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Good News Stories

Nominated for Bridgend College Awards Under Licence from Cardiff Metropolitan University.

Learner of the Year – Izaskun De Pablo

HND Hospitality and Events student Izaskun De Pablo has been nominated for Learner of the Year for Bridgend College Awards Under Licence from Cardiff Metropolitan University.

Izaskun started at Bridgend College in 2013, studying the BTEC Level 3 diploma in Performing Arts (Musical Theatre) and Cambridge ESOL Skills for Life, Level 2. A mature student at age 31, she found challenges with the language as well as the age difference with the rest of her cohort (the majority of her peers being between 16 and 18). However, this did not stop her from successfully passing the courses. After embarking on the HND Hospitality and Events she has managed to obtain the highest score in many of the modules and celebrated some of her poster work being professionally printed and displayed for other HND students to see.

Izaskun has been very conscientious in her approach to her studies. The language barrier has been difficult for her most notably in modules with a great deal of terminology, e.g. Finance for Managers and Managing People in Organisations. Throughout all modules and social aspects of the course she has made excellent progress in both written and spoken English. In addition, she has made excellent progress in referencing skills and the ability to effectively research as well as presentation skills.

Well done to this hard working student!



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FE to HE Success – Harris Stone

Harris Stone, in his third year of studies at Bridgend College, is due to graduate this academic year with a Higher National Diploma awarded under licence by Cardiff Metropolitan University.

Harris began at the College in 2014-15, studying BTEC L3 National Diploma in Hospitality. Achieving many merits and distinctions in his coursework, he obtained sufficient entry points to the HND Hospitality and Events. Currently in the second year of this course, he has repeated his high performance standards of the BTEC and is currently considering the third year top up degree at Cardiff Metropolitan University.

Attaining high standards of work has been possible for this student whilst being employed full time at a local hotel in Cardiff here he holds the position of full time receptionist and duty manager. In addition, he has been involved with the Cardiff Metropolitan Students' Union as the course student representative.

Harris has liked being part of a small group and seen the benefits that staying in FE to study HE can bring. He says, "I started a BTEC Level 3 course in Hospitality and Events while working full time at Bryngarw House [a historic Grade II listed building]. I would come to college in the day and work every evening. After having the chance to progress onto the HND course at Bridgend College I saw it as a great opportunity to go that bit further and decided to continue into higher education. I have since started a new job as a full time receptionist and occasional Duty Manager. I work full time and am able to study the HND on my days off. I enjoy studying and working together; it enables you to have an insight into both theory and practice."



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HND Year 2 Hospitality hosted a fantastic fundraiser!



Alice in Wonderland themed afternoon tea raises over £250.00 for the Noah's Ark Charity.

Five HND Year 2 learners planned and implemented a successful afternoon tea held in Seasons Restaurant on 4th March.

The learners worked with others businesses and the Performing Arts Departments accepting donations and borrowing resources to develop an excellent event.

How is this success?

All five learners have previously completed Further Education Programmes with Bridgend College.

From Left to Right: Joshua Kingsey & Rhianedd Williams and then Fourth from the left Rachel Macdonald

All learners started at Bridgend College on route to become a chef. They completed level 1 Professional Catering and then Level 2 followed by the BTEC National Diploma in Hospitality 120 credits over one year. After three years of Further Education and many experiences such as working at Prestigious events such as Henley Regatta and Festival and Cheltenham Racecourse all successfully achieved their place on the first ever year of the HND in Hospitality and Events.

Third from left – **Rachael Evans**



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Rachael came to Bridgend having successfully achieved several AS Qualifications. She so wanted to be a chef and completed both Professional Catering courses at stage 1 and 2. Rachael then due to previous results was able to progress onto the HND Hospitality and Events. Rachael was unfortunately struck by tragic news at the start of year 1. Despite this Rachael has met every single deadline and is progressing very well on the course. In addition Rachael is holding down two jobs at the Vale Hotel and Sainsburys Homebase.

Fifth from the right – **Harris Stone**

Harris joined the college and completed the BTEC L3 National Diploma in Hospitality which he achieved with Double Distinction. Nothing is too much trouble for Harris and he continually goes the extra mile. Harris is currently working alongside the course at the Park Plaza.