

collegematters

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Celebrating Achievements!

The wait for A Level students was finally over last month as exam results arrived. Among those eagerly awaiting grades were 262 students from the Sixth Form Centre. We enjoyed continued success of our A Level students with a 97% overall pass, which matched the national pass rate, together with a 68% pass rate at grades A-C. In addition 100% pass rates were achieved in 16 subjects including English Language and Literature, Maths, Psychology, Graphic Design, Physics and Media Studies.

Amongst those celebrating were three students who between them achieved ten grade As. Melissa Slater achieved four A grades in Maths, Law, Psychology and AS Further Maths and is now going to study Maths and Management at the University of Manchester. Adam Bates achieved three grade As in English Language & Literature, French and Media Studies and is looking forward to going to Leeds University to study Broadcast Journalism, whilst Terrie Yonwin achieved three grade As in English

Language and Literature, Law and Psychology despite having to take a lot of time off College due to glandular fever, mumps and a liver infection. Terrie is now looking forward to studying Law at Warwick University in September.

Also celebrating was Ellie Smalls who was awarded one of the top five marks nationally for her Graphic Design A Level. Ellie not only achieved an A in her exam but came in the top five out of 1438 candidates that sat the exam nationally this Summer. Ellie is now looking forward to going to Leeds College of Art and Design to study Fine Art.

Additionally, Charlotte Tooth who achieved two grade Bs in Mathematics and English Language and Literature, a grade A in AS Theatre Studies and a National Diploma in Dance, was presented with the newly established Tony Parker Prize for Endeavour for Maths in recognition of her hard work, dedication, perseverance and commitment. Charlotte is now looking forward to studying for a Performing Arts Diploma at Body Work Company Dance Studios in Cambridge.



Ellie Smalls



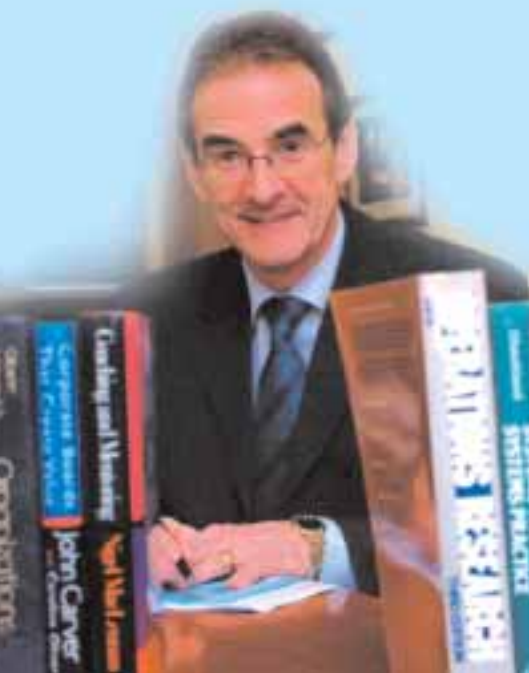
Charlotte Tooth with Adam Hassall who achieved grade Bs in English Language and Literature and Film Studies together with a grade C in Geography.



Terrie Yonwin, Adam Bates and Melissa Slater.

message from the principal

Welcome back to what, I am sure, will be another exciting and rewarding year for College staff and students alike. This is the time of year when we have to achieve a balance of ensuring that all the activities necessary to finalise last year's work are complete whilst getting the new year off to a good start and all the demands that brings with it.



Looking Back on the 2006-2007 Academic Year

The College has been able to continue the growth pattern established over the past few years. We achieved 105% of the College target for 16-18 year old students. Although adult further education numbers were 5% lower than target, this was more than compensated by the growth in work based apprentices which was 109% of target and Train to Gain trainees. This resulted in the College achieving its financial targets and enabling significant capital investment in facilities.

Business support systems have continued to develop particularly finance and management information. Everyone is now working hard to ensure that all the exam and assessment results are recorded in order to establish the student success rate.

Achieving improvements in student success rate is without question the most important aim of the College.

We owe it to ourselves and, more importantly, to our students. I make no apologies, therefore, in insisting that every member of staff ensures that the success data for their course is accurate and complete. This is essential to ensure the success rates and league tables published later in the year reflect the hard work and dedication of every member of staff in the College.

I am pleased to report that the A Level pass rate has increased for the eighth year running with an overall pass rate of 97%. This is higher than most of the local sixth form schools. One hundred per cent pass rates were achieved in 16 subjects including English Language and Literature, Maths, Psychology, Graphic Design, Physics and Media. The challenge, however, is to increase retention rates.

Capital Projects

The Automotive and Skills Academy was opened by Richard Noble on 7 June 2007. Students will start using the University Centre in mid-September. The official

opening will be held on 6 November 2007. Although I am not at liberty to divulge who will be the guest of honour, I can confirm it will be a prestigious event.

Business of the Year

One of the highlights of the year was the College winning both the Large Business of the Year and the Outstanding Business of the Year Awards. The latter being the premier award judged across the winners of the nine individual categories. Competing with large corporate businesses and coming out on top is a great tribute to the work of staff at all levels across the College.

Looking Forward to 2007-2008

The success in achieving continual growth has resulted in the College securing a contract from the LSC for increased student numbers and the associated increase in funding for the coming year. We can all, therefore, look to the future with high levels of confidence. We will, however, have to work extremely hard to secure the growth in student numbers particularly 16-19 full-time and work based students. ***I am confident, however, that we have the staff and the contacts with industry necessary to achieve our targets.***

As indicated at the Staff Meeting on Friday 31 August 2007, expanding higher education is one of the key targets for the next four years. The College's University Centre is unique in offering courses that have been designed with local businesses to ensure that graduates have the skills demanded by local industry and commerce. This will enable the College's further education students to progress directly into higher education. Equally as important is the provision of locally accessible higher education which is essential in widening access for those people employed locally and those who cannot afford the cost of studying away from home.

message from the principal

New Initiative for 2007-2008

As announced at the staff meeting, we are introducing two new cross-College initiatives aimed at developing the behaviour patterns and attitudes necessary for students to develop a successful career in today's demanding environment. The two schemes are based on integrating cross-College themes for all our full-time students.

A framework for developing employability skills will inform our expectations and the way we manage all full-time further education students. Innovation and enterprise will provide an integrating theme for all full-time higher education programmes. I am asking Heads of Faculty to work with Curriculum Area Leaders and teaching staff to identify opportunities where the two themes can be integrated into programmes across the faculties.

In conclusion the College is doing exceptionally well in achieving the Government's targets for increasing student participation and meeting all of the LSC's financial measures. Although we have made some improvements, we are slipping behind the increases in student success rates that are being achieved by other colleges.

Consequently, we all need to put our energies into increasing retention rates and, consequently, achieving significant improvements in student success rates.

Employees of the Year

The College's success can only be achieved by staff at all levels respecting the different types of work that we all do and by working together for the collective benefit of the College's students and corporate customers. It is fitting, therefore, to celebrate this through the Employee of the Year scheme. The winners exemplify the dedication and hard work of staff at all levels across the College as indicated opposite.



Support Staff- Runners Up

Sandra Taylor, Administrator for Key Stage 4/IFP

Sandra has provided support to the Increased Flexibility Programme run in partnership with local schools for the past six years. Following the departure of Yvonne James, Sandra grasped the initiative and co-ordinated the entire project until the appointment of Allan Knight.



Andy Croft, Property Services

Andy is a highly respected member of the Property Services Team. He is very positive and is always willing to turn his hand to anything that needs to be done. He is an excellent member of the Team and provides constant support to his colleagues.



Support Staff - Winner

Sarah Sedgley, Administrator in Faculty of Sixth Form and Lifelong Learning

Sarah exemplifies the College's core value of putting learners first in everything she does. She is very professional and effective whilst maintaining her friendly approach to everything. Above all Sarah has the ability to look at challenges from a different perspective and to come up with effective solutions.



Teaching Staff - Runner Up

Jill Collins, Course Leader in Business and Management (Accounting)

Jill is totally committed to her students and their success. No matter how busy she is, she is always ready to listen, encourage, praise and support her students in achieving their goals. She has been described as the unsung heroine of Burton College.



Teaching Staff - Winner

Alison Hodgson, Curriculum Leader for ESOL

Alison always sets herself the highest standards. She has successfully led ESOL through a period of significant change and achieved high levels of student success and growth in provision. She is an outstanding classroom teacher who makes even the most challenging topics easy to understand and fun for the learners.



Manager - Runner Up

Karen Procter, Finance Manager

Karen has worked very hard over the past year to make an impact in her new role. She has made substantial improvements by developing the College's financial systems and processes. She spends considerable time supporting new managers across the College to understand financial issues and to develop their skills.



Manager - Winner

Muhalb Alsaffar, IT Manager

Muhalb has worked very hard to continually develop the College's IT systems for the benefit of staff and students. He is consistently striving for excellence and searching for ways to improve all aspects of the service his unit provides. His staff describe him as an excellent manager who always has time for them.

Congratulations to each of the winners and runners up and thank you for taking the initiative and going the extra mile.

Keith Norris, Principal & Chief Executive

students in the limelight



1 Students from the BTEC Music Technology course have enjoyed a visit to the BBC's Radio 1 and 1XTRA studios in London. The group were given an exclusive tour of the station and its facilities together with the chance to meet 1XTRA DJ Ras Kwame. In addition, they were shown the newsroom, known as the newsbeat facility, and were allowed to engineer and present a news slot. Finally, the tour finished with a question and answer session with Radio 1's Head of Music, whilst there was also the opportunity to meet and question members of staff about the routes they took to their career and living and working in London.

2 The Brouhouse has been the setting for an evening of physical theatre, interpreted and performed by Performing Arts and Dance students. The evening comprised physical interpretations of a variety of themes including The Hillsborough Disaster, Seven Deadly Sins and Personal Space / CCTV and The Big Brother Issue. In addition, students on the Foundation Degree in Performing and Small Scale Touring course showcased their first performance of work with a multi disciplinary piece, which was semi-improvised and looked at the way CCTV encroaches on our lives and how it changes us as human beings.

Scarlett Goodall (front right) with fellow Dance students.

3 Graphic Design students have teamed up with BBC Stoke to design a range of visuals to promote the BBC New Talent project. The HND students were given the brief to come up with a variety of unique designs to raise awareness of the project, which is about finding and inspiring new talent in all areas of broadcasting. Chris Eccles collected the prize for his winning designs, which are themed around graffiti and music culture.

4 Earlier in the year, Holistic Therapy students were introduced to a variety of complementary therapies including Aqua Detox, Kinesiology, Hypnotherapy, Iridology and Biophotophysics. The training days are organised to ensure that the students are kept up to date with what is happening in the Holistic Therapy industry; learning about relatively unknown therapies adds to their levels of knowledge and professionalism.

Lecturer Joanne Timms (left) with Sally Shoesmith.

5 Beauty Therapy students have been learning the latest in slim wrap techniques. Trainer Katrina Bradin from Bellitas, spent the day with the group training them in the Slim Wrap treatment; a method of applying products and bandaging to achieve inch loss.

Pictured left to right are Jodie Redfern, Katrina Bradin and Heather Lunn.

6 In June, local hair stylists from around the area attended a training day in Innovations, held by the world's leading clipper manufacturer Wahl (UK) Ltd. Artistic Director Simon Shaw, who is based in London, visited the College to train the stylists, in advanced clipper design, creating cutting edge gents' styles.

Simon Shaw with Nigel Charles (left) and Neil Swift.

7 Children from the Nursery have been practising their social skills courtesy of Catering students. The children visited the Mulberry Restaurant where they were served a healthy snack, which had been prepared by the students, and practised their table manners and social skills in the more formal setting of a restaurant environment.

Pictured is Gemma Doherty with Jack Booth.

8 Thirty local people who attend the College's "Never too Late to Learn" programme celebrated the end of term with a certificate presentation and summer strawberry tea. The group have all been attending the programme regularly on Wednesdays, learning about a wide variety of subjects ranging from poetry, history, literature, language, culture and food to practical sessions on art, garden design and computer art.

The group with Lecturer Robin Wood (left) and Head of Faculty of Sixth Form and Lifelong Learning Hilary Morgan (right).

9 A team of four Catering students took the runners up prize in this year's Inter College Cook and Serve Competition. The competition, which was held in the Mulberry Restaurant and kitchens, saw the four compete against teams from Stoke on Trent, Stafford and Tamworth and Lichfield colleges. The teams were set the task of devising a three course menu for two within a given budget, cooking and then serving the meal to genuine customers. Andrew Kirkby and Jemma Key were the chefs in the team cooking a menu of grilled asparagus with crispy bresola and balsamic vinegar, roast rump of lamb with braised baby gem and minted peas and fondant potato and rhubarb crumble and vanilla cream. Demonstrating her silver service waitressing skills was Stephanie Machin whilst Lana-Jay Davis took on the role of the kitchen porter.

Pictured clockwise from front left are Jemma, Andrew, Lana-Jay and Stephanie.

students in the limelight



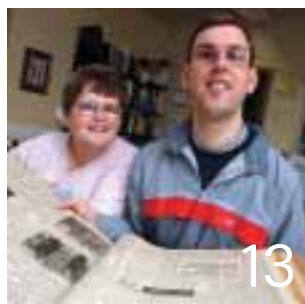
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10 Local school pupils have taken part in the County Final of Bridging the Gap; a CITB Construction Challenge event, which was held at Coors Visitors Centre. Three teams from Abbot Beyne and Tower View schools, headed by College Construction students, competed against three teams from the Stoke area, and faced the challenge of designing and building a bridge which would allow a model boat to go through and take the weight of a remote controlled car. Overall winners were a team from Newcastle College.

The teams who took part with Curriculum Area Leader for Construction and Electrical Installation Gary Hancox.

11 At the end of term Visual Arts students held a Media Screening Event to showcase the film, video, animation and photography work they have written and produced over the past year. The evening featured a variety of work from music videos and short drama films to adverts and animation. In addition Photography students showed their work in a gallery, which was created for the evening.

Pictured left to right are second year National Diploma in Media Students: Anna Warrington, Liz Harris, Gemma Poynton, Becky Bickle and Tammy Downes.

12 Local school pupils were presented with trophies at an Awards Ceremony designed to honour their hard work and determination. Keith Norris handed over prizes to Year 10 and Year 11 pupils from Abbot Beyne, De Ferrers, Granville, John Taylor, Paget, Paulet, Pingle, Robert Sutton, Sinfon Community and William Allitt schools, who attend the College weekly as Key Stage 4 pupils for work related learning. The pupils were honoured for showing outstanding achievement. In addition, a Year 11

student, from each vocational area, was chosen as Student of the Year in recognition of their excellent work, progress and commitment leading to nationally recognised qualifications.

Students of the Year with Keith Norris and Allan Knight, 14-16 Curriculum Manager.

13 Learning for Life learners have visited Swadlincote's Magic Attic as part of a Current Affairs project they have undertaken. The group have been studying Current Affairs as part of their course, looking at the media and news in general, together with creating their own newsletter. During the visit, they were shown some of the large collection of archived newspapers, historical documents and photographs, which is housed in the Magic Attic, including local newspapers published on their dates of birth.

Melanie Burns with Jonathan Crosse.

14 At the end of the year, students held a cabaret designed to showcase the dance, music and drama work they had written, choreographed and performed over the last year. The End of Year Cabaret, which was performed at the Belvedere Park Club, involved approximately 150 students from a range of Performing Arts, Dance and Music Technology courses and featured a variety of dance, music, singing, musical theatre and drama pieces.

Clockwise from front left: Rebecca Crump, Jodie Kinch, Laura Dykes, Melissa Perry, Viki Treadwell, Stacey Dyer and Karlie Storer.

15 Hairdressing, Nail and Beauty Therapy students took part in the End Of Year Hair, Beauty and Nail Show, held at Burton's Belvedere Park Club. Full and part time students held a catwalk show featuring themed creations and designed to use all of the techniques that they

had learnt over the last year. In addition, awards were made including The Dermalogica Award For Best Achiever, The Pompadour Beautician Shield For Make Up, Pompadour Hairdresser Award and Steve Dewis Shield For Outstanding Achievement.

16 Local children aged between 7 and 15, have attended a presentation morning with their parents to celebrate their achievements in successfully passing national computing qualifications. The children, who had all completed a term's study at the College's Computers For Kids school, received certificates covering a range of computing activities, presented by Keith Norris. In addition, a poster competition to design the Olympics logo was held, with the winners receiving a memory stick each.

Clockwise from left: Aaron Turrall, Keith Norris, Lecturer David Newbold, Muhammed Ahmed, Lecturer Dyan Mason and Megan Sidwells.

17 The first female bricklaying apprentice to achieve at the College has been celebrating after completing her two year NVQ Level 2 Trowel Occupations course. Lisa Hudson is following in her father's footsteps by pursuing a career in the Construction Industry and is currently working in the family business Paul Hudson Builders Limited, which does work for the nationwide conservatory company P B National Products Limited. The ex Thomas Alleyne's student is employed as a bricklayer, constructing bases and footings for conservatories.

recognising achievements

Triumph at learndirect Awards

Staff and learners from the College's learndirect Centre have received several highly commended certificates at the West Midlands Regional Awards Ceremony, which was held at Birmingham's Showcase Cinema. The learndirect Achievement Awards are an annual event designed to celebrate the achievements of learners who have displayed outstanding commitment to their studies achieving exceptional standards, and whose work and ability stands out from the crowd. In addition employers and learndirect learning centres are acknowledged for supporting those who undertake learning. At the ceremony, four learners were highly commended in a range of Individual Learner Awards. Under the category of Progression Award both Debbie Rapley and Jason Sweeney were praised for showing that, with the right training and motivation, you can change career direction later in life. Polish learner Gosia Figiel was honoured under the Learning At Work Award category for her achievements in improving her bi-lingual skills after studying English literacy as a native speaker would do, whilst Gill Carey was highly commended under the

Learning For Employment Award for her dedication to learning which has significantly helped her in her career progression at a village school. In addition, the College was highly commended in the Working with Employers category, which acknowledges those centres that are actively engaging companies in learning, whilst learndirect Facilitator Debbie Saw was highly commended in the Centre Staff Award, which recognises those tutors who have provided outstanding customer care and support.



Pictured clockwise from front left are Debbie Rapley, Claire Shatlock from Argos, Debbie Saw, Hilary Morgan, Jason Sweeney and Gosia Figiel.

Student of the Year

Derek Nicholls has received a Best Student of the Year Award, from the Institute of Motor Industry. Derek and eight fellow Learning For Life learners, who have varying degrees of learning difficulties and disabilities, had been studying basic vehicle maintenance and road safety with the College's Motor Vehicle section. They followed the 18 week programme, which is accredited by the national Institute of Motor Industry, as part of their course. Car enthusiast Derek received the award for his outstanding work throughout the course, whilst fellow learners received certificates at a presentation ceremony held at the College.



Pictured left to right are Lecturer Mick Lunn, Derek Nicholls and Keith Norris.

Adults Celebrate

Over 100 of our adult students were in the limelight at an informal Presentation Evening. The students, who were all following the College's Options for Adults, Joint Honours Degree and range of Access programmes, received certificates from the Head of the Faculty of Sixth Form & Lifelong Learning Hilary Morgan, in recognition of successfully passing their courses. Amongst those celebrating on the evening was Lynne Varty, who has successfully completed the Access to Counselling course. Lynne (43) first enrolled on the Options for Adults course in 2003 and is now planning to carry on her studies at a higher level with the Joint Honours Degree, which she will complete at Derby University following an initial year studying at the College.



Pictured left to right are Lynne Varty, Lecturer Ruth Myers and Hilary Morgan.



Ben Eagles with Principal of North Nottinghamshire College John Connolly.

Skillbuild Success

A College apprentice is celebrating, following his success in the East Midlands Regional Area Finals of the national Skillbuild competition. Sponsored by CITB-ConstructionSkills and Jewson, the competition is designed to promote excellence amongst young craftspeople in the UK. Held at North Nottinghamshire College in Worksop, the competition saw students from fifteen colleges in the East Midlands compete against each other in Construction Craft trades. Winner of the Site Carpentry competition was Ben Eagles an apprentice carpenter at Linford Group, who will now go on to compete in the National Finals, which will be held at South Birmingham College from 10-12 October. Ben's success follows his very good performance at last year's Regional Finals when he came second, only one mark off first place and narrowly missing out on the opportunity to go forward to the National Finals.

End of Year Exhibition



Students from the Faculty of Creative Studies ended their year by displaying their work in an End of Year Exhibition. On show was a cross section of art, design and media work representing fine art and illustration, photography, sculpture, interior and furniture design, textiles, surface pattern, fashion, ceramics and glass, graphic design, film making, animation and multi media computer based art work. In addition, three awards were presented for Innovation, Originality and Presentation. National Diploma in Graphic Design student Rachel Gidlow was presented with the Award for Innovation in recognition of her branding designs for a maternity and baby clothing and equipment company, whilst receiving the Award for Originality was HND 3D Design student Amy Platt, for the design of her unusual and clever stool inspired by a giraffe's legs. Winner of the Award for Presentation was Tom Ambrose. A student on the Foundation Diploma in Art & Design course, Tom was presented with the award for his branding designs for gent's clothing and underwear.

New Look For Mulberry Restaurant

The Mulberry Restaurant will be opening its doors to the public later this month with a new look. As part of a live re-branding project, Art & Design students were asked to re-design the Restaurant's logo. The winning design, which incorporates a Mulberry tree in black on a silver background, was designed by Foundation Diploma student Tom Ambrose. The new logo will now be used on all of the restaurant's publicity material including menus and letterheads and will feature on the uniforms.



Chef and Lecturer Sean Sleigh with Tom Ambrose.

Students Unveil Building Project

Construction students have worked together in a project designed to build a 36 sq metre functional space at the Lichfield Street campus. Timber Trades, Trowel Occupations and Decorative Occupations students spent eight months on the project, which was designed to provide a realistic and hands-on training task, widening practical experience and skills and providing an opportunity of working in a real life situation. As part of the project, Timber Trades students employed traditional joinery skills to build roof trusses, soffit and fascia boards, window frames, skirting boards and door frames. In addition, they learnt new skills, which enabled them to felt and seal the roof, glaze the windows and fix the guttering. Trowel Occupations students utilised their brickwork skills to erect the framework of the building whilst the painting has been completed by Decorative Occupations students. Over 80 full time students took part in the project, which has resulted in a functional space being built, which will be used in the future by Decorative Occupations students as a tool to provide experience in exterior and interior painting.



Pictured clockwise from front left are James Lattibaudier, Paul Cunningham, Todd Atkins, Ashley Lister, Byron Baldwin and Matt Hunt.

people news Congratulations to...

Michelle Bailey (Hairdressing & Beauty) on the birth of Lexie on 7 May.

Emma Phillips (Faculty Clerk for Admin & IT) and husband Del on the birth of Rowan Kai on 25 June.

Lindsey Radford (PA to Deputy Principal Resources & Corporate Services) and husband Ian on the birth of Ellie Mae on 28 June.

James Woodings (Property Services) and wife Paula on the birth of Imogen Amber on 28 June.

Juliette Taylor (Skills For Life) and husband Paul on the birth of Luke James on 18 July.

Kay Simpson (Hairdressing & Beauty) on the birth of Maddie on 22 July.

Jon Vincent and wife Jane on the birth of Amy Jessica on 24 July.

Lisa Taylor Clarke (Early Years & Care) and partner Dave on the birth of Lottie on 24 July.

Janet Shephard Stone (Early Years & Care) and partner Lee on the birth of Finley in July.

Gemma Mousley (Finance) and partner Ashley on the birth of Lillie Mae on 16 August.

Donna Chugg (Hairdressing & Beauty) who married Anthony Byrd on 17 August in Rhodes.

Ruth Myers (Sixth Form) and husband John on the birth of Matthew Paul on 22 August.

Jodi Lenton (Hairdressing & Beauty) who married Steve Wilson on 24 August at Meynell Ingram at Hoar Cross Hall.

Claire Purvis (Newstart / Management, Education & Training) and husband Garry on the birth of Nina Rose on 28 August.

Rachel Jones (Skills For Life) who married Peter Dutton on 31 August at The Izaak Walton Hotel in Dovedale.

Learning for Life learner Amy Wooddisse, who has passed her driving test. She has had about 100 lessons and has successfully passed first time!



business news



Local apprentices have celebrated their achievements at an informal Presentation Evening, held at the Lichfield Street Campus. In total, 40 young people achieved Foundation and Advanced Apprenticeships in a variety of disciplines including Care, Hairdressing, Customer Service, Engineering, Motor Vehicle, Brickwork and Carpentry and Joinery.

Karen Kirkland, a local employee of Leapfrog Day Nurseries has become the first to complete a qualification as part of the College's Train To Gain scheme. Karen who works as a Property and Health and Safety Administrator, in the Nursery Division of Nord Anglia Education PLC, successfully completed an NVQ Level 2 in Business Administration three months ahead of schedule, covering a variety of modules including Work Within Your Business Environment, Health & Safety, Word Processing and Spreadsheets.



Pictured left to right are Director of Employer Engagement and Marketing Howard Boswell, Karen Kirkland and Leapfrog Day Nurseries Facilities Manager Barry Yeomans.



A First Diploma in Business student has opened a cafe.

Jarrod Woolrych has opened Heavenly Cafe with his fiancé's mum Aline Bonner. Situated in Burton's Market Place and formerly known as Café Delice and the Samie Bar, Heavenly Cafe offers a wide range of hot and cold snacks, sandwiches, baguettes and jacket potatoes together with homemade cakes, milkshakes and beverages.