role-play two scenarios in front of judges. In the first, she showed the correct handwashing technique to a care home worker unhappy about infection rates. In the second, she made a home visit to a patient feeling unwell in hot weather.

"They were quite easy, but it was just very nerve-wracking," Ward said. "To go up and walk into a random room, not knowing who's going to be in there.

"I wasn't nervous until I looked into the room, and then it went away."

The nerves didn't hold her back. She won silver.

"She was just so natural and brilliant at it," Dean said. "She's been so grown up and mature here today. Everybody's commented on it."

Ward now wants to progress to level 3, then train as a nurse or midwife. Her next goal is a mainstream WorldSkills UK competition.

Former NWSLC learner Jaeda Martin won joint gold in the foundation health and social care competition in 2024, after completing her level 1 health and social care qualification.

She then moved on to a level 1 childcare course, where she found much of the content familiar thanks to her studies and competition experience.

Tamara Martin, a health and social care lecturer at the college, said WorldSkills "opens doors" that some people may not know exist.

"The journey is far bigger than [awards], because it will truly empower them to believe in themselves," she said. "It's a really big influence for their peers, to show that you can go on and do other things."

> **You can't just know the skill, you have to think on your feet**

Jaeda Martin went on to a job in childcare. Last year, she returned to the college as a guest speaker, telling current competitors how the competition helped her understand person-centred care, with children and families as well as older adults.

After more than a year working in the sector, she is now travelling, and hopes to teach English and maths to children on education projects abroad.

From Trafford to the Hilton

At Trafford College, Fatimah Patel, who is deaf, prepared diligently for the restaurant service competition.





Adam Montgomery

She stayed on after her timetabled hours, practising table setting and cocktail making. Her timekeeping was tested at a college event, where she had to make and serve 50 welcome drinks to guests.

"It's definitely nerve-wracking and stepping out of the learners' comfort zone, but we always want to have high expectations for our learners and for them to be ambitious and know they can achieve great things, despite any barriers," said her tutor Hayley Dickens.

In 2024, Dickens encouraged level 1 hospitality learner Adam Montgomery to enter the same competition, when the national finals were held in his home city of Manchester.

He came away highly commended, and with new confidence in what he could achieve.

"In the final, I realised I'd forgotten something – glasses. I had to adapt and use the glasses in the venue instead of panicking," he said.

"That's what competition teaches you. You can't just know the skill, you have to be able to think on your feet when something goes wrong."

He added: "Coming fourth showed me I could perform under pressure, in front of judges, against the best in the country. It gave me confidence that I still use now in front of house: laying a table properly, serving a drink properly, and staying calm when plans change."

Montgomery progressed to level 2, and when his family moved to London, he continued his training at Westminster Kingsway College.

He now works at Hilton Bankside in Blackfriars, a step towards his dream of working in a large, prestigious hotel.

Kaye Jackson, director of business growth and engagement at Skills and Education Group, which sponsors the foundation skills competitions, said they "not only celebrate achievement but also help learners strengthen the communication, independence and problem-solving skills that employers increasingly value".

Bridgend's parting message to London: be brave

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As Bridgend College hosts the WorldSkills UK national finals for the last time, principal Viv Buckley tells FE Week how it stepped up its work with local schools, and why the momentum must not stop when the event moves to London

Half of Bridgend College's car park vanished under a giant tent. The engineering workshops at its Pencoed campus were stripped bare, and a helicopter moved into one of them.

"Hosting is not for the faint-hearted," said principal Viv Buckley. "It does wipe a campus out, but it's absolutely worth it."

This year was the second and last time the South Wales college hosted the WorldSkills UK national finals before the competitions move to London in 2027. Leaders went all out.

The college again hosted nine of the 44 national competitions, including landscaping, welding and aircraft maintenance. Robotics moved to the University of Wales Trinity Saint David this time, which Buckley said worked in the college's favour.

"It means we get our big auditorium back," she explained.

That freed up room for something new: a skills showcase for local schools, run with partners including tools firm DeWalt and automation company Festo.

Bridgend opened its doors to 1,800 year 8 and 9 pupils from the local area, almost double last year's number.



As well as touring the competitions, each pupil took part in two "have-a-go" activities, chosen from 44 on offer.

"Hopefully they'll get a really clear sense of vocational training," Buckley said.

Last year, schools struggled to release pupils because places were limited. This time, the college worked with school leaders to bring in whole year groups, and helped pay for transport so more teachers could come too.

"There were some schools that said, 'we just cannot let 80 of them go because what do we do with the other half of the year group?'" she said.

The aim is to reach pupils before they choose their GCSE options. Buckley said the showcase fits with the new curriculum for Wales, which focuses on project-based learning.

"You might be interested in IT, but did you realise that might mean you want to be an engineer? It's about getting people to think about those different skill sets," Buckley said.

She described the showcase as one "touch point" to get children and young people thinking about routes into work, education or upskilling.

Getting involved

Hosting a national final has an odd side effect. Last year, the college shut its engineering department for a week to make room for the competitions and sent learners to one of its two other campuses.

"We had to shut our curriculum down and send students away," Buckley said.

The workshops closed again this year, but this time the college built the national finals into the curriculum so learners could still benefit.

Since last year, more staff and students have also been asking how they can get involved in competitions.

For example, four level 2 landscape construction learners who weren't competing helped run DeWalt's stand. They showed visitors power tools and paving equipment and built wooden bird boxes at the battery-powered saw stations.

Employers have been won over too. Some 160 local and national businesses attended the competitions, double last year's number.

Some who visited in 2025 had not realised how big the college's facilities were, "let alone realising what skills competitions could be doing for their business and their productivity", Buckley said.


Viv Buckley

The Institute of the Motor Industry held its conference at the Pencoed campus this month after visiting last year's competitions.

'Out of sight, out of mind'

Buckley said local politicians are firmly behind the event, including Bridgend MP Chris Elmore, and that the Welsh Government clearly values the finals.

But she has a "mild frustration" about how that goodwill turns into "systemic support" and funding once the competitions leave Wales.

"Everybody understands that it's a good thing... When they move on to London, is it out of sight, out of mind again?" she said.

Hosting has "ignited the fire and whetted the appetite", she added.

"We've got to keep harnessing that so it doesn't just become, 'it was great for that week, but then we all forgot about it.'"

'Be brave'

Buckley has a simple message for next year's three London hosts: Capital City College's Mosaic@Soho campus, Waltham Forest College and London South East Colleges' Bromley campus.

"For me, it's about being brave," she said.

Getting the right spaces and equipment in place comes first. After that, she said, hosts should use the finals to bring in schools and employers and show off what makes their provision different.

"If people are coming here, let's make sure they're leaving here really understanding what Bridgend College has got to offer."

2027 National Competitions

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Develop skills. Raise aspirations. Celebrate success.

Give your learners the opportunity to develop technical, personal and employability skills through industry-designed competitions that complement learning and prepare them for the workplace.

What are the competitions?

WorldSkills UK National Competitions enable learners to showcase and develop their skills through practical challenges aligned to industry standards. Participation helps build confidence, strengthen technical capability, and prepare learners for successful progression into employment, apprenticeships, and further study.

Enrich your teaching, engage your learners and strengthen your links with industry by getting involved.

Why should educators get involved?

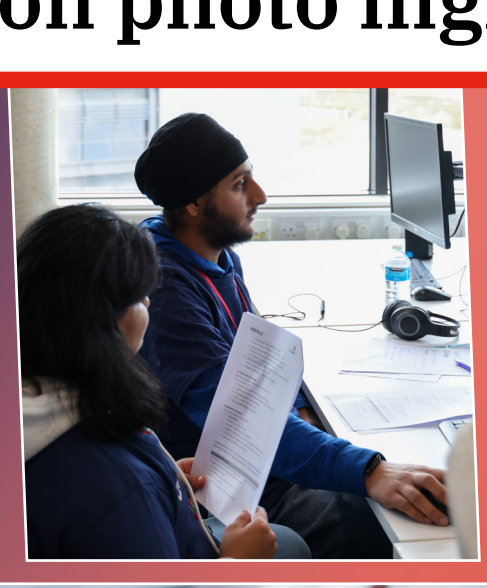
- Support learner development
- Enhance teaching and learning
- Access professional development
- Raise aspirations
- Celebrate excellence

Registration period 1–26 March 2027

Scan to register your interest now!



Competition photo highlights

















Delphi


A-O-LINER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National Finals 2026 results





Higher Education partner UVAC UNIVERSITY VOCATIONAL AWARDS COUNCIL

Construction and Infrastructure

DEWALT

NET

Electrical Installation

Competition Organising Partner: NET
Host Venue: Bridgend College
Gold: Tanvir Singh, C&B Electrics/Leicester College
Silver: Scott Drew, Royal Engineers
Bronze: Lee McLean, The Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT)/Adlib Audio Ltd.
Highly Commended: Rhys Howey, The Scottish Electrical Charitable Training Trust (SECTT)/W P Purves Electrical

skills for security

CSL THE SECURITY EVENT Texecom

Electronic Fire & Security Systems

Competition Organising Partner: Skills for Security Limited
Host Venue: University of Wales - Trinity St David Swansea
Gold: Sarah Murphy, Skills for Security/Crafted Technologies Ltd.
Silver: Thomas Wylie, Skills for Security/Network Scotland
Bronze: Oli Clarke, Skills for Security/HJC Install
Highly Commended: Stephen Darlow-Joy, Decibel Fire & Security
In partnership with CSL, Nineteen Group (The Security Event), Texecom Ltd

The Association of Professional Landscapers

Skills & Education Group

Foundation Skills: Horticulture

Competition Organising Partner: The Association of Professional Landscapers
Host Venue: Cardiff and Vale College
Gold: Pamela Heart, NPTC Group of Colleges
Silver: Russell Reeves, Elidyr Communities Trust
Bronze: Ashley Price, Pembrokeshire College
In partnership with Skills and Education Group

The Association of Professional Landscapers

Landscaping

Competition Organising Partner: The Association of Professional Landscapers
Host Venue: Bridgend College
Gold: Cameron Gilbert, CAFRE: College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise
Silver: Luke Donald, CAFRE: College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise
Bronze: Charlie Robertson, Suffolk New College
Highly Commended: Robert Lewis, Bridgend College

bpec LEARNING FOR LIFE

Plumbing

Competition Organising Partner: BPEC (British Plumbing Employers Council)
Host Venue: Bridgend College
Gold: Tristan McGrath, South West College/DH Mechanical & Ventilation
Silver: Hudson Denner, Coleg Y Cymoedd/RSP Plumbing & Heating
Bronze: Georgia Greenfield, London Southbank Technical College/Your Energy Your Way
Highly Commended: Lewis Wallace, New College Durham/DW Plumbing & Heating



Sarah Murphy, Skills for Security/Crafted Technologies Ltd.



Tanvir Singh, C&B Electrics/Leicester College



Tristan McGrath, South West College/DH Mechanical & Ventilation



Cameron Gilbert, CAFRE: College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise

Digital, Business and Creative

Cheshire College South & West

3D Digital Game Art

Competition Organising Partner: Cheshire College (South & West)
Host Venue: University of Wales - Trinity St David Swansea
Gold: Kaidan Heath, NCG Group
Silver: Joshua Cullingford, Warwickshire College Group
Bronze: Max Whistlecraft, Burnley College


Kaidan Heath, NCG Group


Steve Joseph-Sebastian, Gower College Swansea

KAPLAN ICAEW PARTNER IN LEARNING aat

Accounting Technician

Competition Organising Partner: Kaplan
Host Venue: Bridgend College
Gold: Sam Johnson, Grwp Llandrillo Menai and Kristin Parry, Grwp Llandrillo Menai/Williams Denton CYF (Team GLLM Ledger)
Silver: Neve Andrews, PKF Smith Cooper/EMA Training and Scarlett Pole, PKF Smith Cooper/EMA Training (Team The Going Concerns)
Bronze: Francesca O'Dell, Network Rail/Kaplan and Mollie Kinns, Network Rail/Kaplan (Team The Spreadsheet Sisters)
Highly Commended: Aaron Kanda, Lloyds Banking Group/Kaplan and Ahmed Abdellah Ali, Lloyds Banking Group/Kaplan (Team Lloyds Banking Group)
In partnership with ICAEW, AAT


Sam Johnson, Grwp Llandrillo Menai and Kristin Parry, Grwp Llandrillo Menai/Williams Denton CYF (Team GLLM Ledger)

GLASGOW CLYDE COLLEGE

Cyber Security

Competition Organising Partner: Glasgow Clyde College
Host Venue: Coleg Gwent
Gold: Leeam Tindle, Bath College
Silver: Solomon Hackett, Burton & South Derbyshire College
Bronze: Lyall Williamson, North East Scotland College
Highly Commended: Kornchanut Uttamamoon, Cardiff and Vale College and Owain Jones, Merthyr Tydfil College/EE

BRITISH ESPORTS

Demo: Esports Enterprise & Entrepreneurship Challenge

Competition Organising Partner: British Esports
Host Venue: Cardiff and Vale College
1st: James Doncaster, Sunderland College
2nd: Mason Klemp, Oldham College
3rd: Sam Walker, Dearne Valley College/RNN Group

NCL NEW COLLEGE LANARKSHIRE

AUTODESK

Digital Construction

Competition Organising Partner: New College Lanarkshire
Host Venue: Bridgend College
Gold: Hannah Webb, Sheffield Hallam University
Silver: Myles McDougall, New College Lanarkshire
Bronze: Caelan Guy, New College Lanarkshire
Highly Commended: Robyn Aitken, New College Lanarkshire
In partnership with Autodesk

NWSLC NORTH WARWICKSHIRE & SOUTH LEICESTERSHIRE COLLEGE

Digital Media Production

Competition Organising Partner: North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College
Host Venue: Cardiff and Vale College
Gold: Catie Gray, Liam Slinger, Matthew Root and Viktor Szuplik, Burnley College (Team Burnley College Team 2)
Silver: Amy Archer, Isobelle Davies, Katie Wilkinson and Niamh Gibson, East Durham College (Team East Durham College 1)
Bronze: Alfie Dakin, Cara Davies, Harry Smith and Noah Stretton, North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College (Team SLC Team 2)

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Digital Support and Security

Competition Organising Partner: WorldSkills UK
Host Venue: Coleg Gwent
Gold: David Rzecholka, North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College and Leudin Corre, South Essex College of Further and Higher Education
Silver: Ilia Firouzi, Dudley College of Technology
Bronze: Valentin Timuc, Northern Regional College

NWSLC NORTH WARWICKSHIRE & SOUTH LEICESTERSHIRE COLLEGE Skills & Education Group

Foundation Skills: Digital

Competition Organising Partner: North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College
Host Venue: Cardiff and Vale College
Gold: Connor Darby, Oldham College
Silver: Jack McBurney, North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College
Bronze: Harvey Middlemas, South West College
Highly Commended: Iestyn Donne, Coleg Gwent and Daisy Chambers, Bridgend College
In partnership with Skills and Education Group

COLEG Sir Benfro Pembrokeshire COLLEGE Skills & Education Group

Foundation Skills: Enterprise

Competition Organising Partner: Pembrokeshire College
Host Venue: Cardiff and Vale College
Gold: Corey Brown, Emma Edwards and Ffion Thomas, Pembrokeshire College (Team Life Skills Academy)
Silver: Taylor Davies, Rhys Pearce and Rhys Probert, Coleg Gwent (Team Tyre Transformers (TLZ Team 1))
Bronze: Zara Welfare, Alex Hodson and Libby Parry, Bridgend College (Team Bridgend 3)
In partnership with Skills and Education Group

The Manchester College be amazing

Graphic Design

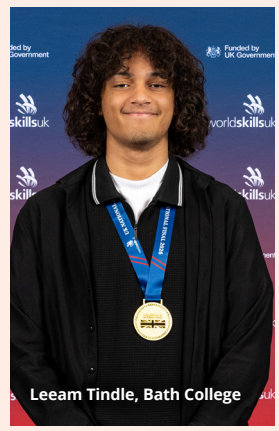
Competition Organising Partner: The Manchester College
Host Venue: University of Wales - Trinity St David Swansea
Gold: Steve Joseph-Sebastian, Gower College Swansea
Silver: Ruby Addison, DN Colleges Group
Bronze: Millie Underwood, RNN Group
Highly Commended: Ruth Cook, Cheshire College South & West, Shaneice Christopher, Dudley College of Technology and Fletcher Harman, West Suffolk College

worldskillsuk

Web Development

Competition Organising Partner: WorldSkills UK
Host Venue: Coleg Gwent
Gold: Dimo Rosenov, University of Portsmouth
Silver: Oscar Davies, Grwp Llandrillo Menai
Bronze: Kenan Akin, NPTC Group of Colleges


Hannah Webb, Sheffield Hallam University


Leeam Tindle, Bath College


Catie Gray, Liam Slinger, Matthew Root and Viktor Szuplik, Burnley College (Team Burnley College Team 2)

Engineering and Technology

BAE SYSTEMS

Additive Manufacturing

Competition Organising Partner: University of Wales - Trinity St David Swansea
Host Venue: University of Wales - Trinity St David Swansea
Gold: Gabriel Bartiromo, Bedford College
Silver: Josh Thomson, Liverpool Life Sciences UTC
Bronze: Mathew Brunza, Chelmsford College/ TNC Precision Engineering
Highly Commended: Alan Oleksiewicz, Barking & Dagenham College/ KA Windows & Doors Ltd and Cameron Webster, Grwp Llandrillo Menai

Aircraft Maintenance

Competition Organising Partner: Coleg Cambria - Deeside
Host Venue: Bridgend College
Gold: Edward Lee, Coleg Cambria/ Airbus UK
Silver: Hannah Back, Airbus UK
Bronze: Leo Jeffries, Airbus UK
Highly Commended: Ashlynne, BAE Systems

Automation

Competition Organising Partner: Middlesex University
Host Venue: University of Wales - Trinity St David Swansea
Gold: Alex Stevenson, West Suffolk College/Domino Printing Sciences and Christian Pullen, West Suffolk College/Huxley Bertram Engineering Ltd (Team Servo Surfers)
Silver: Nick Makatsaria and Santiago Strajijar, London Design & Engineering UTC (Team LDE UTC 1)
Bronze: Jak Henson and Greg Romanowski, Tresham College/The Bedford College Group (Team TC-Team One)
In partnership with Enginuity

Automotive Body Repair

Competition Organising Partner: Institute of the Motor Industry
Host Venue: Cardiff and Vale College
Gold: Ryan Davies, Riverpark Training/Nigel Whann ARC
Silver: Tiernan O'Reilly, Riverpark Training/Porters Body Shop
Bronze: Dylan Morgan, Cardiff and Vale College/Arnold Clark Automobiles Ltd
In partnership with Admiral

Automotive Refinishing

Competition Organising Partner: Institute of the Motor Industry
Host Venue: Cardiff and Vale College
Gold: Harvey Willoughby, Peterborough Skills Academy/RT Auto Body Shop
Silver: Aaron Saxton, FMG Repair Services/The Vella Group
Bronze: Tayla Bennison, Drive Vauxhall Redcar
Highly Commended: George Briggs, Steer Automotive Group
In partnership with Admiral

Automotive Technology

Competition Organising Partner: Institute of the Motor Industry
Host Venue: Cardiff and Vale College
Gold: Mitchell Gannicliffe, Inspiro Learning Ltd/Johnsons' Skoda
Silver: Julia Zajaczkowska, Hopwood Hall College/Cartime Motor Company
Bronze: Jake Knight, Skillnet Ltd/Howards' Motor Group
In partnership with Admiral

CNC Machinist

Competition Organising Partner: University of Wales - Trinity St David Swansea
Host Venue: University of Wales - Trinity St David Swansea
Gold: Barnaby Terry, Science & Technology Facilities Council (STFC)
Silver: Tomos Roberts, Coleg Cambria/JCB
Bronze: Dylan Martin, Electroimpact UK
Highly Commended: Louie Holt, Coleg Cambria/Airbus UK

Industrial Electronics

Competition Organising Partner: Gower College Swansea
Host Venue: University of Wales - Trinity St David Swansea
Gold: Marley Blakemoore, Gower College Swansea
Silver: Kirsty Tan, University of Sheffield
Bronze: Said Al Riyami, University of Sheffield
Highly Commended: Jasper Baker, University of Sheffield and Kaya-Louise Quinn, Gower College Swansea

Industrial Robotics

Competition Organising Partner: Middlesex University
Host Venue: University of Wales - Trinity St David Swansea
Gold: Neel Vashi and Dwij Sampat, Middlesex University (Team REGERA)
Silver: Denis Kerxhaliu and Dogu Muhurdaroglu, Middlesex University (Team The Machine)
Bronze: Jay Nii-Addy and Peter Zekry, Middlesex University (Team Robo PJ)
In partnership with Fanuc UK Ltd

Industry 4.0

Competition Organising Partner: Festo (Didactic Services Ltd)
Host Venue: University of Wales - Trinity St David Swansea
Gold: Igor Dolgan, Burnley College/Johnson Matthey and Keiran Webster, Burnley College/Zenix Aerospace Western (Team Burnley)
Silver: Dylan Phillips and Tom Barber, Amazon UK (Team Amazon)
Bronze: Aung Nyan Htun and Muhammad Faizan Ahmed, Manchester Metropolitan University (Team MMU 2)
In partnership with Festo

Laboratory Technician

Competition Organising Partner: Middlesex University
Host Venue: Bridgend College
Gold: Ruby Elliott, Southern Regional College/Almac
Silver: Ruby Hodge, New College Swindon/AWE
Bronze: Jeremy Lai, Procter & Gamble/CSR Training
Highly Commended: Martha Stokes, Tiro Training Ltd/ Harper Adams University

Mechanical Engineering: CAD

Competition Organising Partner: New College Lanarkshire
Host Venue: Bridgend College
Gold: Slawomir Keller, West Lothian College
Silver: Ben Beaumont, New College Durham/Cummings Inc
Bronze: Samuel Walker, New College Lanarkshire
Highly Commended: Michael Stratton, New College Lanarkshire and Richard Dong, UCL - London's Global University

Mechatronics

Competition Organising Partner: Middlesex University
Host Venue: University of Wales - Trinity St David Swansea
Gold: Bobby Scott and Matt Tomlinson, Toyota Motor Manufacturing UK (Team Toyota Mechatronics Team 2)
Silver: Callum James and Joe Williams, BMW/BMW Group (Team Bit Happens)
Bronze: Matt Finnemore and Sam Booker, Amazon UK (Team Two Guys, One Clue)
Highly Commended: Charlie Slater and Dylan Horrobin, Toyota Motor Manufacturing UK (Team Toyota Mechatronics Team 1)
In partnership with Amazon

Metal Fabricator

Competition Organising Partner: Engineering Skills Competitions CIC
Host Venue: Coleg Gwent
Gold: Tom Timmins, Dudley College of Technology/GFSA Ltd
Silver: Mark Wright, International Crusher Solutions
Bronze: Finnley Richards, Alliance Learning/Taziker Industrial Ltd
In partnership with EAL

Refrigeration, Air Conditioning and Heat Pumps

Competition Organising Partner: BESA
Host Venue: Cardiff and Vale College
Gold: Martin Oates, Glasgow Kelvin College/CPA Engineered Solutions
Silver: Alex Huggins, Bath College/Cotswolds Vale Refrigeration
Bronze: Kaya Yanik, Total People Ltd/Sparks Mechanical Services
Highly Commended: Jake McLean, Total People Ltd/ Setpoint22
In partnership with BAXI

Renewable Energy

Competition Organising Partner: DN Colleges Group
Host Venue: University of Wales - Trinity St David Swansea
Gold: Kevin Boone, New College Swindon/Thames Water
Silver: Karl Newton, Coleg Sir Gar / Coleg Ceredigion
Bronze: Mckenzie Goodwin-Cotterill, Grwp Llandrillo Menai/RWE
In partnership with NOCN

Welding

Competition Organising Partner: Engineering Skills Competitions CIC
Host Venue: Bridgend College
Gold: Zak Swinton, WEC Group
Silver: Alfie Ingram, CATCH/Phillips 66
Bronze: Bryn Thomas, The Skills Academy/JES Group
Highly Commended: Alessandro Teodori, Royal Engineers
In partnership with Air Products, Eng EPA, Rolls-Royce SMR

Health, Hospitality and Lifestyle

Beauty Therapist
Competition Organising Partner: Coleg Cambria
Host Venue: Cardiff and Vale College
Gold: Bella Smith, East Coast College
Silver: Katie Mooney, Southern Regional College
Bronze: Lexie Simons, Coleg Cambria
Highly Commended: Grace Hayes, Coleg Cambria and Lilla Thomas, West Suffolk College

Beauty Therapy Practitioner
Competition Organising Partner: Coleg Cambria
Host Venue: Cardiff and Vale College
Gold: Evie McManus, Coleg Cambria
Silver: Elara Jones, Coleg Sir Gar / Coleg Ceredigion
Bronze: Ellie Cassidy, West Lancashire College

Culinary Arts
Competition Organising Partner: Craft Guild of Chefs
Host Venue: Cardiff and Vale College
Gold: Steffan Davies-Williams, Coleg Sir Gar / Coleg Ceredigion
Silver: Heidi Askew, Pembrokeshire College
Bronze: Nicole Webb, University College Birmingham
Highly Commended: Sophie White, University College Birmingham and Selina Llewellyn, University College Birmingham

Foundation Skills: Catering
Competition Organising Partner: North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College
Host Venue: Cardiff and Vale College
Gold: Megan Evans, North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College
Silver: Leonard Wykes, North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College
Bronze: Finlay Blume Grocott, Oaklands College
In partnership with Skills and Education Group

Foundation Skills: Creative Media
Competition Organising Partner: North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College
Host Venue: Cardiff and Vale College
Gold: Kaleal Dababi and Kara Evens, Cardiff and Vale College (Team Storytellers)
Silver: Gio Hussain and Melissa Adamson, Salford City College (Team Nexus)
Bronze: Chloe Clarke and Meisa Abiat, North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College (Team Hnk T1)
In partnership with Skills and Education Group

Foundation Skills: Hairdressing
Competition Organising Partner: North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College
Host Venue: Cardiff and Vale College
Gold: Alicia Moura, Oldham College
Silver: Lacey Davies, North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College
Bronze: Lorenza Redshaw, Trafford College
Highly Commended: Rianna Moore, College of West Anglia
In partnership with Skills and Education Group

Foundation Skills: Health and Social Care
Competition Organising Partner: ACTAN
Host Venue: Cardiff and Vale College
Gold: Chloe Chant, Grwp Llandrillo Menai
Silver: Jas Ward, North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College
Bronze: Dina Qadir, Grwp Llandrillo Menai
In partnership with Skills and Education Group

Foundation Skills: Restaurant Services
Competition Organising Partner: North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College
Host Venue: Cardiff and Vale College
Gold: Rose McNamara, North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College
Silver: Kaitlin Martin, Cheshire College South and West
Bronze: Kodi Fryer-Saxby, Cardiff and Vale College/The Parkgate Hotel

Hairdressing
Competition Organising Partner: L'Oréal Professionnel
Host Venue: Cardiff and Vale College
Gold: Kayleigh Blears, Grwp Llandrillo Menai
Silver: Sophie Mays, New College Lanarkshire
Bronze: Amelia Leggett, Grimsby Tech/The Olive Room
Highly Commended: Pip Thomas, Coleg Sir Gar / Coleg Ceredigion and Lucy Roberts, Coleg Cambria


Kayleigh Blears, Grwp Llandrillo Menai

Health & Social Care
Competition Organising Partner: ACTAN
Host Venue: Coleg Gwent
Gold: Tegan Thomas, Bridgend College
Silver: Jac Brisland, University of South Wales
Bronze: Gracie Mansell, Shrewsbury Colleges Group and Freya Kimberly, North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College
In partnership with VTCT Skills, Salutem

Restaurant Service
Competition Organising Partner: Craft Guild of Chefs
Host Venue: Cardiff and Vale College
Gold: Mari Evans, Coleg Sir Gar / Coleg Ceredigion
Silver: Oskar Williams, Grwp Llandrillo Menai
Bronze: Kim Protheroe, Grwp Llandrillo Menai
Highly Commended: Shannon Brown, Coleg Sir Gar / Coleg Ceredigion and Evan Adams, Coleg Sir Gar / Coleg Ceredigion

SFX Makeup and Hair for Film and TV
Competition Organising Partner: Coleg Cambria
Host Venue: Cardiff and Vale College
Gold: Lexi Jarvis, North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College
Silver: Adrienn Buzi, Capital City College Group
Bronze: Eden Floyd, Coleg Gwent
Highly Commended: Selene Coote, The College of West Anglia and Titi Kaewnok, Cardiff and Vale College


Mari Evans, Coleg Sir Gar / Coleg Ceredigion


Steffan Davies-Williams, Coleg Sir Gar / Coleg Ceredigion


Tegan Thomas, Bridgend College


Lexi Jarvis, North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College

Top organisations for medal points*

Rank	Total Medal Points	Organisation Group	Organisation Type	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Highly Commended
1	19	Grwp Llandrillo Menai	GFEC	Wales	2	2	2	1
2	17	Coleg Sir Gar/ Coleg Ceredigion	GFEC	Wales	2	2	0	3
3	16	Coleg Cambria	GFEC	Wales	2	1	1	3
4	12	New College Lanarkshire (NCLAN)	GFEC	Scotland	0	2	2	2
=	12	North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College	GFEC	England	2	0	2	0
5	10	Burnley College	GFEC	England	2	0	1	0
6	9	Gower College Swansea	GFEC	Wales	2	0	0	1
=	9	Middlesex University	HEI	England	1	1	1	0
=	9	Skills for Security	ITP	England	1	1	1	0
7	8	Dudley College of Technology	GFEC	England	1	1	0	1
8	7	Bath College	GFEC	England	1	1	0	0
=	7	CAFRE: College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise	GFEC	Northern Ireland	1	1	0	0
=	7	New College, Swindon	GFEC	England	1	1	0	0
=	7	Riverpark Training	ITP	Northern Ireland	1	1	0	0
=	7	Southern Regional College	GFEC	Northern Ireland	1	1	0	0
9	6	Eastern Education Group	GFEC	England	1	0	0	2
=	6	NCG (Newcastle College Group)	GFEC	England	1	0	1	0
=	6	The Bedford College Group	GFEC	England	1	0	1	0
=	6	The University of Sheffield AMRC Training Centre	HEI	England	0	1	1	1
10	5	Airbus UK	Employer	Wales	0	1	1	0
=	5	Amazon UK	Employer	England	0	1	1	0
=	5	Bridgend College	GFEC	Wales	1	0	0	1
=	5	Toyota Motor Manufacturing UK	Employer	England	1	0	0	1

Top organisations for Foundation Skills medal points

Rank	Total Medal Points	Organisation Group	Organisation Type	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Highly Commended
1	22	North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College	GFEC	England	2	4	1	0
2	8	The Oldham College	GFEC	England	2	0	0	0
3	6	Cardiff and Vale College	GFEC	Wales	1	0	1	0
=	6	Grwp Llandrillo Menai	GFEC	Wales	1	0	1	0
=	6	Pembrokeshire College	GFEC	Wales	1	0	1	0
4	4	Coleg Gwent	GFEC	Wales	0	1	0	1
=	4	NPTC Group of Colleges	GFEC	Wales	1	0	0	0
5	3	Bridgend College	GFEC	Wales	0	0	1	1
=	3	Cheshire College South & West	GFEC	England	0	1	0	0
=	3	Elidyr Communities Trust	Other	Wales	0	1	0	0
=	3	Salford City College	GFEC	England	0	1	0	0
6	2	Oaklands College	GFEC	England	0	0	1	0
=	2	South West College	GFEC	Northern Ireland	0	0	1	0
=	2	The Trafford and Stockport College Group	GFEC	England	0	0	1	0
7	1	The College of West Anglia	GFEC	England	0	0	0	1

* EXCLUDES FOUNDATION SKILLS AND ESPORTS

Thank you to the national final host venues

Coleg Penybont Bridgend College

Cardiff and Vale College Coleg Caerdydd a'r Fro

Coleg Gwent

Prifysgol Cymru Y Drindod Dewi Sant University of Wales Trinity Saint David

National Finals 2026

Thank you

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ICAEW PARTNER IN LEARNING

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VTCT Skills



WorldSkills UK finalists *2026*

Ahmed Abdellah Ali • Nana Kwame Abeyie-Boateng • Meisa Abiat • Evan Adams • Melissa Adamson • Ruby Addison • Elisha Adebayo • Muhammad Faizan Ahmed • Lewis (Lew) Ainscough • Robyn Aitken • Callum Aitken • Muhammad Hassaan Bin (Hassaan) Akhtar • Kenan Akin • Said Al Riyami • Saleem Al-Sayed • Reece Albon • Saira Ali • Bryn Allen • Oliver (Ollie) Anderson • Neve Andrews • Alice Sophia Ansell • Amy Archer • Jo Arrowsmith • Michael Ascott • Toby Ashworth • Heidi Askew • Hannah Back • Kian Bailey • Jasper Baker • Jemilla Bao • Tom (Thomas) Barber • Josh Barron • Andrew (Aj) Bartholomew • Gabriel Bartiromo • Reece Bartlett • Benjamin (Ben) Beaumont • Ryan Beavis • Charlotte Benavente • Somer-Jade Benn • Tayla Bennison • Jaidon Bevan-German • Harkirut Bhamra • Rhyliy Bishop • Jacob Bisland • Emma Blades • Marley Blakemoore • Kayleigh Blears • Finlay Blume Grocott • Sam Booker • Kevin Boone • William Boyer • George Briggs • Macie Bright • Jac Brisland • Jake Brodie • Alex Brown • Louie Brown • Corey Brown • Shannon Brown • Mathew Brunza • David Buchanan • Owen Burchell • James Burns • Charlie Burton • Adrienn Buzi • Joanne Candy-Torn • Will Carslaw • Ellie Cassidy • Samuel (Sam) Chadderton • Daisy Chambers • Ethan Chambers • Chloe Chant • Charlie Chappell • Abi Chatto • Aayush Chauhan • Maia Chotai • Shaneice (Phoebe) Christopher • Chloe Clarke • Mason Clarke • Oliver (Oli) Clarke • Alexia Clegg • Ruth Cook • Harvey Cooper • Selene Coote • Leudin Corre • Kai Coutsoudis • Joshua Cullingford • Kaleal Dababi • Alfie Dakin • Connor Darby • Stephen Darlow-Joy • Ryan Davies • Erin Wyn (Erin) Davies • Isobelle Davies • Cara Davies • Taylor Davies • Lacey Davies • Daisy Davies • Oscar Davies • Steffan Davies-Williams • Hudson Denner • Scott Doherty-Jones • Igor Dolgan • Luke Donald • James Doncaster • Richard Dong • Iestyn Donne • Scott Drew • Zakk Duggan • Andrew (Andy) Edgar • Joseph Edwards • Emma Edwards • William (Will) Elks • Ruby Elliott • Belinda (Bella) Esposito • Paniz Etemad Mazaheri • Megan Evans • Mari Evans • Kara Evens • Vincent (Vinnie) Faulkner • Kian Ferns • Matthew (Matt) Finnemore • Ilia Firouzi • Eden Floyd • Riley Fordom • Michael (Mike) Francis • Kodi Fryer-Saxby • Mitchell Gannicliffe • Samanta Gazi • Kamil Gebski • Hector Gheorghe • Niamh Gibson • Cameron Gilbert • Leo Gilmour • Mckenzie Goodwin-Cotterill • Felix Gorman • Catie Gray • Kai Gray • Georgia Greenfield • Maddison Groves • Vanesa Grunzova • Connor Gunning • Caelan Guy • Solomon Hackett • Jacob Hailu • Dahir Abdirazak Hajji • Fin Hallman • Keegan Hanks • Chloe Harding • Fletcher Harman • Daisy Hashmi • Grace Hayes • Pamela Heart • Kaidan Heath • Aiden Hendry • Jak Henson • Ruby Hodge • Alex Hodson • Louie Holt • Jayden Horner • Dylan Horrobin • Harriet Hough • Danny Howells • Rhys Howey • Aung Nyan Htun • Carlos Ariel (Carlos) Huallpa Fernández • Alex Huggins • James Humphries • Alfie Hunt • Shahzeb Hussain • Gio Hussain • David Hutton • Kamran Ibrahim-Holland • Alfie Ingram • Callum James • Alissa Jarvis • Lexi Jarvis • Leo Jeffries • Samantha (Sam) Johnson • Elara Jones • Glyn (Alun Glyn) Jones • Owain Jones • Elliott Jones • Edward Jones • Dylan Jones • Steve Joseph-Sebastian • Thiwarat (Titi) Kaewnok • Ashleigh Kahari • Aaron Kanda • Eddie Keeble • Slawomir Keller • Matthew Kenyon • Denis Kerxhaliu • Habiba Khatoon • Safia Kilvington • Freya Kimberly • Mollie Kinns • Mason Theo Klemp • Jake Knight • Cody Knight • Tsz Him (Jeremy) Lai • George Laughton • Jack-Gerard (Jack) Lawson-Harrison • Edward Lee • Amelia Leggett • Ryan Lewis • Robert Lewis • Angel Lewis • Leah Lilley • Selina Llewellyn • Jessica (Poppy) Lott • Nicolos (Nick) Makatsaria • Gracie Mansell • Paige Marshall • Dylan Martin • Kaitlin Martin • Morgan Mathias • Sophie Mays • Finn Mcauley • Jack McBurney • Lydia McCarthy • Tristan McGrath • Cameron McGuinness • Eve McKay • Lee McLean • Jacob (Jake) McLean • Evie McManus • Jack C. McMurray • Rose McNamara • Myles McDougall • Harvey Middlemas • Benjamin (Ben) Middleton • Katie Mooney • Rianna Moore • Henry Moore • Izzie Moreland • Dylan Morgan • Gruffydd Morris • Iwan Morris • Alicia Moura • Dogu Muhurdaroglu • Sarah Murphy • Jacob Myhill • Bushra Najami • Seren Nelson • Henry Nelson • Karl Newton • Jay-Leonard (Jay) Nii-Addy • Crystal Nutbeam • Francis Nwaroh • Francesca O'Dell • Tiernan O'Reilly • Ryan Oaten • Martin Oates • Alan Oleksiewicz • Cole Parle • Jacinta Parmar • Kristin Parry • Libby Parry • Fatimah Patel • Lucas Payne • Rhys Pearce • Grace Pedwell • J'Adore Phang • Xavier Phillips • Dylan Phillips • Henry Platt-Cooper • Scarlett Pole • Thomas (Tom) Pollard • Rhianna Poole • Shakyah Powell • Ashley Price • Rhys Probert • Kimberley (Kim) Protheroe • Richard Pugh • Christian Pullen • Dina Qadir • Kaya-Louise Quinn • Oliver (Olly) Rabbetts • Ali Radwan • Lorenza Redshaw • William Reed • Russell Reeves • Kerr Reid • Finnley Richards • Erikas Rimkus • Cieron Robb • Tomos Roberts • Thomas (Tom) Roberts • Lucy Roberts • Charles (Charlie) Robertson • Nairn Robertson • Amelia Robinson • Grzegorz (Greg) Romanowski • Matthew Root • Dimo Rosenov • Paige Rosser • David Rzecholka • Dwij Sampat • Leah Sargent • Aaron Saxton • Bobby Scott • Rory-Lee Sexton • Joseph (Joe) Shone • Lexie Simons • Tanvir Singh • Harnurpreet Singh • Charlie Slater • Liam Slinger • Jamie Smith • Isabella (Bella) Smith • Harry Smith • Eli Smith • Chotiwit (Fred) Sriprasoet • Keira Starkey • Pippa (Pip) Thomas • Taylor Steel • Bella Stephens • Alexander (Alex) Stevenson • Alexander (Alex) Stewart • Fiona Stewart • Martha Stokes • Megan Stone • Santiago Strajijar • Michael Stratton • Noah Stretton • Melissa Summers • Mark Sutherland • Zak Swinton • Viktor Szuplik • Kirsty Tan • Shay Taylor • Huw Taylor • Alessandro Teodori • Barnaby Terry • Erin Thomas • Lilla Thomas • Ffion Thomas • Tegan Thomas • David (Dave) Thomas • Brynley (Bryn) Thomas • Owen Thompson • Josh Thomson • Thomas (Tom) Timmins • Valentin Timuc • Leeam Tindle • Matthew (Matt) Tomlinson • Shane Travers • Lacey Tucker • Chiazokam Ufoegbunam • Millie Underwood • Saad Usmani • Kornchanut Uttamamoon • Maria Varzari • Neel Vashi • Analucia Vera • Samuel Walker • Samuel Walker • Craig Wallace • Lewis Wallace • Cameron Walsh • Jasmine Ward • Marc Watson • Oliver Webb • Nicole Webb • Hannah Webb • Cameron Webster • Keiran Webster • Zara Welfare • Maximillian (Max) Whistlecraft • Sophie White • Nia Whiteman • Ryan Whitford • James Wightman • Tomas Wiles • Katie Wilkinson • Finley Williams • Elin Williams • Kobi Williams • Joseph (Joe) Williams • Oskar Williams • Lyall Williamson • Harvey Willoughby • Rhiannon Wolfarth • Elizabeth (Lizzie) Woodman • Elliott Worral • Mark Wright • Benjamin (Ben) Wright • Leonard Wykes • Thomas Wylie • Kaya Yanik • Dexter Yates • Daniel Young • Hayden Yung • Julia Zajaczkowska • Peter Zekry • Ashlynne • Jordan •