



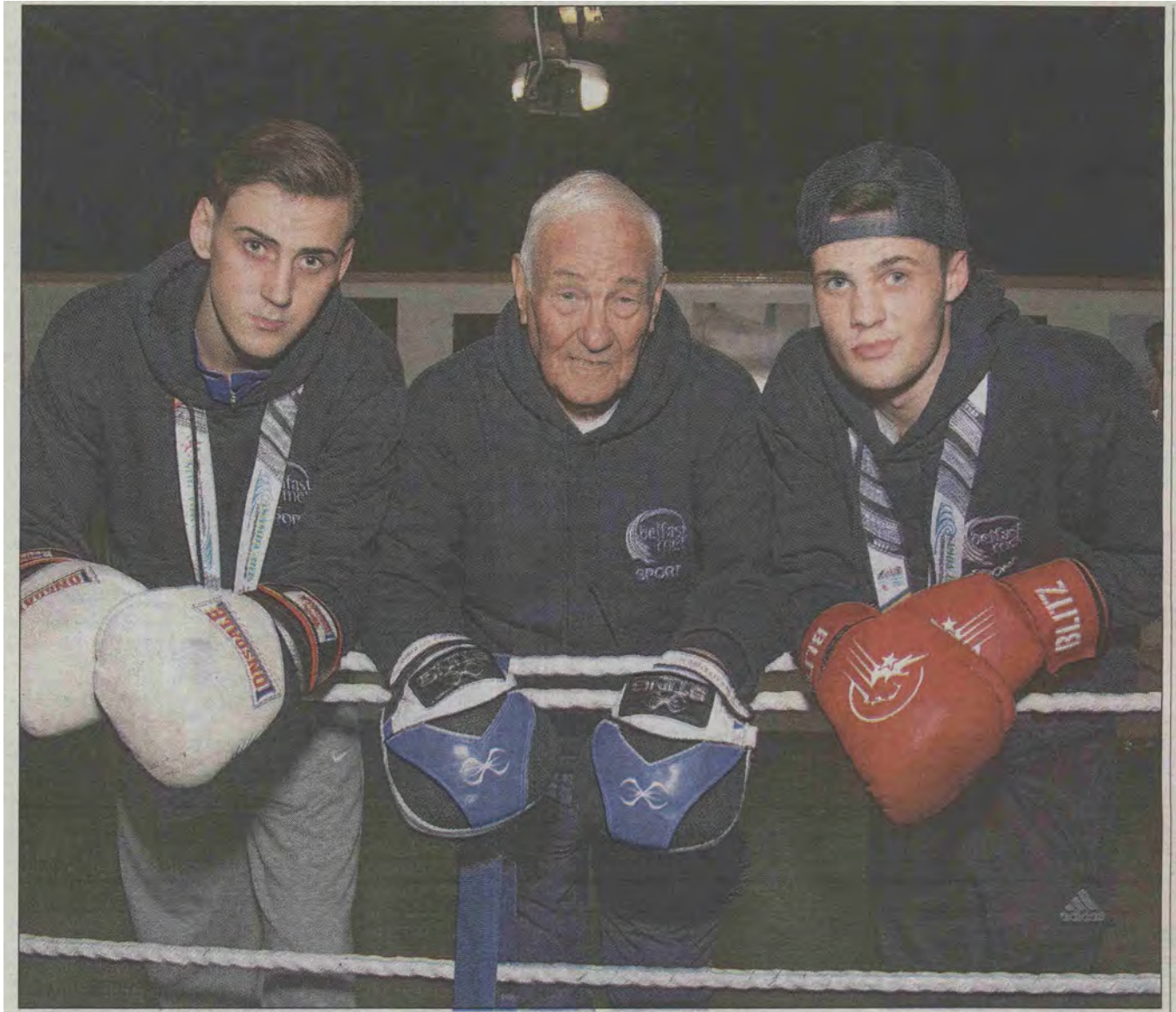
Corporate Communications & Marketing

**Press Office**

## **Belfast Met Media Coverage**

June to 2015

..... Highlights



Champion boxers Aidan Walsh (left) and James McGivern with coach Gerry Storey (centre) at the launch of Ireland's first boxing academy

## Met boxes clever with academy launch

TWO Commonwealth champion boxers have joined Ireland's first boxing academy at Belfast Metropolitan College.

Bantamweight James McGivern and welterweight Aidan Walsh join the academy triumphant from the Youth Games in Samoa where they claimed Team NI's first-ever boxing gold medals at the games.

The boxing academy will give students the opportunity to complete essential skills

as well as gain IABA Level 1 boxing coaching awards. There will also be opportunities to travel overseas to compete and train with other college boxing academies.

The one year, full-time programme is equivalent to two GCSEs Grade A\*-C and seeks to develop both coaching and performance excellence. Students will engage on an academic programme as well as structured boxing training sessions

delivered four times a week at City Centre Gym Belfast led by Olympic boxing coach, Gerry Storey MBE.

Commenting on the course, Gerry said: "The whole concept of the academy is brilliant and Belfast Met has to be congratulated for making such a great programme for young people. Belfast has needed a course like this for years and I am pleased that I can be a part of it."



**Source:** Andersonstown News - Saturday Edition



**Date:** Saturday 26. September 2015

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**Jonathan McKenna receives the Yellow Design Aisling Bursary from Michael McGlade 1509JC15**

■ Jonathan is beginning a Level 5 HND in Moving Images at Belfast Met





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Féile an Phobail Aisling Bursary recipient Melissa Mulholland is presented with her award by Andrena Murray of the Department of Education 1509JC15

■ Melissa is undertaking a HND in Graphic Design at Belfast Met.





## Bridging the skills gap in restaurants must be priority

**M**Y recent column showcasing the achievements of local chefs has resulted in some interesting feedback from the restaurant industry here. The biggest problem facing the booming restaurant scene in Northern Ireland is a chronic shortage of qualified and experienced chefs.

Year of Food and Drink 2016, I believe, will help to showcase the role of our chefs in developing original dishes from local ingredients and encourage more young people to consider a career in the kitchen.

It will also offer more opportunities for chefs to support what will be a very important and exciting initiative by taking part in the programme of events. My concern is that some may not be able to do as much as they would love to do because they don't have sufficient cover in their kitchens.

We hear this a lot when talking to head chefs about cookery demonstrations. Many tell us they would love to do more demonstrations but don't have a deputy to hold the fort. This was the case at recent 'Flavours of the Foyle Seafood Festival' and again one of the main reasons for top chefs being unable to attend Chef Steering Group meetings.



### FOOD for thought

By MICHELE SHIRLOW  
Chief Executive  
of Food NI

One of the problems identified by the steering group was the unrealistic expectations of younger chefs on what a real kitchen and wages/hours/working conditions are.

New restaurants are opening all the time. Marco Pierre White is opening at the Park Avenue Hotel in east Belfast, Chris McGowan of the Great British Menu 2015 is setting up Wine and Brine in Moira, Gareth McCaughey is opening Muddlers Club in Cathedral Quarter and Tony O'Neill has launched Bartali at Portballintrae.

The problems have also been pinpointed by the Restaurants Association of Ireland. In addition the shortage of qualified and experienced chefs could inhibit the growth of tourism here because the food and drink offering in any destination

influences visitors. In fact, around a third of the total visitor spend goes on food and drink.

Our growing 'foodie' reputation is becoming a major tourism driver and is predicted to

be one of the biggest sources of economic growth over the next decade.

Addressing the staffing problem, therefore, is one of the biggest challenges facing the industry. I know that Belfast Metropolitan College and some other FE colleges are aware of the challenge and doing a great deal to offer effective solutions.

Even closer links between education and the industry are needed to provide greater opportunities for trainees to gain first hand experience in restaurant kitchens. This will ensure they know what to expect when they gain employment. They need to be able to spend a much greater amount of time in the kitchens to gain relevant experience and to develop their skill-sets.

Several local restaurants,

most notably Niall McKenna at James Street South, are working with the colleges on bespoke apprenticeship programmes to develop a pipeline of qualified chefs.

One in five vacancies in the hotel and restaurant sector is for skilled jobs, with the figure rising to 44 per cent for skilled chefs, according to a survey from the UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES).

Encouragingly, many of the colleges are also now developing links with local artisan producers that could see many of their original products featuring on menus across Northern Ireland. A number of food companies, in addition, are helping younger chefs and trainees to develop their knowledge base by setting up training academies. Suki Team, for instance, runs Ireland's only Tea Academy at its premises in Belfast's Northumberland Street and Baillie's Coffee has also a Barista Academy at Stockman's Lane in Belfast.

We clearly need to develop a more coordinated response at grassroots level to inspire young chefs to enter the industry and fill the skills gap, if we are to meet the growing demand quality food and drink from local consumers and visitors.



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## COOK LIKE A CHEF FOR UNDER A FIVER



*Cooking for one doesn't have to be a chore or cost a fortune. Follow these fool proof recipes from Belfast Met's professional cookery students.*

*Places available on FT and PT Professional Cookery courses contact [csiinfo@belfastmet.ac.uk](mailto:csiinfo@belfastmet.ac.uk) for more info*

### **Zaino Jauad's Spicy Oven Baked Wings & Chips – perfect for pre night out snacking**

**Ingredients:** Raw chicken wings, Cajun seasoning, vegetable oil, lime zest and juice, oven chips

In a bowl, whisk together the seasoning, oil, zest and juice. Toss the chips, wings and mixture together in batches, so that everything is well coated.

Cover a large baking sheet with foil, then arrange the chips around the outside and the wings in the middle.

Season and bake for 20 mins, then turn the chips and return to the oven for 20-25 mins until golden.

### **Stuart McCombe's Nutella Brownies – Make this classic your trademark**

**Ingredients:** 68g (half cup) plain flour, 2 eggs, 200g (1 jar) Nutella

Mix the ingredients until it forms a paste.

Add to greased cake tin (preferably spring-form).

Bake at 180 degrees for 15 minutes, or until cooked.

For a little something extra, add chopped white chocolate and marshmallows to your mixture just before baking.

### **Grocery shopping tips from Thomas Turley Chef Lecturer in Culinary Arts at Belfast Met**

Plan your meal ahead – by making a precise shopping list.

Check online for cost comparison to ensure you're getting the best value in supermarkets.

Only buy ingredients that are in season and local to keep cost low.

Cook in bulk and freeze half – saves cooking time and electricity.

Go to local markets – Asian supermarkets – Polish stores – as many of the ingredients are sold in bulk and much cheaper to buy.

BELFASTVIBE.COM | 24 | SEPTEMBER 24 2015





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## CEDAR HELPS TO DELIVER NEW ADULT AUTISM ADVICE SERVICE

**The Belfast Adult Autism Advice Service is made up of a small multi-agency team providing advice and guidance to adults and young people with autism and those who support them.**



(L-R) Jayne Perkes Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Caroline Hewitt, Cedar Foundation

at rest that we are doing things correctly" "Very helpful"

"Excellent help, very clear"

"I was listened to"

The Belfast Adult Autism Advice Service 'First Stop Shop' will offer information

and guidance every Tuesday from 1.30pm - 4.30pm at Belfast Central Library. For further information please contact The Right 4 U Project Officer, Cedar Foundation, tel: 028 9046 1834.

The service is delivered in partnership with Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, The Cedar Foundation, NI Social Security Agency (DSD), Disability Employment Service (DEL), Belfast Metropolitan College, Careers Service Northern Ireland (DEL) and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

The Belfast Adult Autism Advice Service (The BAAAS) 'First Stop Shop' addresses needs including ed-

ucation, training and employment, social benefits, housing and promoting wellbeing with understanding professionals.

The service has been operating since January 2015 and the feedback has been very positive, with the following comments from people who have accessed the service;

"I found this service helpful as I was able to get advice and contact details for different support groups"

"The service put my mind





# Road to Tokyo starts now for gold medal duo

BY DAVID MOHAN

"THE road to the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo starts now." Those were the words of Ulster High Performance boxing coach, John Conlan according to two of his five-strong medal-laden squad who returned from the Commonwealth Youth Games in Samoa last week.

Belfast duo, light-welterweight Aidan Walsh (Holy Family) and bantamweight, James McGivern (St George's) secured gold in the Pacific island to add to the gold won by Donegal's Stephen McKenna (49kg) and silvers collected by Tiernan Bradley (60kg) and Brett McGinty (69kg).

The Belfast boys were speaking at the City Centre Gym located at the Frames Complex on Thursday where

Having made the grade in Samoa, the Commonwealth Youth champions admit they have been a little bit taken aback by the attention they have received since landing on home soil last Monday evening, but say they are hoping their success will really see their careers take off and intend to follow the advice of the Ulster coach by setting their sights on the 2018 Commonwealth Games and 2020 Olympics.

"As John said to us, this is the start of the road to Tokyo (Olympics 2020) and the Commonwealth Games 2018 on the Gold Coast in Australia," said Ormeau Road lad, McGivern.

"We have boxed in Australia now (sparring before the Games) and in a commonwealth Games, so I can see myself and the other boys being at the Gold Coast in 2018 then Tokyo in 2020."

They say that fights are not won in the ring, but won in the gym where the hard yards, sacrifice and dedication turn pretenders into contenders.

The story of the Irish boxing revolution has been well documented, with a conveyor belt of talent emerging from the High Performance Unit in Dublin while the Ulster High Performance base at Ulster University, Jordanstown is already beginning to yield results given the results in Samoa and of course, last year's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

However, for this to work, it requires buy-in from the boxers and the single-mindedness to leave no stone unturned to be the best they can be. It takes, blood, sweat, tears, sacrifice, and an insatiable appetite for success – the latter trait almost ironic given one of the most mentally and physically aspects of the sport, making weight.

"The training we put in was just unbelievable," said Blacks Road native, Walsh.

"We had been training so hard and for so long we really believed in ourselves to go all the way. No other country put in what we put in. Every training session we put in 100 per cent.

"Me and James have done everything together. Every country, every competition, me and James have been sharing rooms and training together, so it's great that all of our hard work is paying off. Every one of us deserved to be in a final because everybody gave 110 per cent in each training session.

"John (Conlan) was telling us after each fight that it is going to get harder and harder so we would have to up our game each time.

"To do what we did with four fights in four days, each day making weight and everything else that comes with it is tough.

"Other athletes could do what they wanted a bit, eat what they wanted. We would be going into different athletes' rooms and they would be eating sweets and stuff. We would be thinking we would love to be able to do that, but we had to make weight every day. That's why boxing gets the most medals – we have to dedicate ourselves every day and work hard."

## Rewards

McGivern echoed those sentiments of his friend and team-mate, saying that while it was tough to stick to a regimented regime, they knew that the rewards were there and so it proved in the end as they topped their respective podiums.

"When we down in Dublin (High Performance Unit) some of the lads (seniors) would be going to the shop but we knew we had to stick to it (diet)," he continued.

"Even in Russia, I don't know how many weeks away that was from the competition, but we said to each other that we were starting then and would start eating the right food. I think because we did that, it's why we came back with gold."







The hard work and intense preparation was required as they had to not only overcome an array of opponents with varying styles throughout a competition where the incline got steeper with each opening bell, but factor in travel and climate and things were certainly difficult.

However, both lads put these issues to one side, with McGivern opening with a unanimous decision win over Papa New Guinea's Beupu Noki before following up against Botswana's Kutiwano Ogaketse in the quarter-final.

The semi-final yielded another unanimous decision victory over Australia's George Payne while it was the same story when defeating Scotland's William Stuart in the final.

"Being the Commonwealth Games, you are fighting against some nations that aren't recognised powers," explained the St Gorge's man who is also a member of St Malachy's GAC.

"I fought against boxers from Papa New Guinea and Botswana. John was saying not to underestimate them because while they may not be the top boxing nations in the world, they always have plenty of heart and I found out very quickly that those boys could hit.

"Then I came up against the Australian and Scottish fella and they were a bit more technical, so it was a good mix to work people out and thankfully I was able to do that in the first round of each fight."

For Walsh, it was a resounding opening win over Edrian Volcker of the Seychelles before returning the next day to ease past

Kiribati's Tevili Steven.

India's Prayag Chatham was defeated in the semis before Matthew Rennie from the Isle of Man was another to fall by way of a unanimous decision in the final.

While his route to glory may have seemed straightforward, Walsh insists it was anything but.

"Some of those countries are very awkward," he stressed.

"Maybe it's because of their diet or whatever, but they tend to be taller and slimmer.

"Some of the Africans are so well built and that means they have loads of power.

"As John (Conlan) said, this means you are going into the unknown because you don't know their backgrounds or whatever. As the competition went on you were fighting tougher opponents each time and that's what you need to get better. You want to be fighting the best and if you win the gold, you did it by beating the best."

### Focus

McGivern agreed that mental focus was required from the outset as they moved through the competition and says their preparations ahead of the journey to Samoa proved crucial as they led the way and secured the North's first ever boxing golds at a Commonwealth Youth Games.

"The training we put in coming up to these Games was maybe six weeks to a month full-time," he explained.

"Effectively it was a job because we were in Dublin, then Russia, then over to Australia, so by the time we got to Samoa we were flying.

"I don't want to sound cocky or arrogant, but we knew going out that we would do well. We had five boxers (out of five) in the final and ok, there were two boxers who got silver – not what they went there for – but they gave a great account of themselves and the finals were very close. Unfortunately they just didn't go their way, but to have five boxers in a final was incredible and I don't think anyone has ever done that before."

### Experience

While their head coach has a wealth of experience, the team also were given help from fellow boxers including Walsh's older sister, Michaela who of course won silver in Glasgow last year.

"She was always giving me tips from a young age," said Aidan.

"Even in our club (Holy Family), Ryan Burnett and Paddy Barnes were always coming back from the big tournaments and telling us what they did.

"Michaela as well, she was giving me tips, what to look out for and different things so I would always try to pass that on because we went there as a team and tried to help each other. John as well with his involvement in the Commonwealth Games (Glasgow) and WSB (World Series of Boxing), he was letting us know what to expect, what to do and everything worked out 100 per cent."

The experience of their time in Samoa will certainly stand to each member for the team as they develop into senior boxers and target further success in the years

ahead.

For now, McGivern and Walsh will avail of the Boxing Academy Programme at Belfast Met as it offers the chance to continue their training on a regular basis, but they can also now enjoy the fruits of their labours after an intense period of training and hard work.

The course is a one year, full-time programme equivalent to two GCSE's Grade A\*-C and seeks to develop both coaching and performance excellence.

The students engage on an academic programme as well as structured boxing training sessions delivered by fully qualified coaches including Gerry Storey and Martin Lindsay.

Students will also be given the opportunity to complete essential skills as well as gain an IABA Level 1 Boxing Coaches Awards. There will also be opportunities to travel overseas to compete against and train with other college boxing academies.

"We are on no funding at the minute so this is why we are at the college as well doing this course," said Aidan.

"It means we are able to train during the day and get £30 a week which is better than nothing.

"As 17 and 18 year-olds, all of our friends are out partying and stuff.

"The whole way through to the Games, we didn't have a summer but we were all over the country and all over the world, dieting and doing things like that so we are only getting to enjoy it now.

"Money-wise, this college is really helping us out with our travel and things like that."





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**Boxing Academy coach, Gerry Storey, James McGivern, student Toni-Marie Mailey, Aidan Walsh and Helen Minford - Head of Health, Care, Sport and Leisure at Belfast Met at last week's training session at the City Centre Gym in the Frames Complex**



## DEL hosts Employer Breakfast on new Further Education Strategy



Pictured with Mr Baker are Clare O'Neill, Head of Business Development at Northern Regional College, Damian Duffy, Director of Development and Learner Services, Belfast Metropolitan College and Paula Leathem, Senior HR Business Partner at NIE Networks.

Rebecca Kincade on September 22, 2015 - 11:59 am in [News](#)

The Department for Employment and Learning Permanent Secretary Derek Baker today addressed employers at a breakfast event in the e3 campus of Belfast Metropolitan College to promote the consultation on a new further education strategy for Northern Ireland.

Mr Baker said: "The consultation sets out a range of policy commitments that will establish a world class system of further education in Northern Ireland. The further education sector plays a pivotal role in developing a strong and vibrant economy. It develops professional and technical skills, increasingly at higher levels, helping employers to innovate, to design and develop new products for the marketplace, and to be more efficient and competitive."

The Permanent Secretary outlined the importance of employers working alongside the further education colleges to design and develop high quality and economically relevant curriculum and qualifications to ensure that there is a pipeline of suitably qualified individuals at all levels to meet skills needs.

Mr Baker continued: "I encourage all stakeholders to engage with my Department during the consultation period as their responses will be crucial in informing the shape and detail of the final strategy which will be published in autumn 2015."

Another key role for the sector is supporting social inclusion by providing those who have low or no qualifications, or who have barriers to learning, with the skills and qualifications needed to find employment and to become economically active. The new strategy will provide an opportunity to drive positive economic change, promote individual opportunity and achieve greater social cohesion.

The consultation period closes on 2 October 2015. The consultation documents can be viewed at <http://www.delni.gov.uk/>



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# BOXING CLEVER

By Ali Gordon

**TWENTY students are punching above their weight - by taking a new course in boxing.**

With their first week under their belts, students are being put through their paces by legendary trainer Gerry Storey at Belfast Metropolitan College.

Storey - one of the most successful coaches in the sport - said: "I think the whole concept is brilliant and Belfast Met have to be congratulated for making such a great programme for young ones. Belfast has needed a course like this for years so I'm just pleased I can be a part of it now."

## SKILLS

The one-year college course combines practical and theory lessons to offer students the opportunity to become personal trainers, improve their boxing skills and learn about nutrition and physiology all while gaining the equivalent of two GCSEs.

Storey added: "During the eighties, I was brought into the Maze Prison to coach the boys boxing and these were paramilitary groups who were killing each other on the outside but working together on the inside because they loved the sport and they got so much out of it. This course is like that - it's using the sport positively."

Commonwealth Youth gold medallists James McGivern and Aidan Walsh have signed up for the boxing academy which is the first of its kind in Ireland.

Light welterweight Walsh said: "We're really looking forward to getting stuck in."

"As part of the course, we get to do a personal training and a fitness instructor course so if boxing doesn't work out, like it doesn't for a lot of people, then we can fall back on that."

"We're not on any funding so we have to do as much as we can to earn money and make sure that we have worked as hard as we can both in and outside of the ring."

## Students get stuck in on new Met College boxing course

Bantamweight McGivern added: "We're in the gym three times a week and we're off Fridays so it's a really good timetable to fit around our training."

"Martin Lindsay and Gerry Storey are top coaches, so to get help from them is brilliant and it'll really help us out."

"I'd love to make the Olympic Games so that's my dream at the minute, but afterwards I'd love to be a coach and train other people."

"Plus, with being able to do Essential Skills through the course, it means we have those

qualifications on top of the boxing side of things."

Belfast boxers Walsh and McGivern have just returned from the Commonwealth Youth Games in Samoa and admit that they aspire to be like Commonwealth champions Paddy Barnes and Michael Conlan.

"It's been good having each other because we push each other to want to do better and keep an eye on each other's weights and things like that," said Holy Family's Walsh.

"When we were away, people were going to the shops and we

were choosing not to go because we knew that being that extra bit disciplined could make the difference for us and it did in the end - it paid off."

St George's McGivern added: "We knew that we were going to go there and do as well as we could out there but to get the gold medal was something else."

"The two of us are so competitive - it's like Mick Conlan and Paddy Barnes. They bounce off each other and make each other want to do better and I think we do that to each other."

"If we could go on and have

the same success as them, that would be brilliant."

Storey added: "The dream for many of these youngsters is to make it to the Olympic Games and I want them to see that this can be achieved - same with the Commonwealth Games."

"Northern Ireland has produced so many great boxers over the years that I think these kids can see that if you dream it and you work hard for it then you can do it."

"This course at Belfast Met will only help them fulfill that dream."



GLOVES UP: Students get faced up for the new boxing course





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## HANNAH QUINN

Quality Assurance (QA) Engineer, Relay Software Ltd.

**Typical Working day:**  
A typical day is 8-4.30pm, sitting at a desk with 2 computer monitors, testing software which brokers use to sell insurance. My aim is essentially to break the software so that bugs are exposed and, in turn, eliminated by developers so that the program works as effectively as possible. I'm required to write step-by-step instructions to show exactly what I have done to find the problems with the software so that the developers can replicate the issues and eradicate them. Communication is a key aspect of my job as I work closely with my team of testers, developers and other IT professionals on a daily basis to discuss how the quality of software can be improved.

**What has been your educational/professional route to this post?**  
I graduated from the University of Strathclyde with a degree in Primary Education, however, after completing my final year teaching placement I knew that this was not a field of work in which I wanted to pursue a career.

**What transferable skills have you used in your various roles that have come from your STEM training?**  
At the Software Testers Academy I studied numerous modules which were built to provide me with the knowledge to go from being a primary school teacher to a software tester in just 16 weeks. We learnt technical skills through testing using various software programs and developed the ability to write testplans which are required on a daily basis in my current

IT is an area that has always captivated my interest so I applied to the Software Testers Academy, which ran at Belfast Met and was funded by the Department for Employment and Learning.

I attended the 16 week course which was specifically tailored to testing various types of software and gained an industry recognised qualification in software testing. Once I completed the course, I found work within a few weeks at Relay Software Ltd.

job. In addition to this, we had training on how to present ourselves well and communicate effectively - these skills are necessary for any career!

**How does your work as a software tester make the world a better place?**  
Software Testing is necessary because we all make mistakes; some of which can be expensive or - in some instances - dangerous.

My job is important because it means that the products are being thoroughly checked for defects and errors which can then be fixed, allowing end users to be rewarded with software that works effectively.

**What do you really like about your job?**  
My favourite thing about my job is the element of problem solving. There is something really satisfying about finding bugs in the system and working out the various ways in which you can break the software!

**Would you recommend Software Testing to other young people?**  
Yes, definitely as the IT sector in Northern Ireland is expanding so rapidly.

Software Testing is an exciting career with plenty of room for progression and professional development.





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## Get on the STEM career ladder at **Belfast Met**



**Sisters Catherine, Anna and Rachel McCaughley completed Belfast Metropolitan College's 'IT Girls' camp this summer. Girls aged 15 to 18 learnt basic skills in coding and software development and attended lectures by speakers from industry, including Mike Robinson, CTO**

Individuals who have qualifications in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) are in demand. A qualification in STEM puts you in a stronger position in today's competitive job market.

Studying STEM subjects opens up a wide variety of exciting and rewarding career opportunities here in Northern Ireland.

Research indicates that there is likely to be an increasing demand for graduates qualified in STEM within the growing

sectors of the Northern Ireland economy in the coming years.

A recent survey reported that 9 out of 10 businesses wanted STEM skilled graduates. In addition to this the survey reported that starting salaries in the STEM sector average £23,000 a year, against a £19,000 average for graduates across all sectors.

Belfast is now the world's top destination city for financial services technologies investments and is Europe's leading destination city for software development and technical

support investment.

Right across the province there are strong engineering, food and life science sectors with world class companies operating here in Northern Ireland.

Belfast Metropolitan College is leading the way in promoting career pathways into these industries and through our range of courses and progression opportunities, you will be prepared for working in a dynamic and fast-changing economic environment.





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# STEM CAREERS? You do the Maths



Interested in an exciting career with excellent job opportunities, higher than average starting salaries and lifetime earnings around 20% greater than other occupational areas? If the answer is 'Yes' then a STEM related qualification from your regional Further Education (FE) Colleges could be your starting point to a successful future.

We often take it for granted but science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or STEM as we refer to it, is everywhere around us. From the heating systems in our homes, the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the cars we travel in, the smartphone we rely on and the buildings we live and work in – all these things rely on people educated in STEM skills to create them.

From a careers perspective, science and technology based companies form the backbone of NI's exports, contributing in excess of £4.5bn per annum. Importantly for students making career choices, the growth of businesses based around STEM skills is a priority for Government and the demand for people with STEM skills continues to grow accordingly. Students can step onto this exciting career ladder at many levels through the many full-time and part-time qualifications available in our six regional FE Colleges. From healthcare to engineering; creative media to applied sciences; music technology to the built environment; STEM within colleges covers a diverse range of interesting and challenging courses to suit students at all levels.

Want to try a STEM course out before diving in? Not a problem; colleges run a wide range of Open Days and Information Evenings at which potential students can sample courses on offer. Take for example Southern Regional College's



Curtis Adams, with his innovative 'Bike-first Traffic Light'

'taster' sessions around software coding. Using the 'Ollie' robot system, potential students can try their hand at coding through the various Open Days and Information Evenings.

What about a career in engineering? South West College's engineering fairs will give you the chance not only to hear about careers but also try your hand at engineering skills challenges. The college's STEM Centre also runs various hands-on events with schools and this year the college also ran its creative computing summer

camp for boys and girls aged 10-14.

Any budding scientists? North West Regional College ran the Salters Festival of Chemistry earlier this year, allowing more than 60 pupils from secondary schools around Northern Ireland to compete in experiments to help solve a criminal investigation. Importantly, the opportunity for young people to sample STEM courses extends across all six colleges and indeed, across a broad range of curriculum areas. Contact your local college to find out about forthcoming events (see

[www.collegesni.ac.uk](http://www.collegesni.ac.uk) for contact details).

Critically, the above provision is backed up by world class facilities. With an investment of £340m in estate over the past 10 years, a combined turnover of £260m and a workforce of over 4,000 expert lecturers and professional staff, students can be assured of excellent learning environments. Courses are available at all key educational levels and allow seamless progression to higher education.

Take for example the many Foundation Degrees now being offered by the colleges. Accredited by universities, Foundation Degrees allow direct progression onto an undergraduate degree.

What about the Apprenticeship route?

With employment in a company from day one, apprenticeships will allow you to gain the skills and qualifications sought by companies, again many of these in STEM areas.

The showcase of STEM talent across the six regional FE Colleges is the annual BEST Awards which, at the 2015 Finals, saw around 200 students competing in the disciplines of engineering, science, creative media, built environment and software.

Among them was the 16-18 overall winner, Curtis Adams, with his innovative 'Bike-first Traffic Light'. A student at Belfast Metropolitan College, Curtis was also one of nine FE students selected to attend the two week Frontiers Programme run by Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Massachusetts in July 2015.

For more information on STEM within Further Education, contact Dr Alan Blair at [alan.blair@collegesni.ac.uk](mailto:alan.blair@collegesni.ac.uk) or log onto [www.collegesni.ac.uk](http://www.collegesni.ac.uk) for details Twitter: @CollegesNI





# Try STEM for size

**S**ometimes it can be difficult for a young person to visualize what a particular career might be like. Experiencing some aspects of the work area can be helpful in making decisions about the future.

Lots of amazing opportunities have been created to give young people, parents and teachers 'a taste of STEM'. These include a growing range of festivals, coding clubs and even space camps and not to forget work experience itself.

## Coding for all ages

For ages 6-18- **CoderDojo**

CoderDojos are volunteer-led coding clubs for young people, aged between 6 and 18. The first of these was launched in July 2011 in the National Software Centre in Cork but now the movement has become a global phenomenon with over 675 Dojos in 57 countries and more being added every day. The Dojos are centred around the fun aspects of computing: computer coding, developing games, web design, and Lego Mindstorms. Courses are aimed at a beginner's level, and all are welcome.

Here in Northern Ireland there are two CoderDojos at Belfast Met's Titanic Campus and at Springvale on the Springfield Road, but there are Dojos all over the country, including Derry-Londonderry, Strabane, Draperstown, Ballymena, Coleraine, Armagh and Newry. Details and tickets can be found through Eventbrite.

For ages 9-11 **Code Club**

[www.codeclub.org.uk](http://www.codeclub.org.uk) operates in several venues across Northern Ireland, mainly in primary schools. Children learn how to make digital games, websites and animations, using Scratch, HTML and Python.

## Women Who Code

Women Who Code is a global not-for-profit organisation, dedicated to supporting and inspiring girls and women with an interest in STEM through monthly hack nights, tech talks and career training.

WWCode exists to provide an avenue for girls to get into technology, to stay in technology and to realise the countless opportunities and possibilities this industry has to offer.

Claire Burn, Belfast youth outreach leader, says: "We believe that innovation is driven by diversity and that the tech industry will be even better once females are no longer underrepresented. Some examples of areas we have run events on include: Windows App Programming, Android App Programming, Web Development for Beginners, REST API Coding in Python & Django, and a Hackathon for app programming which ran as an all-day event.

"On the flip side, we also help girls & women to develop their soft skills with Careers training sessions, CV & Interview tips, and by providing a support network of women within the technology & business industries.

"With regards to younger coders, we are running a scheme for schools which involves a short introduction to many different aspects of coding, including JavaScript and Scratch! It's a lot of fun, and can be tailored to suit experience levels, so don't worry if you're a beginner, just give it a go!"

## Work Experience

The 2015 CBI/Pearson 'Education and Skills survey: Inspiring growth' emphasised the importance of relevant work experience and attitudes to work to the employability of young people.



Youngsters getting hands on experience at CultureTECH with W5 Demonstrator Matthew Craig

Many businesses have recognised this issue and offer work experience, internships, project work and placement opportunities to increase engagement with young people and improve their employability.

If you want to know more about work experience, the Department for Employment and Learning has developed new web pages on [www.nidirect.gov.uk](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk) to help support young people and parents and on [www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk](http://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk) which will assist employers set up new work experience opportunities. Search for work experience on each site.

## STEM Festivals

There are also a growing number of STEM based festivals becoming established in Northern Ireland and these give a great opportunity to experience an aspect of STEM to see if it interests you.

**CultureTECH - September 2015**

This year's CultureTECH Festival which is on this week in Derry-Londonderry and runs until September 20, continues to have a huge emphasis on STEM education with over 100 schools and around 15,000 young people taking part.

The week kicked off with Ministry of Science Live! which is bringing science to the stage of the Millennium Forum across five days of sold out shows. In-school activities across the week focus on design, engineering, coding and science including the launch of new custom-built Minecraft Education classes focusing on the geography and geology of the Giant's Causeway.

STEM activities continue into the weekend programme with Northern Ireland's biggest

ever maker fair, including public exhibits from dozens of engineers, technologists and makers alongside the BBC's Make It Digital marquee.

DojoCon - the annual conference for the global CoderDojo community of over 675 dojos - will also take place at CultureTECH this year, co-hosted by the Nerve Centre and delegates from 9 countries are registered to attend. Across the entire week, the use of Minecraft in (particularly STEM) education will be a huge focus with senior leaders from Microsoft and Mojang joining teachers and games developers to discuss best practice - and get kids involved in testing new ideas.

Now one of the biggest STEM-related events in the country, CultureTECH is a chance for young people to get hands-on with technology and have fun exploring big ideas in science, technology and engineering.

**ICONS 24-27 September**

STEM skills and career opportunities are set to take centre-stage at a major new four-day festival taking place in Belfast this month.

ICONS Festival, which takes place in the Titanic Quarter from September 24-27, aims to showcase the very best of tech, music and screen from around the world.

As part of an array of talks and workshops led by global icons, thousands of people are expected to attend Ireland's biggest ever Careers Carnival as well as a special Digital Skills Day which aims to empower and inspire the generation of tomorrow.

Held in the new Titanic Exhibition Centre on Saturday, September 26, the **Careers Carnival** will see pupils, parents, students - and those looking for a career transition - engage with major employers. Companies such as ALMAC, BT and AUTOLINE along with over 80 startups

from all over Europe will be highlighting the very latest opportunities from within the STEM sphere.

The **Digital Skills Day** takes place on Thursday, September 24, and will see schoolchildren from across Northern Ireland engage with international experts from STEM industries.

ICONS Festival co-founder Aaron Taylor said: "Through our Careers Carnival and Digital Skills Day we're aiming to inspire and encourage young people to grasp the amazing opportunities to be found within STEM."

"Technology is driving change across all sections of society and the economy. As a result STEM skills are in high demand and are highly valued by potential employers. The ICONS Festival has set out to raise awareness of STEM and demonstrate that great things can be achieved with the right blend of skills, self-belief and high ambition."

With a variety of homegrown businesses on show, live music performances, film screenings, interactive technology and a range of global leaders slated to speak, the event seeks to inspire the next generation of creative innovators.

ICONS Festival runs from September 24 - 27 in Titanic Quarter, Belfast. For more information and to purchase tickets log on to [www.festivaloficons.com](http://www.festivaloficons.com) and follow @iconsfestival

## UN World Space Week and beyond...

UN World Space Week runs during the first week in October and a key aspect of the programme is a three day visit (October 1-3) to Northern Ireland of Greg Johnson, NASA astronaut and President and Executive Director for the Center





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# e and see if it fits



Aimee Reid, William McIlroy and Nathalie Gibbons at Belfast Met's Space Camp

## Summer camps in Space and ICT

Recently Belfast Met opened its doors to budding astronauts, pilots and app geniuses with a new series of STEM summer camps. The free activity camps took place at Titanic Quarter Campus for over 16s interested in fun experiments involving cosmology, aerospace science and ICT technologies.

Space Camp attendees had a jam packed week full of astronomical activities from building a rocket, to learning about the diverse career paths in space science. They also visited Armagh Planetarium where they met experts within the field.

Belfast IT Girls offered creative practical workshops and events for girls aged 16-18, to experiment with gadgets and techniques essential for any IT expert - creating apps for Android, designing a bespoke website, and learning how to repair and network PC's. Participants also had the opportunity to meet the IT industry's most prominent females who shared their experiences of working in ICT.

Female teachers and lecturers also took part in a free course in C# programming, which is an essential part of computer programming, and a highly sought after skill in the job market.

Belfast Met are grateful for the support of the Department for Employment and Learning, Invest NI and summer camp sponsors that have supported the delivery of these exciting summer sessions.

for the Advancement of Science in Space, who will present a series of lectures to various audiences.

W5 will also be inviting families and schools to join their *Destination Space* programme through a calendar of family shows and live events at W5 running from October 2015. These will include events to celebrate the European Space Agency's first British astronaut Tim Peake going into space in December. Special curriculum-linked activities for school children aged 5-14 will be starting from January 2016 whilst Tim is on the International Space Station.

For further information on how to become involved in this unique programme, email [educationqueries@w5online.co.uk](mailto:educationqueries@w5online.co.uk).

## DIGITAL FUTURES

Northern Ireland is home to some of the world's brightest young innovators, all destined for great STEM careers in the coming years. These future leaders will showcase their skills and talent at Digital Futures 2015, part of the Digital DNA series of events taking place on October 12-15.

Digital Futures, on October 14, run in partnership with Sentinus and Young Enterprise, is a programme led by some of the world's great digital strategists to engage with thousands of young people in roadshows across Northern Ireland and help them develop skills for future STEM careers.

Engaging and inspiring talks from global digital leaders will follow a competition where hundreds of young innovators will present their solutions for a problem currently facing businesses or consumers. The winning team of innovators will head off to San Francisco where they will experience first hand where much of

our future is being shaped. The trip will include visits to Google, Facebook and the D-School at Stanford University. The second placed team will visit London and will take in businesses such as Facebook and Microsoft. The prizes have been provided by one of Digital DNA's premier partners, Aer Lingus.

Digital Futures is part of Digital DNA 2015, a series of events aimed at engaging and inspiring Northern Ireland businesses and the next generation to embrace the power of technology to grow locally and internationally. Digital Futures takes place at Belfast City Hall on October 14, with Digital Business taking place on October 15 and Digital Tourism on November 12, both at Titanic Belfast.

To get inspired and to find out more about the events, please visit Digital DNA online at [www.DigitalDNA.org.uk](http://www.DigitalDNA.org.uk)

## Festival of Hockey, November 2015

Belfast will be hosting four top Boston collegiate universities from the prestigious National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) who will play in Belfast's first 'Festival of Hockey' over Thanksgiving weekend (Friday, November 27, and Saturday, November 28). This will be the first time that these competitive games will take place outside the USA.

The University of Massachusetts (UMass Lowell), North Eastern University, Brown and Colgate have all agreed to be the first to play in Belfast's SSE Arena as part of the inaugural Friendship Four competing for the 'Belpot Trophy'.

To celebrate the Festival of Hockey, W5 is organising and hosting various STEM events throughout November. This will include 'Fantastic Females' events which will use positive female role models from Northern Ireland and



ICONS Festival founders Aaron Taylor and Jim Fitzpatrick

beyond to inspire and inform young people, and girls in particular, about the vast range of career opportunities available to them in sport. Other events include the 'Chemistry of Sport', 'The Physics of Martial Arts' and 'How to Make a Giant' - an event looking at the team behind the team, with regard to coaching roles, nutrition and sports medicine.

The Festival of Hockey STEM events will run from November 3 and a full programme will be available later in September. To find out how you and your school can become involved in these events, contact Julia Carson 028 9046 7722 or [juliacarson@w5online.co.uk](mailto:juliacarson@w5online.co.uk).

For further information about tickets for the Festival of Hockey and to book visit [www.belfastgiants.com](http://www.belfastgiants.com).

## Date for your diary - Science Festival - February 2016

This ran for the first time in February and it is hoped that it will become a mainstay in the STEM and cultural calendar within the region. The Science Festival will return on the 18th-28th February 2016 with an even bigger programme of events.

With over 100 events over the 11 days, make sure to keep your eyes peeled for the launch of events in January by visiting [www.nisiencefestival.com](http://www.nisiencefestival.com)



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Robert Welch Photograph © National Museums Northern Ireland, Collection Harland & Wolff, Ulster Folk & Transport Museum



Titanic Foundation and supporters gather to celebrate the next step in the history of the Drawing Offices.



Members of Titanic Foundation's Executive Board & Chief Executive Kerrie Sweeney (L-R Mark Beattie, Marie-Therese McGovern, Sammy Douglas, Kerrie Sweeney, Nicky Dunn, Noel Rooney, Denis Power)





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## TOTALMOBILE INSPIRES NEXT GENERATION OF IT GIRLS

Teenage girls and teachers at Belfast Metropolitan College's first female-focussed IT summer camp have been gaining career inspiration from high flying female software developers at Belfast-based tech firm TotalMobile. Girls aged from 15 to 18 from across Northern Ireland including those from Sullivan Upper School attended the Belfast IT Girls event, a digital skills summer camp. Students learnt about building apps, websites and PCs as well as networking. Among the speakers were Karen Hull, Principal Software Tester and Gillian

Noble, Senior Lead Software Developer at TotalMobile, which provides innovative software solutions to revolutionise the way frontline healthcare staff work. The women spoke about their own journey into the IT industry and how the company, which has much higher levels of female staff than the Northern Ireland average, has supported them in their careers. TotalMobile, one of sponsors of the event, is also providing mentoring to students and teachers through the Belfast IT Girls event.



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## New qualification provides launchpad into space industry

**T**he global space industry is thriving, creating new training, research and job opportunities for school leavers and graduates studying STEM subjects. The good news is that many of these opportunities are based here in Northern Ireland.

In response to these developments, Northern Ireland's exams body, the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) has developed a new Level 2 Space Science Technology qualification to give learners aged 14-16 the necessary skills and knowledge needed to succeed in Northern Ireland's growing space-related industries.

The qualification, developed by CCEA in consultation with Invest NI and Aerospace, Defence and Security Industry NI (ADS NI), covers a wide range

of topics including the history of space exploration, the challenges of human space flight, advanced composite engineering for aerospace, geographical information systems and the remote sensing of planet earth.

As Dr Leslie Orr from ADS NI states: "We have eight thousand people currently employed in the aerospace sector. It's a very high technology sector; it's a high value sector and it's high for our exports as well. The next phase is the space industry and we really need to develop young people right now for that future industry."

One college that recognises the opportunities within the NI space sector is the Belfast Metropolitan College which hosted a Space Camp in July, based upon CCEA's Level 2 Space Science Technology specification.

Students taking part in the

week long Space Camp were given the opportunity to learn more about space science technology and the range of careers on offer.

Among the many space-related activities they participated in, they learnt about rocketry, built their own model space rocket at the Armagh Planetarium and heard from industry experts such as Bombardier about the great opportunities ahead. The focus of the week was placed on the new CCEA qualification Unit 1: Human Space Flight, taking students on the journey of flight throughout the week.

If you would like to find out more about CCEA's Level 2 Space Science Technology qualification, contact Eleanore Thomas at [ethomas@ccea.org.uk](mailto:ethomas@ccea.org.uk) or telephone 028 9026 1200 ext 2209 or visit [www.ccea.org.uk](http://www.ccea.org.uk)





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### CODE CRACKERS

Teenage girls and teachers at Belfast Metropolitan College's first female-focussed IT summer camp have been gaining career inspiration from high flying female software developers at Belfast-based tech firm TotalMobile.

## TotalMobile Inspires Next Generation of IT Girls

DIGITAL SKILLS SUMMER CAMP  
ATTENDEES JOIN THE IT CROWD

**G**irls aged from 15 to 18 from across Northern Ireland including those from Sullivan Upper School attended the Belfast IT Girls event, a digital skills summer camp. Students learnt about building apps, websites and PCs as well as networking. Among the speakers were Karen Hull, Principal Software Tester and Gillian Noble, Senior Lead Software Developer at TotalMobile, which provides innovative software solutions to revolutionise the way frontline healthcare staff work. The women spoke about their own journey into the IT industry and how the company, which has much higher levels of female staff than the Northern Ireland average, has supported them in their careers. TotalMobile, one of sponsors of the event, is also providing

mentoring to students and teachers through the Belfast IT Girls event. Karen Hull said: "Since joining TotalMobile over 14 years ago I've moved through the ranks from software tester and test lead to become one of the company's two principal software testers. Although it's still a fairly male dominated industry, that is changing as the younger generation of women realise that working in IT can be a very challenging and rewarding career and one in which many more exciting opportunities will be created in the coming years. After all the first ever programmer was a female – Ada Lovelace in the 1980s! We're extremely proud that 35% of our development staff are female – a much higher level than many of our competitors and streets ahead of the NI average of

90% male representation in the IT industry. TotalMobile recognises that having enough people with excellent IT and software development skills will be crucial in ensuring that Northern Ireland is equipped to compete globally and we are delighted to play a role in trying to fill this skills gap." Jonathan Heggarty, Belfast Met's Head of School of Electronic and Computing Technologies, said: "The Belfast IT Girls camp is a great opportunity for learners and teachers to hear about the diverse range of IT careers and develop important skills for themselves. Belfast Met are grateful for the support of Total Mobile and a range of other IT company sponsors and organisations including DEL, CCEA and Invest NI, without whom this camp could not take place."

**TotalMobile is also a sponsor of CoderDojo Belfast, a youth coding club founded and run by Belfast Met at its Titanic Quarter Campus.**







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## Why should my business take on an apprentice?

**Y**ou're probably very busy running your company on a day-to-day basis and might think you don't have the time or money to take on your own apprentice. Well think again...

**BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYERS,  
ACCORDING TO WEBSITE  
[WWW.NIBUSINESSINFO.CO.UK](http://WWW.NIBUSINESSINFO.CO.UK)**

- For apprentices under the age of 25 the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) pay the full costs of the 'off-the-job' training for the duration of the apprenticeship; it contributes 50 per cent to the 'off-the-job' training for the duration of the apprenticeship for those aged 25 years and over where they are following specific priority apprenticeships.

- On completion of the apprenticeship an employer incentive is available ranging from £250 to £1,500 (depending on the complexity and level of the apprenticeship undertaken).
- You achieve lower costs for training and recruitment as an apprenticeship is more cost-effective than hiring skilled staff.
- You benefit from increased enthusiasm, motivation and loyalty as your apprentice



L-R: Rosemary Burgess, Eamon O'Neill and Chris Snoddy.





has sought out this career path.

- The mixture of on and off-the-job training means your apprentice learns the skills that work best for your business.
- You can realise increased productivity, improved competitiveness and a competent workforce.
- Apprentices can help fill skills gaps by developing the specialist skills that you

## TRAINING & APPRENTICESHIPS

require for your business and can help you and your business keep abreast of new technology.

### WHAT THE EMPLOYERS SAY

**Rosemary Burgess, Business Operations Manager of Fujitsu**

"We deliver management services in this company (Fujitsu), which we want delivered in a certain way and in a unique way. So we can bring apprentices in the door and in conjunction with Belfast Met we can shape the people to deliver the service that we want and that is all through Belfast Met because of the way they have developed this programme, which is very difficult to equal and impossible to better".

**Neill Killen, Ridgeway General Manager**

"We now know that we have skilled people coming through so it has eased the worry that management would have had if somebody retired or gets ill. We have the back-up and we have the right skills in place, and we have the right people training up and coming up into the business."

### WHAT THE TRAINERS SAY

**Damian Duffy, Director of Business Development at Belfast Met**

"Our Training Support Officers's dedicate their

skills and expertise to find the appropriate match that will benefit the employer's business and ensure that a close collaboration is achieved, allowing the apprentice to gain a full and enriching learning experience.

.....  
"We know that we have skilled people coming through so it has eased the worry that management would have had if somebody retired or gets ill. We have the back-up and we have the right skills."

"One bit of advice that I would give to employers is look after apprentices from day one. That pays us dividends in the long run because now our retention rates are so high, it's about practicing pastoral care and communicating with them regularly. Make sure that they have all of the resources that they need to do their job well too". >







## TRAINING & APPRENTICESHIPS

### WHAT THE MINISTER SAYS

**Dr Stephen Farry, Employment and Learning Minister**

"The benefits of apprenticeships are well documented with apprentices able to earn while they learn, develop and practice their skills in the work environment and enhance their future career prospects. International evidence shows that apprentices make a positive contribution to their employers' bottom line even before they have completed their apprenticeship training."

### WHAT YOU NEED TO DO IF YOU WANT TO HIRE AN APPRENTICE

If you have an apprenticeship vacancy, visit the employersonline website to register and place your vacancy.

If you don't have a potential apprentice

but would like to employ one, it is really like finding any other employee.

#### You can, for example:

- Contact your local Jobs & Benefits Office/JobCentre.
- Place a vacancy on Employers Online NI.
- Place an advertisement in the newspapers.
- Contact your local Training Supplier who may be aware of potential employees.
- Look to your own staff – your apprentice can be an existing employee.

### YOU HAVE YOUR APPRENTICE, WHAT NEXT?

Once you have identified your apprentice and they have agreed to take part in apprenticeships, simply contact your local apprenticeships training supplier, who will register them on the programme.

"Evidence shows that apprentices make a positive contribution to their employers' bottom line even before they have completed their apprenticeship."

The training supplier will meet with you and your apprentice to discuss their training needs and will then develop a training programme with them. They will be with your apprentice every step of the way throughout the apprenticeship to support them and ensure they are making progress. ■

## Case Study: James St South

**T**he award-winning group of restaurants runs an apprentice scheme for trainee chefs and is taking on 16 people this year, double the number last year.

They will be put through a year-long placement in founder Niall McKenna's cookery school while gaining professional qualifications through Belfast Metropolitan College at the same time. Three of the apprentices were offered full time employment following last year's scheme.

"Our apprentices will receive ongoing training and development through weekly workshops in our cookery school, as well as regular activities to ensure a greater appreciation of food, like meeting producers and others in the supply chain," he said.

"This is geared for aspiring chefs who have the determination to succeed, learning from leaders in the industry and cooking with local produce to create the dining experience for which James Street South is famous." ■



From left: Niall McKenna, apprentice Charlotte McGrath and Department of Employment and Learning Minister Dr Stephen Farry.





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## APPOINTMENTS

*Adrian Gallagher has been appointed as New Commercial Vehicle Sales Executive at Isaac Agnew Van Centre. Adrian comes with previous experience selling Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles.*

*Susie McCullough joins the team at Belfast Waterfront from Tourism Northern Ireland as Director of Sales and Marketing.*

*Peter McCartney is appointed Conference Sales Executive GB and International at Belfast Waterfront. In his new role, Peter will be responsible for selling the new world class conference centre.*



*Aoife Glenn becomes Conference Sales Executive GB and International at Belfast Waterfront. Aoife will be responsible for selling the new world class conference centre at Belfast Waterfront.*

*As the newly appointed Exhibition and Business Sales Executive at Belfast Waterfront, Kim Keightley is responsible for identifying and developing new opportunities in the corporate market.*

*Lisa Turkington joins the team at Belfast Waterfront as the new Digital Marketing Executive at Belfast Waterfront. She is responsible for overseeing the digital marketing strategy for both venues.*



*Dr Jonathan Heggarty has been appointed Director of Curriculum of Belfast Met. Jonathan joins the Chief Executive team and is responsible for leading and managing the delivery of the College's curriculum.*

*Jill Smyth has been appointed Technical Services Manager at Fujitsu. Jill will be responsible for the Unix technical services teams.*

*Geoff Thompson has been appointed Partner at Fetherston Clements Estate Agents. He was previously Senior Valuer at the agency and has been working within the industry for the past 12 years.*







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# Internet security academy launched

BY CLAIRE CRAIG

A TRAINING academy will equip participants with the skills needed to take up job opportunities in the field of internet security.

Following the announcement last December that WhiteHat Security was creating 80 jobs in Northern Ireland, the firm has been recruiting and the second WhiteHat Security IT Training Academy will provide 12 individuals opportunities in the ICT sector.

Launching the academy, the Minister for Employment and Learning Stephen Farry said: "Internet security is vital to the safety of all businesses. This academy will teach 12 people the skills needed to assist in safeguarding commercial websites. I would encourage individuals to consider a career in this vibrant and growing local ICT sector."

The academy has been designed by the Department for Employment and Learning, WhiteHat Security and Belfast Metropolitan College. Successful candidates will undertake an intensive five-week training programme on web application security vulnerabilities. There is a potential offer of employment with WhiteHat Security based in their Belfast offices.

Johnathan Kuskos from WhiteHat Security said: "The WhiteHat Security Training Academy represents an exclusive partnership

with DEL and Belfast Met. This academy currently represents a tailored approach to teaching that supplements WhiteHat's existing rigorous training regimen. The Threat Research Centre eagerly looks forward to hosting several more academies in the future."

Applications to the WhiteHat Security IT Training Academy will close on Wednesday, September 23, and the training programme starts on Monday, October 12.

Meanwhile, a new contact centre in Belfast is to create 250 jobs.

Intelling Ltd, a UK business service company, started recruitment for its new operations centre in Belfast earlier this year. As a result, 45 of the new jobs, which include management, supervisors, sales positions, are already in place with the rest of the vacancies to be filled in the next three years.



**Wanted: Swim teacher,  
SEE PAGE 8**



## BELFAST MET APPRENTICESHIPS RAISE RECRUITMENT STANDARD

Belfast Met apprenticeship programmes focus on providing a high standard of learning that will develop the employability of their students. From engineering to computer programming, it is clear to see that the benefits are multiple for learners to provide them with the right skills and careers; but there are also exceptional advantages for the employer.

Carillion, Ridgeway, and Fujitsu share their views on Belfast Met's highly commendable training schemes.

Carillion HR Manager, Jacqui Dorman said -

"I've worked with Belfast Met for over 11 years now, we have an excellent relationship with Tutors and Training Support Officers who keep us regularly informed of Apprentice Development which is critical for our business succession planning".

These words of commendation are a testimony to the care and attention that the Belfast Met Training Support Officers provide, which is down to a strong, clear-sighted and ambitious leadership. As a result Ridgeway's employment needs for focused and adaptable recruits has been achieved by Belfast Met as General Manager Neill Killen comments -

"We have the back-up, we have

the right skills in place, and we have the right people training up and coming up into the business."

Academies, foundation degrees, and higher level apprenticeships, provide an opportunity for learners study a few days a week at the College and work full time with a salary in a relevant company, which develops the practical skills required for their professional development.

Rosemary Burgess supports the benefits of employers collaborating in training schemes, delivered by Belfast Met as it meets the company's needs -

"In conjunction with Belfast Met we can shape the apprentices to deliver the service that we want and that is all through Belfast Met because of the way they have developed this programme, which is very difficult to equal and impossible to better".



Rosemary Burgess and apprentices



Neill Killen and apprentice



Jacqui Dorman and apprentice





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# Second academy to grow IT sector



**Hats off:** Employment minister Stephen Farry with Christopher Dawson, a previous Academy graduate now working for WhiteHat; Jonathan Kuskos, WhiteHat Security; and Zandra Garcia, who also graduated from the previous Academy and is now working for the firm

## Staff Reporter

The second WhiteHat Security IT Training Academy has officially been launched.

Following the announcement last December that WhiteHat Security was creating 80 jobs in Northern Ireland, the firm has been recruiting throughout 2015 and the Academy will provide 12 individuals opportunities in internet security.

Employment minister Dr Stephen Farry said: "Internet security is vital to the safety of all businesses. This Academy will teach 12 people the skills needed to assist in safeguarding commercial websites. I would encourage individuals to consider a career in this vibrant and growing local ICT sector.

"The Academies are excellent examples of how government interventions can enhance the skills of the unemployed and provide employers with the skills needed to grow

our economy. The results of the Academies show that Government and further education colleges can respond quickly to design bespoke training programmes for employers.

"In the 10 months since I met WhiteHat in San Francisco my Department, through the Assured Skills initiative, has continued to assist WhiteHat with their training and skills needs as they become established in Northern Ireland."

The Academy has been designed by the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL), WhiteHat Security, and Belfast Metropolitan College (Belfast Met). The successful candidates will undertake an intensive five-week training programme on web application security vulnerabilities. For successful candidates there is a potential offer of employment with WhiteHat Security based in their Belfast offices.

Johnathan Kuskos from WhiteHat Security said: "The WhiteHat Security Training

Academy represents an exclusive partnership with DEL and Belfast Met. The intensive five-week course facilitates the need for trained 'up and coming' security experts that hunger for security knowledge. This academy currently represents a tailored approach to teaching that supplements WhiteHat's existing rigorous training regimen. The Threat Research Centre eagerly looks forward to hosting several more academies in the future."

Applications to the WhiteHat Security IT Training Academy will close on Wednesday September 23 at 4pm and the training programme for successful applicants will start on Monday October 12. The training will be delivered by Belfast Met.

Further information is available at [www.nidirect.gov.uk/whitehat-security-it-training-academy](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/whitehat-security-it-training-academy), and applications can now be submitted online at [whitehatsec.com/whitehatacademy](http://whitehatsec.com/whitehatacademy).



Source: Belfast Telegraph - AM

nimms

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Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 130

## Journalism still a great choice for inquiring young minds

A regular question from readers and acquaintances is what is the best route into journalism in Northern Ireland.

Sometimes it's from curiosity, but more often due to a personal interest: usually a child is "thinking" about or "would like to do" journalism. Very occasionally it's about a child who is "determined to be a journalist".

The latter category has by far the highest success rate, but the sometimes only-interested often become a great source of student journalists when they discover enough about the job to realise



**Paul Connolly**  
READERS' EDITOR

they have a love of civic society and can even make a career out of it. Anyone thinking, wanting or determined to "go into jour-

nalism" needs to take a good trainee journalism course (and not a 'media studies' one).

There are such three courses here: at Ulster University in Coleraine, the North West Regional College in Derry/Londonderry and at Belfast Metropolitan College.

Both Ulster University and North West College courses are accredited to the National Council for the Training of Journalists, a specialist charity for journalism training. Belfast Met's course is currently not accredited.

The NCTJ accreditation is the "gold standard" training — a vigorous, challenging and mul-

ti-skilled course that produces students ready to enter newsrooms. Some 73% of the UK's qualified journalists are NCTJ-trained.

Among the modules are core skills like media law, shorthand, writing and public affairs, and specialist options like video journalism, sport and court reporting.

The NCTJ certificate is considered a prerequisite qualification for a trainee job on most weekly and regional newspapers across the water. Shorthand is still insisted on, even at many TV and radio stations, despite a view in some quarters that recording de-





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vices are better (they're not) or somehow more modern (wrong again).

(Disclosure: I sit on the NCTJ's accreditation board and am a firm believer in the NCTJ's mission and ability to maintain standards across the industry.)

The Diploma in Journalism has been enhanced with two recent lower-level innovations aimed at bloggers and apprenticeships. Neither of these are offered here; we tend to be more traditional in our approach.

The University of Ulster offers an MA in Journalism which incorporates the NCTJ Diploma in Journalism. North West college

offers a one-year NCTJ-approved Professional Newspaper Journalism qualification.

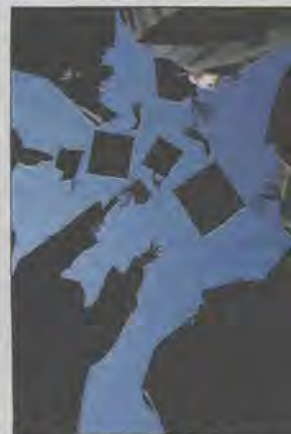
In the rest of the UK, trainee journalists who complete their NCTJ Diploma can, once they have at least 18 months' employment, sit the full National Qualification in Journalism (NQJ).

Oddly and worryingly, the NQJ never established itself in Northern Ireland — and no one seems to know why, nor care. I suspect the reason is a combination of scale, funding and the legacy of the Troubles which forced most newsrooms to continually react rather than to plan and improve.

Whatever you read, journalism remains one of the great careers: it's ever-changing, surprising, sometimes emotional, heart-of-your-community stuff.

Ignore hacks who grumble the profession is dying: reporters have been saying this since the quill. They're meant to be an awkward bunch. Yes, budgets are tight, but new funding models will be found. Thanks to the internet, journalism has never had a bigger audience, and there are more exciting ways to tell stories than ever before.

It's still a great choice for young people with inquiring minds.



**Write stuff: NCTJ diploma**



**Source:** The News Letter

**nimms**

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## Belfast Met's call for apprentices to be hired

Belfast Met is seeking forward-thinking employers in the ICT industry to recruit the College's new ICT Higher Level Apprentices.

If your company is passionate about developing the skills of the future of Northern Ireland's IT industry why not work with Belfast Met?

Belfast Met commences its pilot ICT Higher Level Apprenticeship programmes for aspiring ICT professionals in September.

The apprenticeship requires an ICT employer specialising in software engineering and or computing infrastructure that will recruit, develop and upskill the apprentices as they train towards a foundation degree qualification at Belfast Met or potentially a Level 6 qualification.

These programmes have been designed to provide the ICT sector in Northern Ireland with employees who have the right industry practical and theory skills developed through Higher Education qualifications in



Belfast Met students

Software Engineering and Computing Infrastructure.

Jonathan Heggarty, director of curriculum, said: "The new ICT Higher Level Apprenticeships are a fantastic opportunity for individuals to gain industry focused skills whilst working within the exciting and dynamic ICT sector. From an employer's perspective, Higher Level Apprenticeships offer an

additional channel through which they can recruit and develop talent which is essential to their organisations."

**If you are an employer and would like more information please contact Susan McCambridge at [smccambridge@belfastmet.ac.uk](mailto:smccambridge@belfastmet.ac.uk) or call 02890 265065.**



<http://www.flickeringmyth.com/2015/09/composer-alan-silvestri-to-partake-in-live-qa-at-30th-anniversary-screening-of-back-to-the-future-in-belfast.html>

## Composer Alan Silvestri to partake in live Q&A at 30th anniversary screening of Back to the Future in Belfast

September 4, 2015 by [Gavin Logan](#) [0 Comments](#)

Most movie fans will already know that 2015 marks the 30th anniversary of the much-loved, classic time-travel comedy Back to the Future starring Michael J. Fox as Marty McFly and Christopher Lloyd as Doc Brown. There has already been a bunch of celebratory screenings of the movie throughout the year and another one has just been announced.



Taking place at the Odyssey Cinemas, Titanic Quarter in Belfast, Northern Ireland, this special screening will also play host to legendary composer Alan Silvestri, who will be taking part in a live Q&A before the screening begins. The Q&A will be hosted by local radio personality and voice-over artist Tim Burden.

This event – which takes place on October 27th at 7pm – is being presented by [Cinemagic](#), an annual international film and television festival aimed at helping young people become involved in the industry. It marks the very first time Alan Silvestri has ever visited Ireland. He will be discussing the highlights of his career in film including how he came up with such iconic themes found in Back to the Future, Forrest Gump and The Avengers to name but a few.

As part of the festival, Silvestri will also host a [Music Composition Workshop](#) at the Belfast Metropolitan College Millfield the following day featuring exclusive clips and exercises which display how to deliver an effective music score for a movie.

Alan Silvestri is regarded as one of Hollywood's finest film score composers having previously been nominated for an Academy Award on two occasions for Forrest Gump and The Polar Express. His career has spanned over 40 years.

Tickets to the Q&A/screening will cost £10 and are available to purchase now from the [Cinemagic Box Office](#) or [Odyssey Cinemas](#).



# Deborah delighted by chance to work at world famous scientific research centre



**WHAT is the universe made of? How did it start? Physicists at CERN are seeking answers, using some of the world's most powerful particle accelerators.**

At CERN, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, physicists and engineers are probing the fundamental structure of the universe. They use the world's largest and most complex scientific instruments to study the basic constituents of matter.

Founded in 1954, the CERN laboratory sits on the French-Swiss border, north of Geneva.

It was one of Europe's first joint ventures and now has 21 member states that work together to operate the world's largest particle physics laboratory.

Although CERN's main focus is particle physics, the physics programme at the laboratory is much broader, ranging from nuclear to high-energy physics, from studies of antimatter and dark matter to the possible effects of cosmic rays on clouds.

Dr Deborah Hunter, from Carrycreevy, between Ballynahinch and Lisburn, was ecstatic when she received the news that she had secured a position to travel to Geneva and work at CERN.

More than 500 applicants, including physics researchers and educators worldwide, applied for the summer programme, which only had a limited number of places.

This summer marked a rare occasion as each member state of CERN had a representative for the programme.

Deborah was selected to represent Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Deborah, who holds a First Class MSci degree and a PhD in Physics

**If it wasn't for this international collaboration of physicists and engineers, we wouldn't have some of the technological developments we have today – Dr Deborah Hunter**

from the Queen's University of Belfast, believes her research experiences in Medical Physics and Astrophysics were the reasons for her selection.

"I was honoured to be selected for such a prestigious programme which offers scientists and educators the opportunity to explore the facilities and work alongside world leading experts," she said.

"It was an amazing experience to meet like-minded scientists who share a passion for particle and medical physics research."

The programme gave participants the opportunity to visit the CERN facilities, attend research lectures and to work alongside some of the world's leading experts in particle physics and cancer therapy.

Deborah worked on a project involving hadrontherapy, the treatment of cancerous tumours using charged particles such as protons and carbon ions.

Deborah led the presentation of the medical applications work group under the guidance of Professor Manjit Dosanjh, a world expert in cancer therapy.

Hadrontherapy involves the use of ions which are known to deposit most of their energy at a particular tissue depth and therefore subject the patient to lower entrance doses compared to conventional treatments.

Having received recognition for her delivery and performance, Deborah has been invited to give talks and seminars to member state schools as far afield as Canada.

## **The Large Hadron Collider (LHC)**

The 27-kilometre LHC is the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator. It collides protons or ions at energies approaching the speed of light.

The LHC took thousands of scientists, engineers and technicians decades to plan and build, and it continues to operate at the very boundaries of scientific knowledge. The LHC tunnel is located 100 metres underground.

**CERN has been the birthplace of many unexpected scientific breakthroughs. For example, the World Wide Web was first developed here in 1989.**

Aside from research into particle physics, CERN has been the birthplace of many unexpected scientific breakthroughs.

For example, the World Wide Web was first developed here in 1989.

Countless other unexpected technologies have sprung out of CERN, from innovative medical imaging tools to a new generation of solar panels.

**I was honoured to be selected for such a prestigious programme which offers scientists and educators the opportunity to explore the facilities and work alongside world leading experts**

**– Dr Deborah Hunter**

In recent years, CERN has been primarily concerned with experiments operating at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) leading to the Nobel Prize discovery of the Higgs boson particle.

During her stay, Deborah and colleagues witnessed the excitement of the 'pentagon' discovery which questioned the General Director, Professor Rolf-Dieter Heuer, about the future role of CERN.

This was an exciting time to observe the physics community collaboratively working towards a common goal.

Deborah says that CERN is truly an inspirational place to work.

She also had the opportunity to question the General Director, Professor Rolf-Dieter Heuer, about the future role of CERN.

She adds it was interesting to speak with Professor Rolf Heuer who has a sincere interest in employing more female physicists and engineers.

CERN requires a skilled workforce with strong mathematical, computer

programming and data analysis skills to work on the results from future colliders.

Plans for a new 100km circumference supercollider will undoubtedly lead to further important discoveries and technological developments that will affect our future.

Deborah and her work group have been asked to collaborate with CERN and to forward reports of their findings to the general director.

The participants of the summer programme are already planning a reunion to promote the exciting physics research taking place at CERN.

"It is now my role to publicise the ongoing research taking place at CERN to interested members of the public and students within Northern Ireland."

"If it wasn't for this international collaboration of physicists and engineers, we wouldn't have some of the technological developments we have today."

Deborah and Gina Noble, a science lecturer, have also been busy this summer delivering the first ever Space Camp to be held at the Titanic Quarter Campus of Belfast Metropolitan College.

The Space Camp offered participants the opportunity to take part in fun experiments involving cosmology, aerospace science and ICT technologies. Successful participants over the age of 16 were awarded accreditation towards CCEA's Space Science Technology qualification.

Deborah would like to acknowledge and thank Prof Rolf-Dieter Heuer, Prof Manjit Dosanjh, Dr Rolf Landua and Dr Konrad Jende for their kind generosity during her stay at CERN.





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Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 130

## Appointments

Send your appointments information to [business@belfasttelegraph.co.uk](mailto:business@belfasttelegraph.co.uk)



**COLIN McMAHON** has been promoted to the position of director of operations for Equiniti in Northern Ireland. He has worked with Equiniti for five years. As director of operations he is responsible for managing the implementation of business strategies. He previously worked for Barclays Wealth and mobile network Three.



**CIARAN McAREAVEY** has been appointed as managing director of Close Brothers Commercial Finance, part of Close Brothers Group plc. He has held a variety of leadership positions in banking and financial services. He qualified as a chartered accountant with PwC, before spending 11 years at Ulster Bank in their corporate banking division.



**ASHLEIGH BAIRD** has been taken on as a new product development (NPD) technologist with Willowbrook Fine Foods. Ms Baird will be responsible for developing products in response to consumer demands and customer briefs. Having worked for the NPD department at TS Foods, she



**JONATHAN ROGAN** has been appointed sales manager of MXA Digital, who specialise in managed search engine optimisation (SEO) services, based in Sir Thomas & Lady Dixon Park in Belfast. Mr Rogan has joined the firm following 17 years with the Agnew Group.



**DR JONATHAN HEGGARTY** has been appointed director of curriculum of Belfast Met. Dr Heggarty joins the executive team and is responsible for leading and managing the delivery of the college's curriculum to maximise student recruitment, retention and achievement, including curriculum planning and implementation.



**JILL SMYTH** has been appointed technical services manager at Fujitsu. She will be responsible for the Unix technical services teams at Fujitsu, supporting the ICT needs of customers in the private and public sector. Ms Smyth joins Fujitsu from the Henderson Group where she held the position of service delivery manager.



**KRISTIN JAMESON** has been appointed brand development manager at Heavenly Tasty Organics Ltd. She will manage the development of the Heavenly brand, including the planning and implementation of marketing strategies aimed at increasing growth within the UK, Irish and international markets.



**PAUL LEMON** has been promoted to the position of director of sales and business development for Equiniti in Northern Ireland. He is an infrastructure expert with 16 years' experience of business development. He previously worked with TextHelp and held the position of sales manager for Ireland with Virgin Media Business.



**Source:** Dromore Leader

**nimms**

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Page 1 of 2

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 130

# Sky's the limit for Dromara woman Joanna Barlow

Dromara's Joanna Barlow is one of a number of 16-24 year-old aerospace enthusiasts to take part in a series of events hosted by Belfast Met, in partnership with Bombardier.

The programme included visits to Bombardier, Ulster Aviation Society, Ulster Folk and Transport Museum and Belfast Met's E3 campus and interactive workshops.

Brian George, Head of School in Engineering and Construction, said not only had participants been observing they have also been practising what they had been taught.

Participants enjoyed flying in a Bombardier Q400 regional aircraft from George Best Airport followed by a presentation to mark their completion of a module from a level 2 qualification in Space Science Technology.





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From left: Brian George (Belfast Met), Siobhan Lyons (Belfast Met), Joanna Barlow (student), Minister Stephen Farry, James Clarke (student), James Kerlin (Belfast Met), Carol Phillips (Bombardier).



**Source:** Agenda NI

**nimms**

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Page 1 of 2

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Paul Reilly is a video journalist and news presenter at UTV. His career began in hospital and college radio, followed by stints in the print media before joining GMTV and the world of live television.





### How did you get into journalism?

Like most people in this industry, journalism for me is a vocation. I've wanted to be a TV reporter and newsreader ever since I can remember. I'm sure my mum and dad have lots of stories of me as a child sitting at a table, shuffling papers and presenting my own news broadcasts.

I was never top of the class through school, but I always worked hard. I did GCSEs and A Levels at Glashy College on the Ards Peninsula, then studied for a business diploma followed by a business degree at what is now the South Eastern Regional College.

A year after graduating, I enrolled in the NVQ 4 newspaper journalism course at **Belfast Met**. Prior to beginning the qualification, I did a small amount of hospital and college radio. My first taste of a newsroom was at the Belfast Telegraph on placement and later as a freelancer.

I secured a full time job at a Belfast-based publishing house a few weeks before graduating from Belfast Met and went on to work there for two years before essentially chancing my arm and applying for a job with GMTV. I worked as a VJ [video journalist] and presenter at Macmillan Media for almost three years before the local breakfast TV franchise contract was won back by UTV, who then employed me. The past three years have undoubtedly been the best of my career!

### Who have been your main mentors?

Far too many people to mention, but Dr John Coulter at Belfast Met was incredibly supportive as were Johnny McCambridge and Deborah McAleese at the Belfast Telegraph. Of course, Michael Macmillan gave me my first break in the broadcast media and taught me so much. It was a baptism of fire joining GMTV, within the first few weeks I reported on a General Election and the publication of the Saville Report into Bloody Sunday.

I'll always be grateful to Michael for giving me such an amazing start in TV

*"It's all about people for me. Meeting people, chatting to them, allowing them to open up to you"*

by providing me with VJ training and the opportunity to present live news several days a week. These days, I see people like UTV's Sharon O'Neill and news editor Chris Hagan as my main mentors. I also have brilliant friends in the newsroom including Sara Moore, Judith Hill and Richard Cull. We support and learn from each other every day.

### Which stories have been the most satisfying to cover?

I've been very lucky to dip my toe in network television. During the 2010 NI Water crisis I remember working flat out for an entire week. Filing packages for the national breakfast programme, doing studio lives with London, as well as presenting and producing the local news bulletins. I love live TV, the adrenaline is hard to beat.

### What are the challenges being a VJ?

I've been VJing now for over five years so for me it's the norm. There are days when you've just got your head around your story, set up all your interviews and the last thing you want to do is lug about all your kit and think about the technical elements of the report but when it's all done it's so rewarding. Not only do I shoot my own stories, I edit the reports as well. As a self-confessed control freak I am used to only depending on myself, despite working as part of a great team. I enjoy the process of storytelling and moulding my reports from beginning to end.

### What are the most rewarding part of the jobs?

It's all about people for me. Meeting

people, chatting to them, allowing them to open up to you. Jay Beatty from Lurgan, who has Downs Syndrome, has left a lasting impression on me. I met Jay around the time my cousin Willow was born with Downs and Jay's been a huge inspiration to my family. Also covering the story of Lisburn pensioner Lily O'Hara, who was robbed of her lifesavings last year, was very rewarding as was seeing the huge public response to the report.

### If you hadn't chosen journalism, what could have been your career path?

Well, I did happen to ask Louis Walsh the other week if 31 is too old to become a new pop sensation!?! But really, I've had the chance to visit lots of schools and give career talks.

Young people need to be told they can achieve anything they put their minds to. Who knows perhaps one day I'll consider teaching? But I don't think anything could ever rival the buzz I get from working in TV.

### What do you do to relax?

My two Cavalier King Charles spaniels demand a lot of attention. I love nothing more than pulling on my wellies and wax jacket for a country walk at the weekends. I do have a huge collection of books, but I rarely have the time to sit down and get my nose into one.

My favourites are biographies of society figures and politicians during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. When I can, I'll put on an episode of Downton Abbey and escape from the daily hustle and bustle for an hour.

## **Belfast Metropolitan College: appointment and reappointment of college governors**

Employment and Learning Minister Dr Stephen Farry today announced the appointment and reappointment of members to the Governing Body of Belfast Metropolitan College.

~ Wednesday, 26 August 2015

The Minister has appointed six new governors and re-appointed three existing governors, whose first terms of office had come to an end. The appointments took effect from 1 August 2015 and each is for a period of four years.

The new governors are Mrs Catherine Burns MBE, Ms Kate Burns, Mrs Kay Collins, Mr Jim McCall, Mrs Kathleen O'Hare and Mr Brian Wilson. The governors who are being re-appointed for a second term are Mr Frank Bryan, Mrs Wendy Gillies and Mr John McGrillen.

The governing body of a further education college is responsible for securing the efficient and effective management of the college, determining its strategic direction, appointing its senior staff and ensuring that the college acts as a responsible employer.

Appointments to the governing bodies of further education colleges are not currently remunerated.

Notes to editors:

1. Belfast Metropolitan College (Belfast Met) is one of six, large further education colleges across Northern Ireland. Its main campuses are at Titanic Quarter, Millfield, Springvale, Castlereagh, Tower Street and Whiterock. In 2013/14 (the latest year for which full, validated statistics are available), Belfast Met had over 37,000 enrolments and employed 827 people (expressed as full-time equivalents).

2. The new appointments are being made by the Minister following a public appointments competition. Both the appointments and reappointments are being made in accordance with the Code of Practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments for Northern Ireland.

3. Appointments and reappointments to the governing bodies of further education colleges are for a period of four years and are not currently remunerated. However, plans to remunerate chairs and members of the college governing bodies are in train. It is anticipated that remuneration will be introduced during the early part of the term of these appointments.

4. Mrs Catherine Burns MBE was formerly employed as Head of Corporate Services with the NI Transport Holding Company, parent company for Translink. Mrs Burns is a member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD). She has been involved with the Belfast Samaritans for many years during which time she has held the posts of Recruitment Director and Chair of the Strategic Fundraising Committee. Mrs Burns was awarded an MBE in 2009 for services to Public Transport and the wider Community. Mrs Burns does not currently hold any other public appointments.

5. In 2013 Ms Kate Burns set up a company with family on Rathlin Island, to put in place the first fully commercial kelp nursery in the UK and Ireland and a processing facility to produce fresh kelp food



<http://www.siliconirelandnewswire.com/2015/08/pilot-higher-apprenticeships-in-ict.html>

### **Pilot Higher Apprenticeships in ICT launch in Belfast**

Belfast Metropolitan College is offering two New Pilot Higher Apprenticeships in ICT (at Level 5) starting in September 2015.

These programmes have been designed to provide the ICT sector in Northern Ireland with employees who have the right industry practical and theory skills developed through a Higher Education qualification.

Belfast Met has developed two core qualifications for these Higher Level Apprenticeships:

- Foundation Degree in Software Engineering.
- Foundation Degree in Computing Infrastructure.

The programme will facilitate progression from a Level 3 Apprenticeship or direct entry for those who have A Levels or equivalent qualifications and could also encourage future progression to Level 6 qualifications.

The participants must be either new employees or existing employees moving to a new role in your organisation.

If you are an employer and would like more information please contact Susan McCambridge at [smccambridge@belfastmet.ac.uk](mailto:smccambridge@belfastmet.ac.uk) or 028 90 265065.

# BELFAST VIBE

## BELFAST MET COULD SET YOU ON THE ROAD TO NEW CAREER

<http://www.belfastvibe.com/big-stories/belfast-met-could-set-you-on-the-road-to-new-career/> **Kathryn McGowan** August 22, 2015

It's one of the most nerve-racking, sweat inducing moments – waking up to the dreaded brown envelope...

Over the last two weeks nervous learners have been opening up their exam results. For many there will be screams of delight and sighs of relief, however for some it is a period of uncertainty and worry of where the next stage in education or employment will be.

We've all been there – put the work in and maybe not performed out best on the day due to the pressure of the exam-room, and suddenly in a seemingly heart-stopping moment all that hard work seems like it was time wasted.

But do not feel that way, because Belfast Met can help you with your next step...

Whether you are uncertain of going to university or want to consider a new direction, BMC is a great alternative option or stepping stone to furthering your career prospects.

Belfast Met offer a wide range of courses from A Levels, Higher National Certificates and Diplomas all the way to Foundation Degree, which may lead to a place in a university.

Some of the particular benefits of studying at the Belfast Met include,

- The majority of the courses are direct entry i.e. you do not have to apply via UCAS;
- Many of the higher education courses are designed in association with employers to equip our students with the skills, knowledge and understanding demanded by industry;
- We also provide a wide range part-time Higher Education (HE) courses which will provide you with the flexibility of working and studying at the same time;
- You can study a part-time HE course from only £420.00

For anyone who has completed GCSE's or BTEC's, it also offers a wide range of courses – ranging from Apprenticeships, A Levels and a suite of vocational programmes at Levels 1, 2 and 3 in areas such as ICT, Art and Design, Media Production to Business and Construction.

Open to current and potential applicants to Belfast Met, individual careers consultations are available for learners who require more in-depth guidance in relation to course options in the



College and associated or potential career outcomes. Check out the dates and times below and make sure to pop in and visit the helpful BMC advisors.



### DATES AND TIMES

'Careers advice will be available daily from 13 Aug through to Fri 4 Sept daily from 9.15am – 4.00pm via our 'Careers Drop In' service. It will operate from our TQ Careers Resource Centre, Level 2, Room 60.

Thursday 13th August: 'Choices and Options' Information session for post A Level applicants will run at 10.30am, 12 noon and 3pm in the Lecture Theatre at TQ Campus.

Thursday 20th August: 'Choices and Options' Information session for post GCSE applicants will run at 10.30am, 12 noon and 3pm in the Lecture Theatre at TQ Campus.

Friday 28th August: Clearing Day 9am – 12pm Titanic Quarter

You still have time to apply come along to Belfast Met's Part Time recruitment day on Wednesday 2 September and secure a successful future with us!

Check out Belfast Met's full-time prospectus or part-time prospectus on [belfastmet.ac.uk](http://belfastmet.ac.uk) to find out more information about our range of courses and how to apply.'



**Source:** County Down Spectator - Hollywood Edition



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**Page:** 2

(BMC-984)

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## Bangor student on study trip to Massachusetts

**BANGOR** student Curtis Adams has travelled to America to take part in the prestigious 'Frontiers' programme, which run at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts last month.

Curtis, who attends Belfast Met, is one of nine Northern Ireland students who spent two weeks at the prestigious private research university, concentrating on the all-important Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects.

Participation on the programme has been facilitated by the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL).

The focus was on students learning current laboratory techniques and exploring unsolved problems across a wide spectrum of engineering, mathematics, science and robotics disciplines.

The students were selected following participation in the annual Colleges NI Business and Education through Skills and Training (BEST) Awards, which celebrate creative and innovative talent within Northern Ireland's six regional colleges.





**Source:** County Down Spectator - Holywood Edition



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**Page:** 2

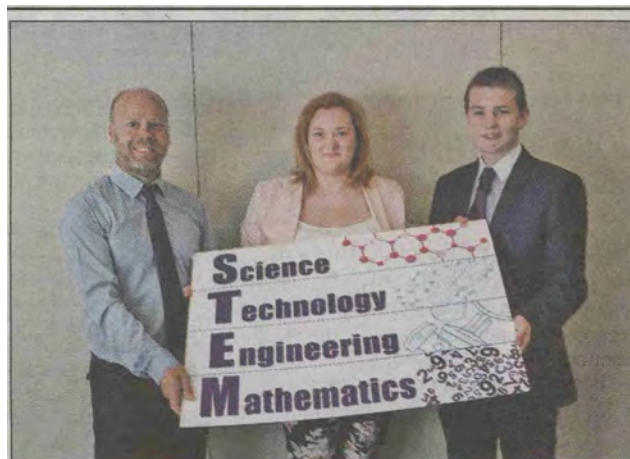
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Curtis Adams from Bangor is pictured with Justin Kerr from the Department of Education and Learning and Northern Regional College lecturer Jennifer Hyndman.



Source: Northern Woman

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## Senan O'Neill

Belfast Metropolitan College Final Year BSc Hons Fashion Management



"I am inspired by all things visual and have identified fashion as the perfect marrying of my natural creative flair and enthusiasm for design. In addition to my passion for art I have always spent my free time reading fashion magazines and blogs; gaining inspiration for my own designs through these visual outlets, and so, the choice to study fashion was an obvious one. The dream of one day working for myself or an established label is what motivated me to exceed with my studies to propel myself into the world of fashion and design at a

professional level.

"I gain inspiration from many sources in my surroundings, rather than pigeon-holing myself to one person or thing. This continuous absorption of ideas from multiple outlets sets me apart and ensures my design is relevant, original and constantly evolving. Focusing my honours project around sustainability within the fashion industry has definitely influenced how I will design in the future to keep both the industry and the world alive.

There is so much talent in fashion at the minute. I would love to have the opportunity to work with creative geniuses such as Christopher Kane, J.W. Anderson, the guys at Proenza Schouler or Simone Rocha in the future, whether it be interning or my first steps into my career in the industry. I imagine these labels would be able to teach me new practices and techniques I would never have stumbled upon myself.

"I would like to see fashion students here getting the same opportunities available to other UK fashion students - placements, internships, mentoring by valued talent, realistic funding for post graduate education, access to competitions, short courses in knitwear, embellishment and appliqué, fabric construction etc. As fashion graduates we would benefit from international placements in the course of their degree and more opportunity of Masters etc. Only the more financially independent graduates can afford to leave to achieve these ends at present. We as young designers are so fresh and bursting with creativity, Northern Ireland needs to invest in its fresh talent before we are forced abroad to look for work.

"With the need to look outside of Northern Ireland for most of the jobs in fashion design, in the future I would like to be living in a creative hub like London or Berlin, working for myself or for an established label with a Fashion MA under my belt. I want to be designing for fun, creative young women who take risks with their fashion and most of all I want to enjoy my job."



SPRING / SUMMER 2016







**Source:** Northern Woman

**nimms**

**Date:** Tuesday 18. August 2015

**Page:** 16,18

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(BMC-984)

Page 2 of 2

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 129

## Ineta Joksaite

Belfast Metropolitan College 2nd year BTEC Extended Diploma Level 3 Art and Design (Fashion and Clothing)



"As long as I can remember, I was fascinated by paper dolls, Barbie, fashion shows on TV and drawing. It took a long while for me to comprehend that I could make a living from fashion design. I was drawing, painting, and writing poems and I studied to teach English as a second language in Lithuania, but came to Northern Ireland nine years ago. Coming here helped me to create a different path in my life and my interest for fashion design began.

"Everything I have achieved in the last three years including business and fashion studies, has exceeded my expectations, and I just can't wait to see what's next! I am very grateful for the support and opportunities Belfast Met has given to me and all the amazing teachers who believed in my talent.

"Fashion to me is about adjusting a woman's wardrobe to fit her figure and complement her beauty and not to follow every trend. I like sophistication and timeless fashion and I have been inspired by the designs of Alexander McQueen and John Galiano. I also love Ellie Saab, Roberto Cavalli, Versace, Carolina Herrera and Russian designer Valentin Yudashkin.

"For the next three years I will study the degree course in fashion design, hopefully moving on to a master's degree in fashion film. Going forward, I would love to work with somebody that can help me grow as a designer, build my confidence, skills, work ethics and will provide opportunities to climb the career ladder. All of this could help me to build a good foundation for my own fashion business in future. My goal is to become fashion director for a company or own my own business in ten years time.

"My favourite local designer is Shauna Fay. She is talented in so many ways and such an amazing person. I love that every design is made by her hands and with so much passion. Very inspirational, unique and beautiful work. I also admire the work of David Henderson and Ruedi Maguire, not to mention Una Rodden and her selection of young designers."





Source: South Belfast News

nimms

Date: Saturday 22. August 2015

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(BMC-984)

Page 1 of 2

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 125

# Jump-start your career at Belfast Met!

Getting the career you want couldn't be more straightforward or cost-effective than at **Belfast Met**. Belfast Met is the largest Further and Higher Education College in Northern Ireland and one of the 30 colleges across the UK to be a member of the influential 157 Group who support and maintain high standards of teaching and management. Our award-winning campuses located across Belfast, including the state-of-the-art facilities in the thriving Titanic Quarter and the high-spec e3 building, provide our learners with the training and education that they need to succeed in their future career. If you are looking for a hands-on solution to advance academically or succeed in a diverse job sector, Belfast Met could be the place for you.

**Belfast Met** has become a trailblazer for further education and vocational skills, both nationally and internationally. Belfast Met provides essential training and teaching for its learners in full-time and part-time courses for a wide range of industries – Construction, Catering, Science, Healthcare, Creative Services, Beauty, Sport Science, IT, Hospitality and many more, which are implemented through academic curriculum, academies, apprenticeships and training programmes for employers.

Belfast Met has succeeded in leading the city to work by providing people with the education and skills that employers need most. We achieve our legacy by observing and reviewing employment trends and working with local and global businesses to meet their vocational needs in relation to skills, training and retraining. One of the many ways that the college achieves the ability to react quickly to shifting industry requirements and train, retrain and upskill

people for a competitive and dynamic work environment is through the practice of training academies.

The unique characteristic of the various ICT, Data Analytics, Cloud Computing and Software Testing and Professionals Development Programmes which Belfast Met has delivered is around the Academy Model. Through this model we work in partnership with businesses to develop industry-standard solutions and to tailor these to the needs of the employers. We define the solution with business, develop the learning materials, recruit the learners and deliver the qualified professionals into employment, having completed an intensive academy experience in our e3 building at our Springvale campus. Academies are a fast track and intensive way of learning the skills that employers are looking for in a range of careers, whilst getting paid and potentially securing a job after graduating from a programme. Sectors include IT, Finance, Hospitality and Accountancy. The results of the academies to date have been excellent, with 92% of academy trainees in Cloud Computing, Data Analytics and Software Testing securing employment.

We put the learner at the centre of everything we do and that includes looking out for student welfare and supporting them with their studies and training every step of the way. We provide bespoke learner services assistance that ensure that our learners' needs are met and they progress confidently on their course.

We look forward to inviting our new influx of learners and hope that they find the college a memorable and life-changing experience that will help them make their mark in the local job sector and further afield.





**Source:** South Belfast News

**nimms**

**Date:** Saturday 22. August 2015

**Page:** 3 Course

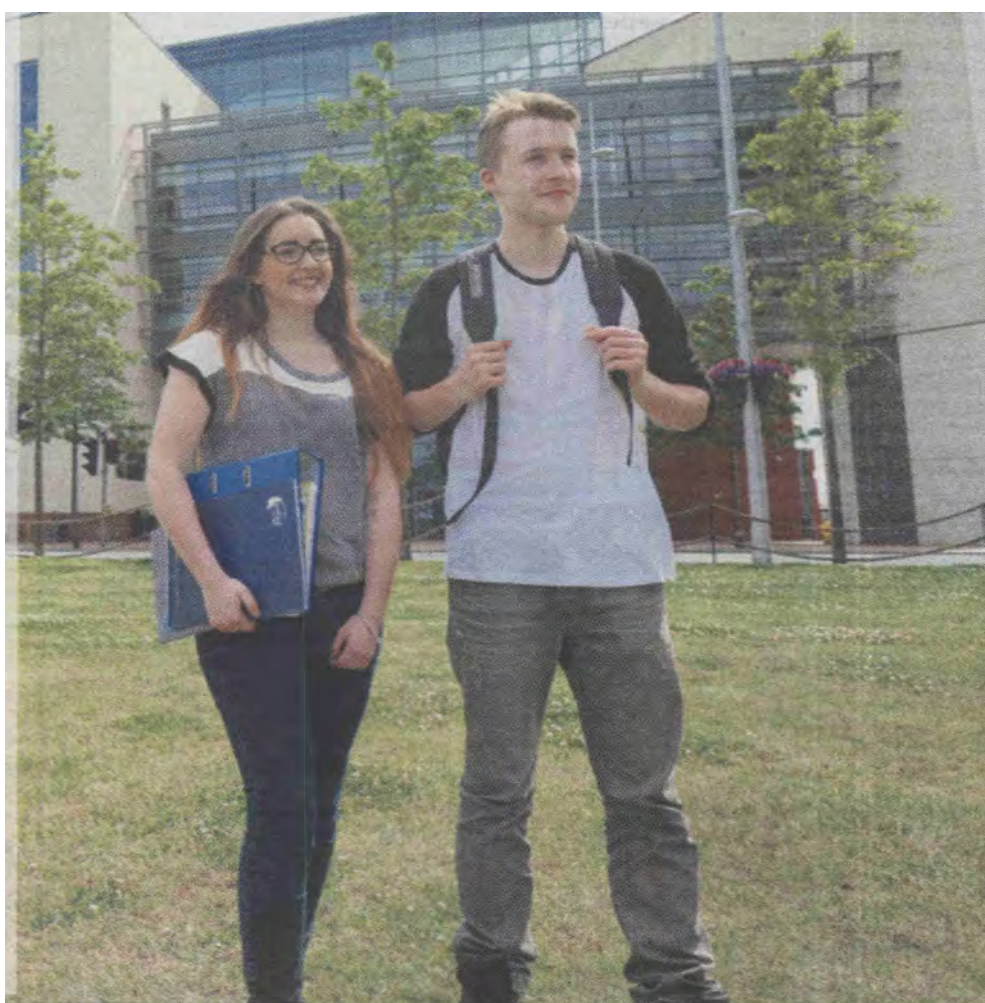
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Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 125





**Source:** Sunday Life

**nimms**

**Date:** Sunday 16. August 2015

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(BMC-984)

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Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 125

## PROVIDING ESSENTIAL JOB SKILLS

**BELFAST Met** offers a straightforward, cost-effective, higher education experience to help students get the career they want.

It is the largest Further and Higher Education College in Northern Ireland and one of the 30 colleges across the UK to be a member of the influential 157 Group who support and maintain high standards of teaching and management.

Belfast Met has become a trailblazer for further education and vocational skills, providing essential training and teaching for its learners in a range of full-time and part-time courses which are

implemented through academic curriculum, academies, apprenticeships and training programmes for employers.

The college prides itself on providing people with the education and skills that employers need most.

### INTENSIVE

One of the many ways the college achieves the ability to react quickly to shifting industry requirements is through the practice of training academies.

The academies are a fast-track and intensive way of learning the skills that employers are looking for in a range of careers, whilst getting paid and

potentially securing a job after graduating from a programme.

Academies available at Belfast Met include ICT, Data Analytics, Cloud Computing and Software Testing and Professionals Development Programmes. To date 92% of academy trainees in Cloud Computing, Data Analytics and Software Testing have secured employment.

A spokesperson said: "We look forward to inviting our new influx of learners and hope they find the college a memorable and life-changing experience that will help them make their mark in the local job sector and further afield."





**OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS:** Some 60 teenage girls attended Belfast Metropolitan College's first female-focused IT summer camp — Belfast IT Girls — to gain career inspiration from high-flying female software developers, including those from Belfast-based tech firm TotalMobile. Fifteen-year-old Iduan Craig (left) from Banbridge with Ashley Ball from TotalMobile

## IT GIRLS GIVEN TOTAL INSPIRATION

SOFTWARE developers from Belfast-based tech firm TotalMobile were on hand to provide advice and career inspiration at the recent Belfast Metropolitan College female-focused IT summer camp.

Around 60 girls aged from 15 to 18 from across Northern Ireland and around 20 teachers and lecturers in IT-related subjects attended the camp and took part in

the various workshops and events. TotalMobile, one of the sponsors of the Belfast IT Girls event, provided mentoring to the attendees with principal software tester Karen Hull, and Gillian Noble, senior lead software developer, speaking about their own career journeys.

Karen said: "Since joining TotalMobile over 14 years ago, I've moved through the

ranks from software tester and test lead to become one of the company's two principal software testers.

"Although it's still a fairly male-dominated industry, that is changing as a younger generation of women realise that working in IT can be a very rewarding career and one in which many more exciting opportunities will be created in the coming years."





Source: Portadown Times

nimms

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Page 1 of 1

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 125

Selection Engineering student part of 12-strong UK team

# Balint going for gold at the skills world finals in Brazil

BY STAFF REPORTER

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@portadowntimes1

**A Portadown student has touched down in Brazil to test his engineering know-how on the global stage at World-Skills.**

Balint Bogdan (21) and six other students from Northern Ireland are competing as part of the 12-strong UK team.

Balint, an electrical engineering student at Belfast Metropolitan College, will join finalists from 80 nations, competing before 100,000 spectators.

The former Southern Regional College (SRC) student, who is originally from Hungary and has lived in Portadown for four years, says he is going for gold.

"There is only one aim –

that's to come home with a gold medal – I wouldn't be here if I didn't think I could win," he said.

"My family came from Hungary to live in Northern Ireland, and the people have been so good to them. I want to win as a way of saying thank you."

Balint took home the industrial electronics gold medals at Worldskills UK last year after three days of intensive exercises.

He made it through to the final after being selected through a series of regional heats managed by Semta, the not-for-profit skills council.

Also on the UK team in Brazil is SRC student Gary Doyle, who is competing in the plumbing sector.

Prime Minister David Cameron wrote to each Team UK member urging him or her to do the country proud.



Balint Bogdan.





**Source:** The News Letter

**nimms**

**Date:** Thursday 13. August 2015

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Page 1 of 1

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 125

## New accountancy apprenticeship to launch

A new Higher Level Apprenticeship (HLA) in Accountancy will launch in September after a successful pilot delivered by **Belfast Met**, in partnership with local employers, Southern Regional College and Account Technicians Ireland.

Successful participants of the programme will gain an internationally recognised qualification – the Diploma for Accounting Technicians (MIATI) from Accounting

Technicians Ireland which is a Level 5 qualification (QCF) and is equivalent to a Foundation Degree programme. As well as an internationally recognised qualification, apprentices will gain valuable work experience with a local accountancy practice and earn a regular salary. The current recruits are in their second year of the programme and are already reaping the benefits of learning the skills

for a role in accountancy and securing full time paid employment in an accounts department.

Employment and Learning Minister Dr Stephen Farry said: "The work that Belfast Met is undertaking with local accountancy firms is an excellent example of how our Further Education Colleges can work in partnership with local employers to deliver the skills they need."



Catherine Devine Higher Level Apprentice and Caoimhe Donaghy Senior Account Manager BDO



**Source:** Larne Times

**Date:** Thursday 13. August 2015

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Page 1 of 1

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Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 129

#### AEROSPACE VISITS



### Chocks away!

Young aerospace enthusiast Alizeh Ali Syeda from Newtownabbey is among a group of students who have been taking part in the Belfast Met Aerospace Camp. In partnership with Bombardier, the college has been running a series of dynamic events for 16 - 24 year olds who have their sights set on the enterprising possibilities of aerospace. Over the past two weeks the students have visited various sites across Northern

Ireland including Bombardier, Ulster Aviation Society, Ulster Folk and Transport Museum and Belfast Met's E2 campus. Interactive workshops such as 'kite building' and 'flight in nature' have been inspiring tomorrow's designers and engineers. Pictured (l-r) are Roisin O'Prey, Ben Spence, Aquinatta Amulomba, Alizeh Ali Syeda, Philip Smallwood and Bradley Loftus. INNT 33-508CON





# A resurgence of apprentices in NI

Belfast Met stress the importance of 'on the job' training

BY STAFF REPORTER

newsdesk@newsletter.co.uk  
@News\_Letter

**According to Belfast Met college there has been a resurgence of apprentices in Northern Ireland.**

Over the last few years companies have started to make a few changes in recruitment and how companies train their employees, which in turn has resulted in an increased variety, diversity and calibre of apprenticeships available at Belfast Met for individuals and school leavers with all levels of education.

From engineering to computer programming, it is clear to see that the benefits are multiple for learners to provide them with the right skills and job security; but there are also exceptional advantages for the employer. Global businesses Carillion, Ridgeway, and Fujitsu share their views on Belfast Met's highly commendable training schemes.

Carillion HR manager, Jacqui Dornan said: "I've worked with Belfast Met for over 11 years now, we have an excellent relationship with Tutors and Training Support Officers who keep us regularly informed of Apprentice Development which is critical for our business succession planning".

While Rosemary Burgess,



Neil Killen, general manager of Ridgeway with his apprentice Daryl Letman

business operations manager at Fujitsu said the company have an "excellent working relationship" with Belfast Met as a result are part of the steering group which shapes the apprentice programme both for software and infrastructure.

She added: As a result of academies, foundation degrees, and higher level apprenticeships, learners have an opportunity to work full time with a salary for a job-related company to develop the practical skills required for their profession, and study one day a week at college at the

same time providing a holistic approach to learning, including a pastoral element to the learner's experience as they build their confidence in a new work environment and network with professionals.

"One bit of advice that I would give to employers is look after apprentices from day one.

"That pays us dividends in the long run because now our retention rates are so high, it's about practicing pastoral care and communicating with them regularly. Make sure that they have all of the

resources that they need to do their job well too".

Minster for education Dr Stephen Farry said: "The benefits of apprenticeships are well documented with apprentices able to earn while they learn, develop and practice their skills in the work environment and enhance their future career prospects. I

"international evidence shows that apprentices make a positive contribution to their employers' bottom line even before they have completed their apprenticeship training".



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Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 125

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Employment and Learning Minister Dr Stephen Farry said: "The work that Belfast Met is undertaking with local accountancy firms is an excellent example of how our Further Education Colleges can work in partnership with local employers to deliver the skills they need."



Catherine Devine Higher Level Apprentice and Caoimhe Donaghy Senior Account Manager BDO





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Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 125

## Balint all set for Brazil

A Craigavon man is jetting off to south America after gaining a special place at an international skills competition.

Balint Bogdan (21) is an electrical engineering student at the Belfast Met and is to travel with six other students to Brazil to compete as members of the UK Team for WorldSkills 2015 this week.

Balint took home the industrial electronics gold medal at Worldskills UK last year after three days of intensive

exercises before an audience of 80,000 at Birmingham's NEC against more than 100 contenders.

He made it through to the final after being selected through a series of regional heats which were managed by engineering employer body Senta.

Balint who is originally from Hungary moved here three years ago to assist his parents' move here and settle in. He went on to say: "When I

first moved it was hard and it was a challenge but now it is great and I would like to thank Belfast Met for all the help and support they provided for me".

WorldSkills, the skills equivalent of the Olympics, is the largest vocational skills competition in the world.

The competition sees around 1,000 young people compete for medals in skills such as aircraft maintenance and engineering.



Balint Bogdan



Source: Banbridge Leader

nimms

Date: Tuesday 11. August 2015

Page: 4

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Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 125

## Education

# Banbridge girl at female-focused IT camp

Banbridge girl Idun Craig was among those who attended Belfast Metropolitan College's first female-focussed IT summer camp.

Belfast IT Girls, offered a chance to gain career inspiration from high flying female software developers.

Girls aged from 15 to 18 from across Northern Ireland including Idun Craig, 15, attended the Belfast IT Girls event, a digital skills summer camp.

Students learnt about building apps, websites and PCs as well as networking.

Among the speakers were Karen Hull, Principal Software Tester and Gillian Noble, Senior Lead Software Developer at TotalMobile, which provides innovative software solutions to revolutionise the

way frontline healthcare staff work.

The women spoke about their own journey into the IT industry and how the company, which has much higher levels of female staff than the Northern Ireland average, has supported them in their careers.

TotalMobile, one of sponsors of the event, is also providing mentoring to students and teachers through the Belfast IT Girls event.

Karen Hull said: "Since joining TotalMobile over 14 years ago I've moved through the ranks from software tester and test lead to become one of the company's two principal software testers.

"Although it's still a fairly male dominated industry, that is changing as the young-

er generation of women realise that working in IT can be a very challenging and rewarding career and one in which many more exciting opportunities will be created in the coming years.

She continued: "After all the first ever programmer was a female - Ada Lovelace in the 1980s.

"We're extremely proud that 35% of our development staff are female - a much higher level than many of our competitors and streets ahead of the NI average of 90% male representation in the IT industry.

"TotalMobile recognises that having enough people with excellent IT and software development skills will be crucial in ensuring that Northern Ireland is equipped

to compete globally and we are delighted to play a role in trying to fill this skills gap."

Jonathan Heggarty, Belfast Met's Head of School of Electronic and Computing Technologies, said: "The Belfast IT Girls camp is a great opportunity for learners and teachers to hear about the diverse range of IT careers and develop important skills for themselves.

"Belfast Met are grateful for the support of Total Mobile and a range of other IT company sponsors and organisations including DEL, CCEA and Invest NI, without whom this camp could not take place."

TotalMobile is also a sponsor of CoderDojo Belfast, a youth coding club founded and run by Belfast Met at its Titanic Quarter Campus.



Idun Craig (left) with Ashley Ball from TotalMobile, is taking part Belfast Metropolitan College's first female-focussed IT summer camp.





Source: Belfast Telegraph - AM

**nimms**

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Page 1 of 1

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 125



## Students hope to see Met's courses take off after Bombardier summer camp

STUDENTS have been taking part in summer camps to promote science, technology, engineering and maths subjects run by **Belfast Met**.

From left, lecturer John Mc-

Gowan joined Bombardier education officer Tony Monaghan, and students Angel Reyes and David Moore at the aerospace camp. The event took place at the Ulster Aviation Society

hangar at the Maze, where students were taught about aviation and the history of flight.

Mr Monaghan said: "It has been a rewarding experience to partner with Belfast Met on

the aerospace summer school.

"The intensive programme involves a diverse and engaging series of workshops, presentations and visits, including a tour of a Bombardier manufac-

turing facility. The aerospace camp explores the heritage and technology behind flight and highlights the variety of career opportunities in engineering and manufacturing."



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Page 1 of 1

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## Inspiring the next generation of IT girls

Teenage girls and teachers at Belfast Metropolitan College's first female-focussed IT summer camp have been gaining career inspiration from high flying female software developers at Belfast-based tech firm TotalMobile.

The 60 girls, aged from 15 to 18 from across Northern Ireland and around 20 teachers and lecturers in IT-related subjects, attended the Belfast IT Girls event, a digital skills summer camp.

Students learnt about building apps, websites and about PCs as well as networking while female teachers and lecturers completed a

C# course which will support them in teaching programming in the classroom.

Among the speakers were Karen Hull, Principal Software Tester and Gillian Noble, Senior Lead Software Developer at TotalMobile, which provides innovative software solutions to revolutionise the way frontline healthcare staff work. The women spoke about their own journeys into the IT industry and how the company, which has much higher levels of female software development staff than the Northern Ireland average, has supported them in their careers.

TotalMobile, one of sponsors of the Belfast IT Girls event, also provided mentoring to students and teachers.

Karen Hull said: "Since joining TotalMobile over 14 years ago I've moved through the ranks from software tester and test lead to become one of the company's two principal software testers. Although it's still a fairly male dominated industry, that is changing as the younger generation of women realise that working in IT can be a very challenging and rewarding career and one in which many more exciting opportunities will be created in the coming years."



Idun Craig, 15, (left) from Banbridge with Ashley Ball from TotalMobile





**Source:** Belfast Telegraph - AM



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Page 1 of 1

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 125

## MET SEEKING FEMALES FOR RUGBY SEVENS ACADEMY

**BELFAST Met** is on the lookout for sportswomen to try out for a place on their HND female rugby sevens academy.

A selection day will take place tomorrow from 11am to 1pm at the college's Castlereagh campus, where applicants can try out for the programme un-

der the watchful eye of the Irish Rugby Football Union as well as Northern Ireland rugby star Ashleigh Baxter.

No previous experience in the sport is needed as sportswomen from other backgrounds such as hockey and gaelic football have successfully

moved into the international sevens squad.

Hopeful applicants must have speed, agility, spatial awareness, enjoy training and work well within a team.

Successful applicants will be placed on the HND academic programme which will blend

their learning and academic study together to enhance not only playing performance but also future employability.

The pathway on completion of the course will be either onto Higher Education, Elite sport or a career in the sports & fitness industry.

Anthony Eddy, director of Rugby Sevens at the Irish Rugby Football Union, said: "This programme provides athletes with a wonderful opportunity to focus on their education and a career pathway as well as on their rugby development."

He added: "It allows the

athlete to fast track their rugby development with the ambition of further representative honours."

Those interested in trying out can register by emailing [nathanmoore@belfastmet.ac.uk](mailto:nathanmoore@belfastmet.ac.uk). Walk-ins will also be accepted on the day.



Source: Belfast Telegraph - AM

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Page 1 of 1

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 125

## EMPLOYMENT

### BRIEFS

#### STUDENT PRAISED

BELFAST Met HND media student Sam Lockhart was the toast of his class when he claimed the runner-up prize for Moving Image Fiction at the Ulster Media Show.

The event was held in the main TV studio at e3 and the keynote speech was delivered by Dermot Lavery, MD of DoubleBand Films.

Speaking about the success, Head of School Jonathan Heggarty said: "I am delighted that the hard work done by the course team has resulted in another award for one of our students. It has been a great year for the Media team who enjoyed more success by winning prizes at the recent Royal Television Society Student Awards."

#### BUSINESS EXPANDS

EIGHTY new jobs are to be created over the next two years thanks to the expansion Decora Blind Systems.

The Lisburn-based family-owned blind manufacturing business is benefiting from an Invest Northern Ireland employment grant of £240,000 towards the new jobs.

Enterprise, Trade and Investment Minister Jonathan Bell said: "Decora is ranked as one of the largest window blind producers in the UK and its clients include some of the largest independent blind companies in the country.

"The company has focused on manufacturing and wholesaling speciality products, introducing contemporary ranges with high value design properties. The 80 new jobs will generate £1.4m."

Managing director Stuart Dickson said: "Decora's business growth over the past five years has been consistent. Our continued goal is to ensure employee, customer and supplier relationships are harnessed to their full potential."

Forty-three of the roles are already in place.

#### PAYMENTS DISCUSSED

EMPLOYMENT and Learning Minister Stephen Farry has launched a consultation into the frequency of student support payments for full-time undergraduate students from Northern Ireland.

"The package is designed to support students while they undertake their higher education studies. Student support payments for full-time undergraduate students from Northern Ireland are made three times a year," he said.

"The consultation looks at a number of policy proposals in regard to different payment frequencies for the student maintenance package. As well as the current tri-annual payment process, it also explores options associated with different monthly payment schedules. I am interested in hearing the views of stakeholders as to a balanced way forward and potential alternatives to the existing system."





**WORLDS APART: Aimee Reid from Finaghy, Belfast, at Armagh Planetarium with Belfast Met's Space Camp**

## SPACE CAMP BLAST FOR STUDENTS

BUDDING astronauts, pilots and app geniuses recently enjoyed a series of STEM summer camps.

The free activity camps were hosted by Belfast Metropolitan College at Titanic Quarter campus, and were for over-16s interested in fun experiments involving cosmology, aerospace science and ICT technologies.

Astronomical activities for the Space

Camp attendees included building a rocket, learning about the diverse career paths in space science and visiting Armagh Planetarium, where they met experts in the field.

Belfast IT Girls offered creative practical workshops and events for girls aged 16-18, to experiment with gadgets and techniques essential for any IT expert — creating apps for Android, designing a website,

and learning how to repair and network PCs. Participants also had the opportunity to meet the IT industry's most prominent females, who shared their experiences of working in ICT.

Female teachers and lecturers also took part in a free course in C# programming, which is an essential part of computer programming, and a highly sought after skill in the job market.



**Source:** Garage Trader

**nimms**

**Date:** Wednesday 5. August 2015

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Page 1 of 2

**Size:** 296

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 125

## Only the Best at Belfast Met

**A** Newtownabbey student, Dean Best was recognised for his learning success at Belfast Metropolitan College's annual Apprenticeship and Training Awards.

The 22 year old student who is currently studying engineering (motor vehicle) at Belfast Met and completing a placement at the Donnelly Group was recognised for his achievements and progress with the Motor Vehicle Award.

The unique event celebrated the achievements of Belfast Met's learners, staff and partner organisations involved in the delivery of training programmes at the college.

47 successful students, received awards recognising their achievements through their current or recently completed ApprenticeshipsNI, Programme Led Apprenticeship or Training for Success programmes.

The student award categories included the Apprentice Award, Training Award, Work Placement, Essential Skills and Endeavour Award with winners spanning a range of vocational areas such as hospitality, construction, engineering, hairdressing, IT, financial services and motor vehicle.

The winning students demonstrated high levels of achievement, outstanding commitment, dedication to learning and perseverance through challenging circumstances.

The annual awards ceremony also recognised eight partner organisations who have shown a sustained commitment to providing trainee and employment opportunities for Belfast Met learners. The winning organisations were Andrew Mulvenna, AEC Motors, Contract Services, H & J Martin, James Street South, Metalcraft ,The McGrath Group and Ridgeway. **□**





**Source:** Garage Trader

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Page 2 of 2

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 **check out the website:** [www.garagetrader.co.uk](http://www.garagetrader.co.uk)



Source: Newtownabbey Times

nimms

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Page 1 of 2

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 125

# Musician Gary proves that he's a Guitar Star

**By RUSSELL KEERS**  
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@nabbeytimes

**A young musician from Carnmoney has been crowned the winner of a Sky TV competition to discover the country's most talented guitarist.**

Gary Lutton was the overall winner of Guitar Star, which was televised on the Sky Arts channel.

The 23-year-old former Belfast High School pupil beat off stiff competition from hundreds of other guitarists who had applied to be on the show.

He came out on top in the final show of the series, which was filmed at the Latitude music festival in Suffolk.

"It felt amazing to win Guitar Star," he said. "There were so many other guitarists who were on the top of their game throughout the competition, so I am very happy to have won."

His success in the live head-to-head final at the festival earned him the right to play the main stage - an experience that he will never forget.

And after winning such a prestigious award, there will certainly be new doors opening for the young man from Newtownabbey.

"Hopefully there will be further opportunities for me to now perform in front of audiences, because as a solo instrumental guitar player, you don't usually get the chance to perform in front of larger audiences," he added.

Music fans can see Gary

perform with Thomas Leeb at Whelan's in Dublin on Sunday, August 30.

Gary, who started playing guitar at the age of 11, is currently in the final stages of completing his part-time masters degree in music at the Ulster University campus at Magee.

Once he has completed his masters degree, the level headed musician is continuing his studies as he embarks on a music PhD at Magee in September.

The talented guitarist has also been helping to nurture other players, as he teaches guitar at both the Ulster College of Music and Belfast Metropolitan College at Millfield.

Gary has received support from a number of musicians, and has thanked Thomas Leeb and Mike Dawes for their guidance and support.

## Guitar Star has a winning formula

**Guitar Star set out to discover a world-class guitarist from the United Kingdom and Ireland.**

**The nine-part series was broadcast on the Sky Arts channel, and hosted by Edith Bowman. Competitors auditioned in four national centres across the UK and Ireland.**

**After the auditions, 16 talented guitarists were whittled down to just four, before the final stages of the competition.**

**The competitors were mentored by professionals throughout.**

## HAVE YOU GOT A STORY?

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W [www.newtownabbeytimes.co.uk](http://www.newtownabbeytimes.co.uk)





**Source:** Newtownabbey Times

**nimms**

**Date:** Thursday 6. August 2015

**Page:** 4

**Circulation:** 8274

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Page 2 of 2

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 125



Guitar Star: Gary Lutton pictured at Latitude music festival. INNT 32-500CON Pic by Justin Downing, Sky Arts



Source: Belfast Telegraph - AM

nimms

Date: Friday 31. July 2015

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(BMC-984)

Page 1 of 1

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 125

## Well Met... mentoring plan pays dividends



**Belfast Met** higher level apprentice Catherine Devine (right) is going into the second year of her accountancy apprenticeship, which is supported by the Department for Employment and Learning. Catherine has been working closely with mentor Caoimhe Donaghy from BDO, where Catherine has been building her experience while training at the Met





Source: Belfast Telegraph - AM

nimms

Date: Friday 31. July 2015

Page: 2 JobFinder

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Page 1 of 1

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 125

## EMPLOYMENT BRIEFS

### MET STEM CAMP

BELFAST Met will be opening its doors to budding astronauts next month with its latest STEM camp.

The Aerospace Camp (August 3-14) is a two-week programme in partnership with Bombardier for 16 to 24-year-olds who are interested in experiencing aerospace engineering.

Students will learn how STEM subjects are used in aircraft design and manufacture, and they will gain their wings in a Bombardier Q400 aircraft.

Jonathan Heggarty, head of the School of Computing and Electronic Technologies at Belfast Met, said: "These summer courses are a great opportunity for young people to find fun and inventive new ways to learn about the diverse, creative and innovative world of STEM subjects."

### JORDAN'S HONOUR

JORDAN Jeffers, a decorating student from Southern Regional College, has painted his way to victory in the grand final of Dulux Decorator Centre's prestigious Student Decorator of the Year competition 2015.

Jordan, from Portadown, is the first winner from Northern Ireland in the eight years that the competition has been running and competed against 10 other students from across the UK to win the coveted title.

The two-day national final, held recently at Edinburgh College, tested the students' attention to detail and brushwork, using skills honed from their painting and decorating courses.

As well as receiving the Student Decorator of the Year accolade, Jordan was awarded a £1,000 cash prize.

### DERRY JOBS BOOST

ALMOST 300 new jobs are to be created in Derry-Londonderry when a Texas-based internet company opens its European hub in the city.

OneSource Virtual, a cloud-based Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) provider is due to open its Northern Ireland office in September, with the 289 jobs expected to be in place by the end of 2017.

Ranked in the Forbes 2015 list of America's Most Promising Companies, the company will service both its existing US customers and its growing European customer base from its Derry-Londonderry office.

Brian Williams, OneSource Virtual co-founder and CEO, said: "Our team evaluated a number of locations in Europe and selected Northern Ireland, specifically Derry-Londonderry, based on the skilled workforce, high standards of higher education and the quality of life for employees."

The roles will be primarily for IT technical innovators with positions also available in application management and payroll services.



Source: Ulster Tatler

nimms

Date: Friday 31. July 2015

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(BMC-984)

Page 1 of 1

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 125

## GIRL ABOUT TOWN

### FUTURE FASHION STARS TURN HEADS AT END-OF-YEAR SHOW

Belfast got a glimpse of the future of fashion when over 50 students from **Belfast Metropolitan College** showcased their collections at this year's end-of-year fashion extravaganza.

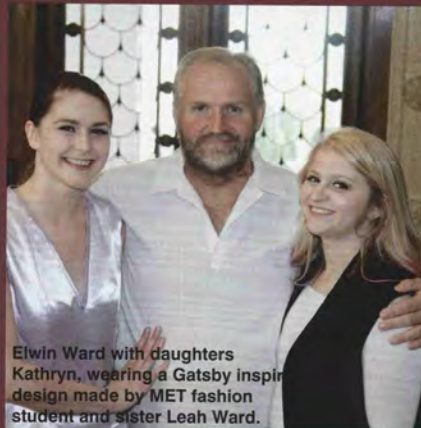
Over 200 fashionistas, family, friends and media packed the **Great Hall of Parliament Buildings Stormont** for this year's fashion showcase. The promising series of young designers included students from BTEC Level 2 and 3 Diploma's in Fashion and Clothing, part-time BTEC Certificate in Fashion, Fine Art and Design, BSC (Hons) in Fashion Management and City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate in Theatre Costume Fashion.

Collections on the catwalk ranged from daywear to shift dresses, glamorous evening dresses and bridalwear, with each designer demonstrating the originality, talent and scope of creativity fashion courses at Belfast Met can inspire.

This year's event was again supported by the **Assembly Committee for Employment and Learning**. Also showcased on the evening were student collections designed as part of the **Simon Community Charity Up Cycling project**.



Claire Rea, Erin Tinsley and Deborah Hughes-Johnston.



Elwin Ward with daughters Kathryn, wearing a Gatsby inspired design made by MET fashion student and sister Leah Ward.



Heather and Courtney Campbell.



Jessica and Jennie McClearn.



Michele and Jim Mallon.





Source: Belfast Telegraph - AM

nimms

Date: Friday 31. July 2015

Page: 2 JobFinder

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(BMC-984)

Page 1 of 1

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 129

## GOING STATESIDE FOR CHANCE OF A LIFETIME

FIFTY-five students from across Northern Ireland are preparing to travel to America to further their studies.

The students have been selected to take part in the British Council's Study USA programme, a one-year scholarship programme that enables students to study business and management for a year in American colleges. Taking place across 34 States, the students will gain valuable international experience and business knowledge, helping to develop their career prospects when they return to Northern Ireland.

This year's cohort recently gathered at Belfast Metropolitan College's Titanic campus for some last-minute advice and information ahead of their departure.

Speaking about the programme, David Alderdice, Director of British Council Northern Ireland, said: "Study USA is a great way for local students to boost their core employability skills and gain invaluable experience working in an international setting.

"While in the US, the students will have the opportunity to learn from leading experts in their field and their

future employability will be enhanced through internships, Ambassadorial presentations, and volunteer work in a really international context.

"Most importantly, our students will build links with counterparts in the United States that will last a lifetime."

Since its formation in 1994, Study USA has sent over 1,800 students from Northern Ireland to the United States.

Last year the programme celebrated its 20th anniversary at Titanic Belfast, with graduates, alumni and employers all gathering to mark its success to date.



**SEEING STARS:** students from across Northern Ireland will spend the next year studying business in the United States through the hugely successful Study USA programme, which is managed by the British Council



**Source:** Daily Mirror

**nimms**

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Page 1 of 1

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 128

## Academy to find talent

MINISTERS Stephen Farry and Jonathan Bell have launched the Export Sales and Marketing Academy.

The scheme will provide an intensive eight week training course followed by a nine month temporary work contract and a potential offer of employment.

The Academy is delivered by Belfast Metropolitan College and is aimed at those who have a minimum HND in any discipline.





**Source:** County Antrim Post



**Date:** Tuesday 28. July 2015

**Page:** 34,35

**Circulation:** 5000

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(BMC-984)

Page 1 of 2

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 128

## New Fin

Staff Reporter

A second Financial Services Academy has been launched in conjunction with FinTrU, a rapidly expanding financial services outsourcing provider with a Centre of Excellence based in Belfast.

A recruitment campaign will target degree graduates from any discipline, and offer an intensive six-week training programme leading to the opportunity to compete for a role with FinTrU. Participants in the programme will also gain industry-recognised qualifications.

Employment minister Farry said: "This second Financial Services Academy will provide a further 20 participants with the skills, knowledge and experience required to take up exciting new opportuni-



Source: County Antrim Post

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Date: Tuesday 28. July 2015

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Page 2 of 2

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 128

# Financial Services Academy



**Recruitment campaign:** Employment and learning minister Stephen Farry with Stephen Shaw, head of FinTrU's Belfast Centre of Excellence, and graduate from the first Financial Services Academy Rhiannon Russell

their full potential in order for them to succeed and progress in financial services. Belfast Met provides for businesses as we deliver a high standard of training to learners who will gain the skills that meet the needs of industry."

We deliver a high standard of training to learners who will gain the skills that meet the needs of industry

ties with FinTrU and builds on the success of the first Academy, which saw all 20 trainees secure employment with the company.

"My department's Assured Skills initiative continues to be a strong example of pro-active government intervention to meet the needs of investors, whilst enhancing the skills of unemployed graduates and providing job opportunities for them to compete for, which in turn is helping grow our local economy."

Stephen Shaw, Head of FinTrU's Belfast Centre of Excellence, said: "The FinTrU Fi-

nancial Services Academy is a unique opportunity to prepare for a dynamic career in Financial Services in Northern Ireland.

"Following the success of our 2014 academy programme, we are continuing with our innovative approach to recruiting talented young individuals from all backgrounds and providing them with tailored professional development to attain the skills required to have successful long term careers.

"The FinTrU Financial Services Academy provides the base for a number of accredited external qualifications

such as the Chartered Institute of Securities and Investments (CISI) Investment Operations Certificate."

The FinTrU Financial Services Academy has been designed by the Department for Employment and Learning, FinTrU, Belfast Metropolitan College and Ulster University under the Assured Skills initiative.

Damian Duffy, director of Business Development and Learner Services at Belfast Met said: "FinTrU and Belfast Met have partnered to ensure that the fresh and dynamic talents of graduate applicants find

Applications to the Academy will close on Friday August 7 at 4pm and the training programme for successful applicants will start on Tuesday September 1. Training will be delivered jointly by Belfast Metropolitan College and Ulster University.

Further information on the Academy is available at [www.nidirect.gov.uk/fintru-financial-services-academy](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/fintru-financial-services-academy).





**Source:** County Antrim Post

**nimms**

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Page 1 of 1

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 12

## STEM summer camps to boost skills for young people

Staff Reporter

Budding astronauts, pilots, and tech geniuses are preparing to take part in a new series of "summer camps" in Belfast designed to encourage learning in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and maths) subjects.

The free activity camps are taking place at the Belfast MET

campus at Titanic Quarter along with various city venues, and are designed for anyone over 16 wanting to try-out fun experiments involving cosmology, aerospace science and ICT technologies.

Workshops include Belfast IT Girls; Space Camp; and Aerospace Camp.

Jonathan Heggarty, head of the School of Computing and

Electronic Technologies at Belfast Met said:

"STEM camps help young people engage with new technologies, and support our vision to encourage industry relevant learning for individuals to help them progress in a range of many fields."

For more information, and to register for a camp, visit [www.belfastmet.ac.uk](http://www.belfastmet.ac.uk).



Source: The News Letter

Date: Tuesday 28. July 2015

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(BMC-984)

Page 1 of 1

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 12



TRY IT, PLAY IT  
LOVE IT.



Belfast Met girls will take part in sevens rugby screening

## RUGBY SEVENS

# Belfast Met students to go through their paces as part of selection process

Students at Belfast Met's Castlereagh campus will take part in a screening day on Saturday, August 8, where applicants will be put through tests under the watchful eye of the Irish Rugby Football Union International 7s selectors and management as well as Northern Ireland star rugby player Ashleigh Baxter who represented Ireland at the 2014 Women's Rugby World Cup.

Fourteen successful applicants will be placed on the HND academic programme which will blend their learning and academic study together to enhance not only playing performance but also future employability.

They will also become members of the Belfast Met Rugby Academy and will be able to avail of all the benefits of the Rugby Academy (academy leisure wear, strengthening and conditioning coaches, technical coaches and physiotherapy) includ-

ing eligibility for inclusion in touring sides.

Sevens is a stripped-down version of rugby union, invented in Scotland in the 19th century, with seven players each side on a normal-sized field. Games are much shorter, lasting only seven or ten minutes each half, and tend to be very fast-paced, open affairs. The game is quicker and higher-scoring than 15-a-side rugby and the rules are far simpler. It also gives players the space for superb feats of individual skill.

Anthony Eddy, Director of Rugby Sevens at Irish Rugby Football Union said: "This program provides athletes with a wonderful opportunity to focus on their education and a career pathway as well as on their rugby development.

"It allows the athlete to fast track their rugby development with the ambition of further representative honours."





**Source:** Irish News



**Date:** Monday 27. July 2015

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(BMC-984)

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Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 128

## Belfast Met hosts Space Camp week

BUDDING astronauts, pilots and app geniuses will gather at Belfast Met from today when the college throws open its doors for a series of high-tech summer camps.

Space Camp is a jam-packed week full of astronomical activities from building a rocket, preparing your body and mind for space, exploring the universe, and learning about diverse careers in space science.

Covering the so-called Stem subjects – science, technology, engineering and mathematics – the summer camps are taking place at the Titanic Quarter Campus and various Belfast venues and are designed for anyone over 16 who want to try out fun experiments involving cosmology, aerospace science and ICT.



**Source:** Electrical Magazine

**Date:** Thursday 23. July 2015

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Page 1 of 1

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 128

## Partnership between BMC and ETT gets the go ahead!

**N**orthern Ireland's largest Further Education establishment, Belfast Metropolitan College, has confirmed plans to renew the longstanding apprenticeship partnership with ETT for 2015. Speaking on behalf of the ECA NI Branch, Chairman Michael Dennison, said, "We view this agreement as tangible and positive evidence of employer engagement. We commend BMC for their willingness to facilitate the unique interests of the local industry through this valuable partnership with ETT."



Course Coordinator, Ian Thompson (BMC), instructs ETT apprentices.





Source: Specify

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Page 2 of 2

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 128



Sinead Lavery, Economic Development Officer, Castlereagh & Lisburn City Council; Roy Bell, Associate Procurement Advisor, The Strategic Investment Board; Brendan Mone, Technical Sales Representative, Glen Dimplex NI; Paul McCormack, Innovation Manager, Belfast Met and Edel Mullan, Economic Development Officer, Belfast City Council.

**DELEGATES** from across Northern Ireland recently attended 'Renewables – The Built Environment'; an

event hosted by the Belfast Met 'Generate' Business Development Programme and held at the Construction

**Industry Training Board (CITB) in Dundrod. The event was designed to consider mutually beneficial opportunities for both the renewable and construction sectors.**

The 'Generate' Programme is part funded by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, Belfast City Council, Invest Northern Ireland and the European Regional Development Fund under the Sustainable Competitiveness Programme for Northern Ireland, and is delivered by Belfast Met.

Roy Bell, Associate Procurement Advisor at Strategic Investment Board, informed attendees of the recently launched EnergyWise Programme and the opportunities that it presents. Mr Bell gave

delegates an outline of the scale and scope of the Programme, which is estimated to have a value in excess of £175m over the next five years and will include approximately 50,000 home improvements overall. There will be many opportunities for SME's to enter into the supply chain for this project.

Delegates also heard from Brendan Mone, Technical Sales Representative from Glen Dimplex NI, who discussed the Dimplex Renewables Building, which boasts several state-of-the-art renewable energy features. Mr Mone shared with delegates the development of a range of appliances which support the renewable energy ethos and how local companies can work with Glen Dimplex.



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Page 1 of 3

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 12

## CITB NI celebrate the development of traditional skills for local heritage sector



Successful placements receiving certificates on Sustaining Traditional Building Skills in NI project with Barry Neilson Chief Executive CITB NI and Angela Lavin Heritage Lottery Fund NI.

The project managed by CITB NI and mainly supported by funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) through its 'Skills for the Future' programme, helped to develop traditional building skills and create a heritage training infrastructure in Northern Ireland. The project will improve the workforce skills to repair and refurbish existing pre-1919 buildings and contribute to the local heritage sector.

The programme has enabled 34 craftspeople and college lecturers to be upskilled in heritage occupations including: Carpentry & Joinery, Heritage Painting, Blacksmithing, Stonemasonry, Plastering and Thatching to NVQ Level 3 Diploma in Heritage Skills or National Progression Award level.

Work-based placements were with experienced heritage practitioners and included sites owned by the National Trust, NI Environment Agency and The Ulster Folk and Transport Museum.

A 'Training the Trainers' programme was delivered to ten lecturers from Belfast Metropolitan College, South Eastern Regional College and South

West College to improve knowledge and understanding of built heritage and to enhance the provision of traditional skills training within the mainstream construction courses. Since the completion of the initial training a Sustainable Traditional Building Skills Trainers Forum has been established. This will build upon the established heritage training infrastructure and start delivering built heritage courses amongst the college network.

A team of Ambassadors/Mentors have also been developed to act as advocates and mentors for the traditional building skills programme throughout Northern Ireland. The development of traditional building skills is continuing further with ten local experienced carpenters and joiners undertaking the first Heritage Specialist Apprenticeship Programme in Wood Occupations in NI due to be completed in December 2015.

Barry Neilson, CITB NI Chief Executive said: "The National Heritage Training Group (NHTG) launched research in 2009 which highlighted serious skills and knowledge gaps affecting builders and craftspeople working in Northern





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Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 128

## **Representatives from the Heritage Lottery Fund, placement provider organisations, the training network, construction companies along with trainees gathered at CITB NI to celebrate the success of the 'Sustaining Traditional Building Skills in Northern Ireland' project.**

Ireland's built heritage sector. The Sustaining Traditional Building Skills in Northern Ireland project has addressed the fact that flexible on-site training schemes and obtaining relevant heritage qualifications are essential to preserve our vast range of historic properties and goes some way to addressing the needs of the sector. We are delighted to acknowledge those who trained on placement, the placement providers, lecturers and ambassadors/mentors who have given the project their full support and have developed traditional building skills not only for themselves but for the good of the heritage sector."

Paul Mullan, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund NI, added his support "Skills for the Future is an important grant programme for the heritage sector. It is an ambitious programme that enabled heritage organisations to focus not only on the skills needed to safeguard our heritage but to equip people with practical skills to help them secure future employment. Sustaining Traditional Building Skills in Northern Ireland has been a great success and we are delighted the participants have gained invaluable practical experience alongside their qualifications which they use to conserve our built heritage."

**"SKILLS IN NORTHERN IRELAND PROJECT HAS ADDRESSED THE FACT THAT FLEXIBLE ON-SITE TRAINING SCHEMES AND OBTAINING RELEVANT HERITAGE QUALIFICATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL TO PRESERVE OUR VAST RANGE OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES AND GOES SOME WAY TO ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF THE SECTOR."**



**Source:** Irish News

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Page 1 of 1

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 128

## Second FinTrU financial services academy launched

**A** SECOND financial services academy has been launched in conjunction with FinTrU, a rapidly expanding financial services outsourcing provider with a centre of excellence based in Belfast.

It will provide a further 20 participants with the skills, knowledge and experience required to take up new opportunities with FinTrU and builds on the success of the first academy, which saw all 20 trainees secure employment with the company.

Employment and learning minister Dr Stephen Farry said: "My department's assured skills initiative continues to be a strong example of pro-active government intervention to meet the needs of investors, while enhancing the skills of unemployed graduates and providing job opportunities for them to compete for, which in turn is helping grow our local economy."

The recruitment campaign will target degree graduates from any discipline and offer an intensive six-week training programme leading to the opportunity to compete for a role with FinTrU. Participants in the programme will also gain industry-recognised qualifications.

Stephen Shaw, head of FinTrU's Belfast Centre of Excellence, said: "The academy is a unique opportunity to prepare for a dynamic career in financial services in Northern Ireland.

Applications to the academy will close on Friday August 7 and the training programme for successful applicants will start on September 1.

Training will be delivered jointly by Belfast Metropolitan College and Ulster University.





Source: Ambition

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Page 1 of 1

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 128

# COMPETITION SHOWS HEALTHY RESULTS

A Belfast schoolgirl has won the top prize in the first health-focused Code for Better CoderDojo competition, organised by CoderDojo Belfast and Belfast-based tech company TotalMobile.

Fourteen year-old Neve O'Neill was awarded a tablet computer for her entry 'Sweet Invaders', a game she designed using GameMaker, where players must defend the earth from junk food as they learn about nutrition.

Judges of the competition, open to children under 16 who attend CoderDojo Belfast, a youth coding club founded and run by Belfast Metropolitan College at its Titanic Quarter Campus, described her entry as "well written, factual and educational."

CoderDojo is a worldwide movement which runs not-for-profit coding clubs to teach young people to learn how to write computer code, develop websites, apps, programmes, games and more.

Around 100 children meet during each session at CoderDojo Belfast on Saturdays to learn about coding and software development – skills considered vital to drive Northern Ireland's economy in the future – from around 20 volunteer mentors from local IT companies including TotalMobile. The end of year competition encouraged students to create a game, a mobile app or a website with a health theme.

Entries were judged on interactivity, commercial appeal, design, originality and theme.

Runners-up in the competition included Blake Hunter who designed a game where players must avoid taking too much sugar from the sugar monsters while Andrew Farquharson's game is played by collecting fruit in a maze.

Olga Pollock, Human Resources Manager at TotalMobile, one of the judges of the awards, said: "As a company that provides innovative software solutions to revolutionise the way frontline healthcare staff work we are keen to support and encourage prospective developers and coders from as early an age as possible.

"We believe we need to nurture our local talent to ensure we have adequate skills to equip the Northern Ireland economy for the future when many more jobs will be created in software development.

"I was very impressed by the standard of entries and it is so encouraging to see the enthusiasm and creativity the young coders have used in creating health-related apps which can make a real difference to people's lives."

Jonathan Heggarty, Head of School of Electronic and Computing Technologies at Belfast Met and CoderDojo Champion, said: "CoderDojo Belfast was founded by



Neve O'Neill (front) with Olga Pollock (left) of TotalMobile, along with second and third placed coders Blake Hunter (right) and Andrew Farquharson (back).

Belfast Metropolitan College in 2012 to make development and coding fun and a sociable and rewarding experience to encourage young people to pursue careers in IT.

"The competition marks the end of a very successful year for CoderDojo where throughout the year we had around 200 kids aged between 6-16 attend and experience coding and IT and around 20 volunteers attend each session.

"It's not only the sponsorship which assists CoderDojo but also the generous support from TotalMobile staff in providing their time to support and encourage the young coders of the future."

\* For more information on attending CoderDojo Belfast, which will meet again for a new term in September, go to [www.coderdojobelfast.com](http://www.coderdojobelfast.com).



Source: Irish News

**nimms**

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Page: 24

(BMC-984)

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# Eight directors in running for top IoD award

**E**IGHT Northern Ireland business leaders have been shortlisted for the Institute of Directors (IoD) UK Director of the Year Awards.

Having already been successfully titled 'Director of the Year' in their respective categories at the 2014-15 IoD NI First Trust Bank Director of the Year Awards in December, they will now represent north at the UK finals in London in October.

A year on since Jim Dobson, managing director of Dungannon-based firm Dunbia Group, won the UK Large Company Director of the Year Award, the company has received another nomination with Alan McKeown, its supply chain director, competing in this year's Young Director category. Also shortlisted for the 2015 National awards are:

■ Simon Graham Hunter CDir of Hunter Apparel Solutions Limited for the Family Business category;  
■ John McCann of UTV Media Plc for the Large Company category;  
■ Jeremy Biggerstaff of Flint Studios for the SME Company Director of the Year category;  
■ Marie Marin of the Employers For Children Charitable Group for the Not for Profit/Third Sector category;  
■ Marie-Thérèse McGivern of

Belfast Metropolitan College for the Public Sector category;

■ Mike Mullan of Moy Park for the Corporate Responsibility category;

■ Sean Hogan, shortlisted in the Non-Executive Director of the Year category in recognition of his previous role as Chairman of Northern Ireland Water.

Paul Terrington, IoD chairman said: "Northern Ireland boasts extremely high standards of

business excellence across a range of industries and I am delighted that once again the successes of so many local directors have been recognised on a national scale.

"Last year saw two of our directors, Michelle Hatfield from Belfast City Airport and Jim Dobson from the Dunbia Group, crowned with the UK title and I wish every one of our directors shortlisted this year the best of luck."





**Source:** Londonderry Sentinel

**nimms**

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Page 1 of 4

Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 128

# Tech students bring home haul of awards from media showcase

NWRC winners, included Michael Foster (Moving Image) and David Tedstone (Photography)

Students from the North West Regional College's (NWRC) School of Media, Multimedia and Arts in Londonderry were once again to the fore following their stellar achievements at the recent 2015 Ulster Media Show Awards from which they brought home a haul of awards.

The awards are an innovative showcasing of top media students from all of Northern Ireland's leading Colleges and Universities.

This annual event celebrates the best work by creative and digital media students from North West Regional College, Belfast Metropolitan

College and the University of Ulster, each of whom, in partnership with a number of leading industry organisations including the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and Ulster Television (UTV), form the Northern Ireland Skillset Media Academy. The Skillset Academy is

aimed at developing a new wave of talent to create the style concepts and media content of the future.

Hosted by Belfast Metropolitan College, the event was attended by a who's who of leading professionals from the media industry, the event included the presentation of

awards to students in categories which included moving image (fiction and non-fiction) Interactive content, Photography and radio. Local winners from the North West Regional College, included Michael Foster, in the Moving Image category, and David Tedstone who took the top prize in the

Photography section.

NWRC winners were Moving Image - Fiction, 1st Prize, Michael Foster; Moving Image - Non-fiction, 2nd Prize, Paul Brown; Interactive Content, 3rd Prize, Cormac Donaghy; Photography, 1st Prize: David Tedstone, 3rd prize, Mark Simpson.



## James is a cut above the rest

A WEST Belfast student has been recognised for his learning success at Belfast Metropolitan College's annual Apprenticeship and Training Awards.

James McCrudden (17), who is currently studying barbering at Belfast Met and completing a placement at Gavin James Gentleman's Barbers, was recognised for his achievements and progress with the Endeavour Award.

This award recognises learners who have demonstrated that they have overcome significant obstacles, or challenging circumstances in their life, but persevered to acquire skills and achieve relevant qualifications.

### Challenging

The Ladybrook teenager had a challenging start with his work placements but on his second placement went to Gavin James Gentleman's Barbers and has committed himself through his punctuality and progress.

"James is the perfect trainee, he greets all clients with a smile," said Gavin Black from the barber shop.

"He has excellent customer care skills and carries this through with his practical development by watching, asking questions and getting involved. It is a true pleasure to have James as part of my team."

The unique event celebrated the achievements of Belfast Met's learners, staff and partner organisations involved in the delivery of training programmes at the college.

Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Principal and Chief Executive at Belfast Met,



**TOP OF THE CLASS:** Lorenzo McMullan, Head of Work-Based Learning, Dr Stephen Farry, Paul Kane, Director of Curriculum, James McCrudden, Winner of the Endeavour award, and Pauline Moreland, the McGrath Group

congratulated James and the award winners.

"It is with great pride that I congratulate each and every one of our student finalists, and particularly

those winners, who have worked so hard to reach their goals and take the next step in attaining a relevant job within their chosen industry," she said.





**Source:** Newtownabbey Times



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Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 127

Education: Newtownabbey apprentices among winners at Belfast Met prize presentation

# Star students celebrate success

**BY DUNCAN ELDER**  
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@nabbeytimes

**Two Newtownabbey students have been recognised for their learning success at Belfast Metropolitan College's annual Apprenticeship and Training Awards.**

Jonathan Trimble and Dean Best were among 47 students to receive awards at this year's event.

Jonathan (20), who is currently studying at Belfast Met and completing an apprenticeship at Carillion, was recognised for his achievements and progress with the Plumbing and Refrigeration Apprentice of the Year Award.

As the first ever student in Northern Ireland to complete the City & Guilds Level 3 Plumbing and Domestic Heating qualification, he was also presented with the Seamus Hann Memorial Shield for out-



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**Jonathan Trimble (centre) with plumbing tutors Stephen Casement and Mark McComb. INNT 27-502CON**



**Dean Best (left) with engineering lecturer Stephen Laughlin. INNT 27-501CON**

standing achievement.

Jonathan's success comes just two years after his older brother, Jamie was named the college's Joinery Apprentice of the Year.

Dean (22), who is currently studying engineering (motor vehicle) at Belfast Met and completing a placement at

the Donnelly Group, was recognised for his achievements and progress with the Motor Vehicle Apprentice of the Year Award.

The annual prize presentation celebrated the achievements of Belfast Met's learners, staff and partner organisations involved in the de-

livery of training programmes at the college.

Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Principal and Chief Executive at Belfast Met, congratulated the award winners, saying: "It is with great pride that I congratulate each and everyone of our student finalists, and particularly those winners, who

have worked so hard to reach their goals and take the next step in attaining a relevant job within their chosen industry. We wish our Apprenticeship and Training students every success in their futures, and hope their learning journeys with us continue for years to come.





**Source:** Newtownabbey Times



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"We would also like to thank and congratulate the highly committed organisations who, through joint training programmes with the college, are playing an important role in providing the talent to fill future jobs in Northern Ireland. The training programmes Belfast Met offers are a fantastic way of equipping our learners with economically relevant skills and qualifications that are essential for their future career prospects."

Employment and Learning Minister, Dr Stephen Farry, added: "My congratulations to all the award winners. The quality of the apprentices here today is a testament to the high quality of teaching in our further education colleges."

Belfast Met currently has 900 individuals engaged in work-based learning across sectors as diverse as construction and engineering to hospitality and creative and service industries.

Drugs firm strike could have big impact on chemists, says union



Source: Belfast Telegraph - AM

nimms

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## Business leaders in running for directors' awards

EIGHT of Northern Ireland's top business leaders have been short-listed for the national Institute of Directors awards in London.

The IoD UK Director of the Year Awards showcase some of the UK's top business talents, and their impact on the wider community.

Those shortlisted include Mike

### BY STAFF REPORTER

Mullan of Moy Park, for the 'corporate responsibility category' and Marie-Therese McGivern of Belfast Metropolitan College for the 'public sector' category.

Paul Terrington, chairman of IoD in Northern Ireland, offered his congratulations to the final-

ists. "Northern Ireland boasts extremely high standards of business excellence across a range of industries and I am delighted that once again the successes of so many local directors have been recognised on a national scale," he said.

"Last year saw two of our directors, Michelle Hatfield from Bel-

fast City Airport and Jim Dobson from the Dunbia Group crowned with the UK title and I wish every one of our directors shortlisted this year the best of luck."

And a year on since Mr Dobson of Dunbia Group took his award, the firm has received another nomination with Alan McKeown, Dunbia's supply chain director.





**Source:** IN!

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## **BELFAST MET FASHIONS STORM THE RUNWAY**

Over 100 student-designed creations were recently showcased at Parliament Buildings in the Belfast Met's end of year fashion show. The event was entirely student-led, with students not only conceiving and designing the creations, but also modelling their own designs and providing entertainment throughout the evening. For further imagery and information visit [belfastmet.ac.uk](http://belfastmet.ac.uk), follow @bfastmet on Twitter, or like Belfast Met on Facebook



# Belfast Met achievements celebrated

BELFAST Metropolitan College has celebrated the achievements of students and staff at its Apprenticeship and Training Awards. Forty-seven successful students received awards recognising their achievements through their current or recently completed ApprenticeshipsNI, Programme Led Apprenticeship or Training for Success programmes. The student award categories

included the Apprentice Award, Training Award, Work Placement, Essential Skills and Endeavour Award with winners spanning a range of vocational areas such as hospitality, construction, engineering, hairdressing, IT, financial services and motor vehicle.

The winning students demonstrated high levels of achievement, outstanding commitment, dedication

to learning and perseverance through challenging circumstances.

Congratulating the award winners, Marie-Therese McGivern, principal and chief executive at Belfast Met, said: "It is with great pride that I congratulate each and every one of our student finalists, and particularly those winners, who have worked so hard to reach their goals and take the next step in attaining a relevant job

within their chosen industry. We wish our Apprenticeship and Training students every success in their futures, and hope their learning journeys with us continue for years to come."

The annual awards ceremony also recognised eight partner organisations who have shown a sustained commitment to providing trainee and employment opportunities for Belfast Met learners.

The winning organisations were Andrew Mulvenna, AEC Motors, Contract Services, H & J Martin, James Street South, Metalcraft, The McGrath Group and Ridgeway.

The college currently has 900 individuals engaged in work-based learning across sectors as diverse as construction and engineering to hospitality and creative and service industries.



Apprenticeship student John McGivern (centre) received the award for IT and Telecoms Professionals. John commenced his apprenticeship at Citibank with no technical knowledge but he quickly became a valuable member of the team creating an innovative tool that helped reduce time required by his team to investigate issues. This tool is now being used by Citibank in North America and Asia Pacific. John completed his year at Citibank by receiving an 'exceptional' rating — the highest rating for staff available.



Charlotte McGeath (centre), a Belfast Met hospitality student, who is currently studying professional cookery and completing a placement at James Street South, was presented with the Hospitality Award. Charlotte began her apprenticeship at James Street South with no past culinary training but she impressed her tutors with her natural culinary talent and has received great praise from her employers. Charlotte received her award from Belfast Met director of curriculum Paul Kane and Employment Minister Stephen Farry.



Paddy Reid, a 24-year-old supported learning student, who is currently completing the Routeways programme, was rewarded for his achievements with the Training Award Level 1. Paddy secured an apprenticeship with Graham FM, a facilities managed company within Belfast Met and has made an excellent addition to the team. Most recently Paddy was selected to speak at DEL showcase at Stormont for Supported Learning. Paddy has been described by his tutors as a true inspiration for any young person with additional support needs.







**Source:** Impartial Reporter

**nimms**

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# Pharmacy student cooks up food business idea

**“WATCHING** something that's yours grow from something very little into a successful business is very rewarding.”

Twenty-year-old Pharmacy student Annika Latimer, who has successfully established two baking ventures alongside her university studies, admits that her workload requires “a lot of time and commitment.”

Her advice to other young entrepreneurs is: “It's worth it in the end.”

The former Collegiate pupil, from Brookeborough, is a first year Pharmacy student in Queen's University Belfast. A keen baker, Annika was often called upon to bake cakes for neighbours and friends. What began as a pastime grew by word of mouth and ‘Annika's Cakes’ was born.

Determined to keep her venture alive during her university studies, Annika travels home each weekend to bake and she predicts that this summer will be a busy one by the oven as she fulfils lots of wedding cake orders.

The industrious student is also the brains behind ‘Beautiful Tastes’, a range of healthy and nutritious food products which aim to provide the correct mix and dosage of vitamins and nutrients for the body. Her creations include beauty biscuits for skin, hair and nail health; energy boosting flapjacks; anti-ageing bread; and child friendly chocolate snacks.

‘Beautiful Tastes’ is the result of Queen's University Student's Union enlisting Annika in the Belfast Enterprise Academy, a business support programme funded by Belfast City Council.

A total of 24 students from Queen's, Ulster University and Belfast Metropolitan College



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Annika Latimer who is taking part in Belfast Enterprise Academy, a business support programme funded by Belfast City Council.

were given support on setting up enterprises and developing business ideas. As well as participating in workshops and receiving one-to-one mentoring to

explore and develop a business idea or product, the students had the chance to meet with a number of current successful business owners and learn from

their experiences.

"We learned a lot from branding, marketing and legal mentors and developed a better understanding of what's involved in running a business," Annika explains.

The group also visited T13, the Northern Ireland Science Park and the Game of Thrones exhibition.

On the back of her experience, Annika hopes to see her 'Beautiful Taste' products on Belfast shelves sometime next year.

"I would ultimately like to set up my own pharmacy but I think I'll always keep the baking as a side venture," comments Annika, who also works part-time in Lisbellaw Medical Hall.

Being an entrepreneur requires "passion and determination", she explains, adding: "You have to believe in what you want."

Wishing all of the BEA participants' success with their products and new enterprises, Belfast Councillor Deirdre Hargey, said: "This is the sixth intake of students on the Belfast Enterprise Academy and this innovative pre-enterprise programme continues to go from strength to strength.

"Since the BEA began, 24 full-time businesses have been set up and 12 part-time with 47 jobs created.

"The programme encourages students to consider self-employment and develop business ideas and also emphasises the importance of entrepreneurship as a driver for our local economy.

"We believe that by developing our talented young people, we will form a strong base for our future entrepreneurs and economy. I now wish them every success for a bright business future."





**Source:** Belfast Telegraph - AM

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## ACADEMY GIVES GRADUATES NEW SKILLS

A NEW training academy will help equip students with the skills needed to take up opportunities in the export sales and marketing industry.

The Export Sales and Marketing Academy is aimed at those who have a minimum HND qualification in any discipline. It will provide an intensive eight-week training programme, with one of the weeks spent in a European Academic Institution. This will be followed by a nine-month temporary work contract with

an employer and a potential offer of employment.

Launching the academy were Employment and Learning Minister, Stephen Farry and Enterprise, Trade and Investment Minister, Jonathan Bell. Commenting on the benefits of the academy, Minister Farry said: "Through my department's Assured Skills initiative, the Academy approach continues to be an excellent example of how my department and Invest NI are working collaboratively to improve the skills of

graduates and assist them into employment. Graduates are learning skills that our local employers need and I would encourage any unemployed graduate to consider a career in export sales and marketing."

The skills requirements were identified by local companies wishing to expand their export sales. The companies taking part in the academy have specific nine-month projects for the academy students to complete as part of their studies. The training will be delivered

by Belfast Metropolitan College with support from the Department for Employment and Learning and Invest NI under the Assured Skills initiative.

Mr Bell said: "With export growth and innovation acknowledged as key drivers of economic success, initiatives such as the Export Sales and Marketing Academy are vital to Northern Ireland's future prosperity. The Academy demonstrates how industry and education can work together to identify and address skills gaps

through practical training, while providing meaningful placements with which graduates can gain invaluable experience in a work environment.

"Equipping our young people with the relevant export sales and marketing skills is essential in helping our businesses maximise opportunities that exist in international markets."

Applications to the academy close on Friday, July 24. For more information and to apply, visit <http://esma.mindmill.co.uk>



Source: Ballymena Chronicle

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A Randalstown student, Gareth Johnston was recognised for his learning success at Belfast Metropolitan College's annual Apprenticeship and Training Awards.

The 22 year old student who is currently studying at Belfast Met and completing an apprenticeship at WG Bairds was recognised for his achievements and progress with the Print Production Award.

The unique event celebrated the achievements of Belfast Met's learners, staff and partner organisations involved in the delivery of training programmes at the college.

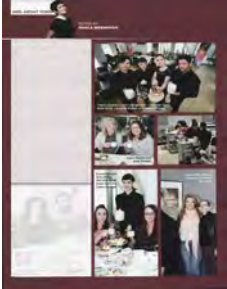
47 successful students, received awards recognising their achievements through

their current or recently completed ApprenticeshipsNI, Programme Led Apprenticeship or Training for Success programmes.

The student award categories included the Apprentice Award, Training Award, Work Placement, Essential Skills and Endeavour Award with winners spanning a range of vocational areas such as hospitality, construction, engineering, hairdressing, IT, financial services and motor vehicle.

The winning students demonstrated high levels of achievement, outstanding commitment, dedication to learning and perseverance through challenging circumstances.





**Source:** Ulster Tatler

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## BELFAST MET CELEBRATES YOUNG GUN TALENT

I'm a firm believer that if you've got something great to say, shout about it! That's exactly what those clever folks at **Belfast Met** did when they hosted an exclusive **Spa and Afternoon Tea** event at their Titanic Quarter Campus showcasing the multi-talented students and trainees from their Catering and Beauty Therapy courses.

The afternoon of pampering started at the college's **Linen Lounge Restaurant**, situated on the ground floor of the impressive Titanic Quarter premises. Guests enjoyed a sumptuous afternoon tea masterfully created by the talented students undertaking their Level Two Certificate for Proficiency in Baking Industry Skills. It would be a thumbs up from *The Great British Bake Off* legend Mary Berry I'd say, as the array of deliciously delectable treats were of an award-winning standard!

Our pampering continued into the afternoon as we were whisked to the onsite **Urban Escape Spa**; the college's sleekly designed, fully fitted, industry standard hairdressing and beauty salon. Here we enjoyed a range of treatments, including mini manicures and neck and shoulder massages, carried out by the competent hands of the NVQ Level Three Beauty Therapy students.

There's clearly a lot to celebrate at Belfast Met; the future of our catering and beauty therapy industries are in great hands! But you don't have to take my word for it as the Linen Lounge Restaurant and Urban Escape Spa at Belfast Met are open to the public.



Sarah Montgomery  
and Neil Young.



**Source:** Ulster Tatler

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## Training

# Essential Skills award for Anthony

A Carrickfergus student has been recognised for his learning success at Belfast Metropolitan College's annual Apprenticeship and Training Awards.

Anthony Dowds (19) completed the Essential Skills programme in June and was recognised for his achievements and progress with the Essential Skills Award. As part of his training programme, Anthony studies Light Vehicle Maintenance Level 3.

He also works outside of his course as an apprentice for Eden Car Sales.

The unique event celebrated the achievements of Belfast Met's learners, staff and partner organisations involved in the delivery of training programmes at the college.

Some 47 successful students received awards recognising their achievements through their current or recently completed ApprenticeshipsNI, Programme Led Apprenticeship or Training for Success programmes.

The student award categories included the Apprentice Award, Training Award, Work Placement, Essential Skills and Endeavour Award with winners spanning a range of vocational areas such as hospitality, construction, engineering,



**BMC student Anthony Dowds.  
INCT24-726-CON**

hairdressing, IT, financial services and motor vehicles.

The winning students demonstrated high levels of achievement, outstanding commitment, dedication to learning and perseverance through challenging circumstances.

Marie-Thérèse McGivern, principal and chief executive at Belfast Met, said: "It is with great pride that I congratulate each and every one of our student finalists, and particularly those winners, who have worked so hard to reach their goals and take the next step in attaining a relevant job within their chosen industry. We wish them every success in the future."



Source: Portadown Times

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# Welcoming the fleet...

**I**t's with great excitement that I am welcoming you to Belfast's third Tall Ships event - The Tall Ships Races 2015 welcomed by the Lidl Belfast Titanic Maritime Festival.

This spectacular event will see Belfast Harbour transformed from the heart of commercial shipping activity to a thriving cultural maritime festival with ships from across the globe berthed in the heart of Belfast's docks.

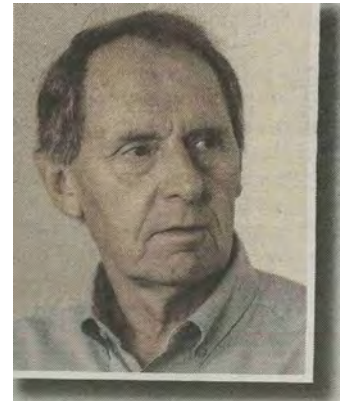
Belfast's recent track record of hosting major international events like MTV EMAs, 2012 Titanic Century, World Police and Fire Games and Giro, have all shown the capability of my home city to deliver large-scale international events that attract citizens and visitors to our Titanic city!

In addition to the enormous footprint of the festival which stretches over one square mile, the scale of the visiting fleet will see vessels from South America and Europe arrive at our shores.

With nearly one thousand international crew there will be lots of opportunities to engage with different cultures, alongside maritime markets, fun fairs, expos, live music, roving performers, fireworks and of course the stars of the event - the ships!

Belfast City Council is also aware that events of this size cannot happen without partners. The Council would like to thank: Belfast Harbour for its support; Tourism Northern Ireland; the Department of Social Development; Translink

with their engagement in regard to the transport operations; Stena Line for their support for the volunteer programme, co-ordinated by Volunteer Now; Phoenix Natural Gas who are backing our entertainment arrangements; plus thanks to the Odyssey Trust and Titanic Quarter for access to their



**RACE CHAIRMAN, SAIL TRAINING INTERNATIONAL, KNUT WESTERN**

**W**e're delighted to bring the magnificent Tall Ships Race fleet from 17 different countries back to Belfast following our successful visits in 1991 and 2009 - thanks to the City of Belfast, the Belfast Harbour Commissioners and all the key partners for their continued support.

The largest Tall Ship in the fleet to date is the majestic four-masted-barque from Norway, Statsraad Lehmkuhl, at around 100 metres in length carrying a crew of 540.

One of the smallest in the fleet is the Russian 13 metre Bermudan sloop yacht Akela which has sailed a 1,800 nautical mile passage from St Petersburg to be in Belfast.

The oldest vessel in the fleet is Leader a Brixham trawler built in 1892; whilst the youngest is the 60 metre German Barque Alexander von Humboldt that was purpose-built in 2011 for modern sail training.

The fleet will be manned by around 2,000 crew and



**LORD MAYOR OF BELFAST, COUNCILLOR ARDER CARSON**





Source: Portadown Times

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land. The Council would also like to thank Lidl as our host port sponsor. Lidl have not only committed a substantial sum of cash support, but have also completely embraced the event.

Lidl have promoted the event to its customers across all its stores and have even committed to supporting eight of their staff to take part in The Tall Ships Race.

Finally, key to staging this magnificent event is securing it, and Belfast would like to thank Sail Training International for giving Belfast another opportunity to host this amazing spectacle. We hope you enjoy your time at The Tall Ships Races welcomed by the Lidl Belfast Titanic Maritime Festival and we look forward to its return in the not too distant future.

trainees from over 30 nationalities. One of the fundamental rules of The Tall Ships Races is that at least half of the crew need to be between the ages of 15 and 25.

There will be naval cadets undergoing professional training and young people with a taste of adventure experiencing their first challenge of crewing a Tall Ship. Sail training and Tall Ship sailing is accessibility to all and this principle is typified by the 60 metre steel Barque Lord Nelson which is operated by the Jubilee Sailing Trust.

She is specially designed to take trainees of all abilities. Don't be surprised to see trainees in wheel chairs hoisted 100 feet off the deck helping to stow the square sails!

We do not know what challenges mother-nature will throw at them during the race but there will certainly be many; whether there are gale force winds, calms or thick fog, or any combination of these. One thing that is certain is how much the trainees will learn about themselves and their ship-mates.

They will experience highs and lows but at the finish they will feel a deep sense of achievement and pride in what they have achieved. This will stay with them long after they depart their ship.

I wish every visitor to this very special event a wonderful festival and - to all our sailors - fair winds.



**CHAIR OF BELFAST TALL SHIPS, DR GERARD O'HARE**

**I**would like to extend a very warm hello to The Tall Ships Races 2015 which will be welcomed by the Lidl Belfast Titanic Maritime Festival.

This event goes beyond the confines of any of Belfast's annual festivals in its size, scale and international nature.

The 2015 Belfast Tall Ships event touches on many

aspects of port and harbour life and Belfast Tall Ships, supported by Lidl, is pleased to be backing five marine based charities: Royal National Lifeboat Institute, Sailability, Ocean Youth Trust, Sea Cadets and Mission to Seafarers.

It is hoped that not only will the event raise funds for these organisations, but also heighten the profile of their work.

To deliver an event of this size would not be possible without the tremendous help and co-operation of the emergency services. So, on behalf of the board of Belfast Tall Ships 2015 I would like to thank: the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the Ambulance Service, Fire & Rescue Service, Marine Coastguard Agency and Lagan Search and Rescue.

The public programme for July 2-5 will connect the present with the past.

The four-day maritime festival that wraps around Sail Training International Tall Ships Races will reflect Belfast's strong maritime history.

Not only will the magnificent Titanic Belfast open its doors to visitors, but its sister attraction, the SS Nomadic will take on-board guests who can explore its historical connections to the ill-fated, yet famous, liner.

In addition, the wonderful Titanic Drawing Offices and Thompson Pump House along with The Dry Dock will welcome patrons and relay the city's strong connections to shipbuilding and its maritime history.

These sites will be complemented with activities organised by Titanic Foundation Limited, Public Records Office, Belfast Met College, Sailortown and SHIP.

Other attractions will include tours of the wonderful Sinclair's Seaman's Church and Belfast Harbour Offices.

The international markets in Custom House Square and City Hall will be getting in on the maritime act, with a nautical themed film festival on the Big Screen, and special maritime focused City Hall tours.

For those wishing to enjoy the ambience and spectacle of this festival, there's no shortage of family friendly things to do.

With all this activity I am sure that The Tall Ships Races 2015 welcomed by the Lidl Belfast Titanic Maritime Festival will be an event that city of Belfast and visitors will fondly remember in years to come - enjoy!!



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The blue stone demon that won Cookstown make-up artist Tony Campbell the chance to train with an industry great

# Makeup artist wins week with Dr Who creative





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## Tony gave up architecture to follow his dream

**By SHAUNA CORR**  
shauna.corr@jpress.co.uk  
@ShaunaReports

**A Cookstown based makeup artist has outshone thousands to win a dream prosthetics placement with BAFTA winning expert Neill Gorton.**

Tony Campbell, who's originally from Brocagh but now lives and works in Cookstown, impressed judges of the Titanic Creative Management SFX competition with his 'blue stone demon' creation.

His much coveted prize was an advanced prosthetics course with multiple award-winning make up artist Neill Gorton who's best known for his work on Dr Who, Children of Men, Saving Private Ryan as well as other major film and television productions.

Tony, a past-pupil of St Mary's in Magherafelt, gave up a place studying Architecture at Queen's to pursue his make-up dream and it seems things are working out for him.

The 27-year-old told the Mail he took up the trade aged 22 and after finishing his course at Belfast Metropolitan College started work with Doll Face in Cookstown, where he not only makes up those going to special events such as wed-

dings and formals but turns his hand to special effects when Halloween comes.

Since starting work at Doll Face three years ago, Tony said: "I started trying out and getting into special effects. The idea of changing someone was fascinating. It's a lot more work and longer hours... but worth it."

As for winning a week's training with one of the top experts in the field, he said he was over the moon.

"Neill doesn't come here very often so it's a great opportunity," Tony explained.

"He's a big name in the industry [and] he's teaching us

### Neill Gorton

**Neill Gorton is a multi-award winning screen prosthetics designer with a career spanning 27 years. He has worked with directors such as Steven Spielberg, Ridley Scott and Ron Howard and on famous faces like Demi Moore, Johnny Depp, Clive Owen, Anne Hathaway and Lady Gaga. Neill's film credits include Saving Private Ryan, Gladiator, Children of Men, The Da Vinci Code and Gravity. His company, Gortin Studio is Europe's leading supplier of special make-up effects, animatronics and prosthetics.**

film quality prosthetic applications, scars and how to age people."

But the out there designs are not the most difficult to master. "It's a lot harder making up people to look natural," he said.

The 27-year-old won the competition by submitting a photo of his best special effects work in an online competition that reached over 700,000 people worldwide.

"Winning this competition is a fantastically unique chance to further my learning with the very best in the industry and pursue my dreams of working in film and television," added Tony.

"Without Titanic Creative Management and Movie House Cinemas something like this would never have been possible."

Managing Director of Titanic Creative Management, Nuala Campbell, added: "We are dedicated to bringing the very best artists from all over the world to further develop and up-skill the local creative workforce."

"The need for experienced makeup artists is growing, especially with the expansion of the film and television industry here, and it is wonderful to be able to offer opportunities such as these."



Source: Irish News

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# Apprentice chefs and graduates benefit from on-the-job training

Gail Bell

g.bell@irishnews.com

A SUCCESSFUL apprentice programme for trainee chefs is returning to Belfast for 2015-16 with double the number of students being offered the chance to hone their skills.

Award-winning chef Niall McKenna has relaunched the scheme for 16 new hopefuls who will benefit from a year-long placement in his cookery school while gaining professional qualifications through Belfast Metropolitan College at the same time.

Three of last year's young recruits gained full-time employment in McKenna's James Street South restaurant through the programme – described by the restaurateur as a "solid investment" in the future of world-class hospitality in Northern Ireland.

"Our apprentices will receive ongoing training and development through weekly workshops in our cookery school, as well as regular activities to ensure a greater appreciation of food, like meeting producers and others in the supply chain," he said.

"This is geared for aspiring chefs who have the determination to succeed, learning from leaders in the industry and cooking with local produce to create the dining experience for which James Street South is famous."

Meanwhile employment and learning minister Stephen Farry has also launched the first Financial Services Academy for graduates.

The 12-week course will provide 16 graduates with six weeks' training followed by a six-week work placement in a local financial company.



■ **SERVING UP SUCCESS:** Apprentice Charlotte McGrath with employment and learning minister Stephen Farry and Niall McKenna of James Street South as they launch the second apprentice scheme run by the award-winning restaurant

On completion, they will gain an 'Investment Operations Certificate' through the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment – as well as a potential offer of employment from a participating company.

"The expansion of the financial technology and services sector is key to

the growth of the Northern Ireland economy," Mr Farry said.

"This academy will ensure that local financial organisations have skilled graduates ready to secure employment with their companies."

Applications for the James Street South apprentice programme close on

August 2nd – more information available at [www.jamesstreetsouth.co.uk/about/apprenticeships](http://www.jamesstreetsouth.co.uk/about/apprenticeships).

Graduates interested in applying for the Financial Services Academy can submit applications online – <http://finser.mindmill.co.uk> – before the closing date of July 17.





**Source:** Belfast Telegraph - AM

**nimms**

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Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 127

# Get connected

**Y**oung people who are growing up in the computer era are at a distinct advantage over those of us who finished school before the first PC was booted up.

While many over 50s are experts in IT, the older generations can feel left behind. However, social media sites are priceless for keeping up with family and friends and are a lot easier to use than you might think. According to Age NI, Lilly Strugnell from Gloucestershire, who is the oldest registered Facebook user, had her first taste of the internet just before she turned 107!

Throughout Northern Ireland there computer and internet training classes for older people. Avoiding jargon and explaining things clearly in plain English, these projects offer easy-to-follow training with the aim that as many people as possible ultimately enjoy the advantages of computers and the internet.

A good place to start is your local library which runs free courses which show how using technology can enhance your life.

Got IT? is a computer help programme delivered by Libraries NI staff to support people with little or no knowledge of computers while their other course, Go ON takes these skills one step further and allows people to enhance their computer abilities. For further information, contact your local library.

FE Colleges also run courses like the First Click course at Belfast Metropolitan College which has campuses all over the city.

This is a free, 15-hour accredited programme for complete beginners. It takes you through the very basics from using a mouse and a keyboard, through to searching the Internet and sending e-mails. Students will complete the City and Guilds qualification in Online Basics in a relaxed and friendly setting.

These classes are free to everyone regardless of age or circumstances. Depending on the centre, these could be day or evening classes or both. For further information contact the



**There are lots of free courses to help people learn the basics of using a computer or iPad**

Belfast Met Course Information Hotline on 028 90 265 265 or email: [studentportal@belfastmet.ac.uk](mailto:studentportal@belfastmet.ac.uk)

The following local groups also run computer classes for older people across the country.

\*Age Concern East Belfast and Castlereagh 028 9050 1342; email [contact@ageconcernebc.co.uk](mailto:contact@ageconcernebc.co.uk)

\*AGE North Down and Ards (AGENDA) 028 9127 1968; email

[agenda@agenorthdownards.co.uk](mailto:agenda@agenorthdownards.co.uk)

\*Harmony Community Trust at Glebe House, Strangford, 028 4488 1374; email [info@glebehouseni.com](mailto:info@glebehouseni.com)

\*Age Concern Network of Newcastle & District 028 4372 4709

\*Age Concern Coleraine 028 7035 7966, email [info@accaseaway.org](mailto:info@accaseaway.org)

\*Age Concern Irvinestown, 028 663 88570.



Source: Antrim Times

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Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 127

## Education

# Apprenticeship success for Gareth

Randalstown student Gareth Johnston was recognised for his learning success at **Belfast Metropolitan College's** annual Apprenticeship and Training Awards.

The 22-year-old student who is currently studying at Belfast Met and completing an apprenticeship at WG Bairds was recognised for his achievements and progress with the Print Production Award.

The unique event celebrated the achievements of Belfast Met's learners, staff and partner organisations involved in the delivery of training programmes at the college.

Forty-seven successful students, received awards recognising their achievements through their current or recently completed ApprenticeshipsNI, Programme Led Apprenticeship or Training for Success programmes.

The winning students demonstrated high levels of achievement, outstanding commitment, dedication to learning and perseverance through challenging circumstances.

Marie-Thérèse McGivern, Principal and Chief Executive



Randalstown student Gareth Johnston is presented with his award.

at Belfast Met, said: "It is with great pride that I congratulate each and every one of our student finalists, and particularly those winners, who have worked so hard to reach their goals and take the next step in attaining a relevant job within their chosen industry.

"We wish our Apprenticeship and Training students every success in their futures,

and hope their learning journeys with us continue for years to come.

"We would also like to thank and congratulate the highly committed organisations who, through joint training programmes with the College, are playing an important role in providing the talent to fill future jobs in Northern Ireland."





# Innovative Further Education students claim their rewards

From its inaugural year in 2011, the Business and Education through Skills and Training (BEST Awards) have grown to become a major showcase for creativity and innovation across Northern Ireland's Further Education Colleges.

Focused on the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), the BEST Awards are hosted annually by Colleges Northern Ireland, the membership body for Northern Ireland's six regional FE Colleges.

The BEST Awards culminate in a Grand Finals Day each year. This year 180 students competed across five disciplines; science, engineering, creative industries, software and built environment.

Sponsored by Recruit NI, Norbrook and the Department for Employment and Learning, the event took place on Wednesday 27th May 2015 in the Ramada Hotel, Shaw's Bridge, Belfast.

Students were judged throughout the day by a panel of 40 industry and innovation specialists, including representatives from Bombardier, MATRIX, AB Pneumatics, Schrader, Montupet, Institute of Physics, DEL, Ulster University and Queen's University.

Four award winners were announced along with 13 category winners. Among the winners were:

- **Curtis Adams** from Belfast Metropolitan College, who took first place in the 16-18 age category for his design of a green traffic light for cyclists.
- **Andrew McGuire** from Southern Regional College, who won the Creative Industries Award, for his Eletrak App which provides people with information on how to save money on their energy bills.



Curtis Adams from Belfast Metropolitan College along with a number of MLAs and CNI Board Members at this year's BEST Awards

These two students, together with other BEST Award winners, were selected to take part in the STEM-focused Frontiers Programme which takes place in the prestigious Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts, USA. The Frontiers Programme takes place in July 2015 and challenges students to explore their limits of knowledge in STEM subjects with access to state-of-the-art technology and facilities.

A list of all the BEST Award winners is available on the Colleges NI website: [www.collegesni.ac.uk](http://www.collegesni.ac.uk).

Gerry Campbell, Chief Executive of Colleges NI said "The calibre of submissions this year points towards a very bright future for young and mature innovators in the FE sector.

"They demonstrated a huge range of skills and talent so we know that entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation are thriving in Northern Ireland.

"Now let's keep the ideas flowing and enable further education to play a bigger role in driving the economy forward".

Minister for Employment and Learning Dr Stephen Farry said: "It is vital that we enthuse and inspire all our young people to study STEM courses and to progress to employment in the STEM related industries.

"The future of our economy depends upon driving up skills levels in these sectors. To do this we must ensure that these sectors offer attractive employment opportunities, and that all young people are aware of the wide range of careers options available.

"The FE college network plays a vital role in providing the skills and education to underpin the growth of this sector in collaboration with industry and my Department.

"The BEST Awards are established as an excellent platform to promote and showcase the world class STEM skills which have been developed and nurtured within our further education sector."



Andrew McGuire along with lecturers from Southern Regional College





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Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 127

# HOLYWOOD GRADUATE COMPLETES ACADEMY

**Employment and Learning Minister Dr Stephen Farry attended the last day of the Deloitte People and Programmes Consulting Academy and presented certificates of achievement to the participating graduates including Amy Brown from Holywood.**

The Academy model is part of the Department for Employment and Learning's (DEL) Assured Skills programme. Assured Skills provides tailored training to help em-

ployers find staff with the skills they need or support to develop the necessary expertise within their existing team. The support can range from help to establish links between businesses and the further education or university sectors to design specific training solutions, or assistance with recruitment and other pre-employment activities.

Presenting certificates of completion to the graduates at Belfast Metropolitan's [e3](#) campus, Minister Farry said: "Companies such as Deloitte are the key drivers of economic growth in Northern Ireland. The Academies are excellent examples of government interventions to enhance the skills of unemployed graduates whilst providing the skills that employers need to grow our economy. The Academy model has been very successful and has



Employment and Learning Minister, Dr Stephen Farry presents Amy Brown from Holywood with her certificate of achievement for completion of the Deloitte People and Programmes Consulting Academy.

been offered in a number of areas, including Data Analytics, Software Testing and Cloud Technologies. It is also being further developed to meet employer demands in other sectors."

The ceremony was attended by Academy trainees, along with representatives from Deloitte and Belfast Metropolitan College (Belfast Met).

Jackie Henry, Senior Partner at Deloitte, said:

"It's with great pleasure and pride that we welcome the first 16 graduates from the People and Programmes Consulting Academy. What a wonderful position for them to be in with so many new skills to learn and opportunities to glean. The future of the Northern Ireland economy is vested in these young people and Deloitte is simply delighted to play its part alongside Belfast Met and the Department for Employment and Learning."

The Assured Skills programme is a joint programme between DEL and Invest Northern Ireland.

The programme is designed to guarantee existing companies wishing to expand and potential new inward investors looking to locate their business in Northern Ireland that their skills needs can be provided for here.



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Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 126

## Belfast Met pays its tribute to apprentices

APPRENTICES who studied at Belfast Metropolitan College have been recognised at a special ceremony.

Nearly 50 students in fields from hairdressing and financial services to catering and construction were praised for their commitment and dedication to

learning at the event. Their employers were also congratulated, with winners including restaurant James Street South, engineering firm Metalcraft and hairdresser Andrew Mulvenna.

Marie-Therese McGivern, CEO at Belfast Met, said: "I congratulate each of our student finalists,

and particularly those winners, who have worked so hard to reach their goals and take the next step in attaining a job within their chosen industry."

Employment Minister Stephen Farry said the success reflected the high standard of teaching at Northern Ireland colleges.



'High standard': Stephen Farry





## Animator academy draws local talent to a brighter future

A NEW animation academy will help upskill 16 individuals with the skills needed to take up opportunities in the growing industry.

The 2D Animation Academy will offer an intensive 16-week training programme including a company placement. Successful participants will gain industry recognised qualifications and increase their potential for employment in the sector. In addition NI Screen, through the Aim High: Animation scheme, funded by Invest NI, will offer a 12 month animation industry placement for up to six participants on the Academy programme.

Launching the programme were Employment and Learning Minister, Stephen Farry and Enterprise, Trade and Investment Minister, Jonathan Bell.

Commenting on the opportunity the academy will offer to creative local talent, Minister Farry said: "The Screen Industry in Northern Ireland is experiencing

global recognition and unimaginable success through programmes such as Game of Thrones.

"The animation sector has played its part in the industry success and has shown considerable growth in recent years.

"There is now a need for additional animators to enter the industry and the 2D Animation Academy will provide the skills to allow people to gain opportunities in local companies in this sector.

"This academy proves that Government, the private sector and our further education colleges can respond quickly to design a bespoke programme to fill the skills need of a sector.

"The Northern Ireland Screen Industry has ambitious plans to become the strongest in the UK and Ireland outside of London and a successful Animation Academy will help to achieve this goal."

Minister Bell added: "I am pleased to be here to launch the 2D Animation Academy along with



**TALENT HUNT:** Employment and Learning Minister Stephen Farry and Enterprise, Trade and Investment Minister Jonathan Bell launch the first 2D Animation Academy. At the launch at NI Screen in Belfast were (from left): Minister Farry, Richard Williams, chief executive, NI Screen, Tim Bryans, Sixteen South, and Minister Bell.

Minister Farry. The academy will help Northern Ireland to continue to take advantage of the global growth in the Animation sector.

"This industry relies on attracting creative young talent with the necessary skills to produce high quality animations for multimedia, film and TV.

Initiated by Invest NI, the 2D Animation Academy is critical to the future success of the sector here, giving participants the opportunity to learn the skills required by potential employers."

The academy has been designed by Northern Ireland's animation companies with support from the Department for Employment and Learning, Invest Northern Ireland and Belfast Metropolitan College, in conjunction with South West College, under the Assured Skills initiative.

Applications to the 2D Animation Academy will close next Friday (July 3) with the training programme for the successful applicants scheduled to start during August.





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Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 12

# Harnessing the power of our diaspora



Andrew Cowan, Chief Executive of Northern Irish Connections, tells agendaNi about the tangible progress being made to form strong links within our diaspora network and the long-term benefits this will have for our economy, businesses and organisations closer to home.

By 2020, our goal is for NI Connections to be the established diaspora network for 150,000 friends of Northern Ireland globally, helping them to connect with each other, exchange advice, pursue new opportunities and thrive.

Diaspora engagement is not new and we are not the first country to recognise the power of our diaspora. People have, for centuries, been connecting back and working to be at home abroad. In fact, there are now more than 450 diaspora initiatives happening around the globe.

But we live in a world that has never been more connected and that has brought new attention to how we engage with our diaspora. At the core, the

processes have remained the same – telling stories, listening to each other, and capturing the desire to help as much as possible.

There are 10 million first and second generation Northern Irish diaspora living away from our region, a number that increases to 20 million if we look to those with third generation connections.

Most are in the US, Canada, Britain and Australia, but they are also scattered far beyond those countries. You will find the Northern Irish diaspora in over 50 countries around the world including Hong Kong, Tanzania, the United Arab Emirates, Russia and Sri Lanka.

## Step change

2015 has already been an exciting year for our organisation. There has been a step change in our focus and passion for connecting with our diaspora and we have had the opportunity to see the appetite from friends of Northern Ireland around the globe to engage with us to benefit home.

We are now delivering tangible benefits in each of our four core areas of activity: Education, Investment, Innovation and Tourism. For example, this year NI Connections, collaborating closely with the Invest NI office in Dubai, secured three international students from the United Arab Emirates for Campbell College – an investment which will have an economic benefit of more than £1 million across seven years.

## Premier league

An introduction between professional sportswoman Angela Smith and Belfast Metropolitan College has resulted in a football camp for 30 students and premier league football links to Northern Ireland with Stoke Football Team. We have also connected David Campbell, President of IBM, to both of Northern Ireland's universities. David has since spoken at a summit for QUB Lost Alumni, an introduction to NI Connections' members.

We have introduced new investors, mentors and innovators to our universities, Invest NI and the Northern Ireland Science Park. We have laid the foundations for the Gourmand international food event to come to Northern Ireland which, if secured, would deliver approximately £3.45 million to the economy and we are in the process of helping to attract other conferences which have the potential to deliver a boost of more than £2 million to tourism.

NI Connections has also sponsored some high profile events around the world this year including the Co-operation Ireland Legal Dinner in London, the Golden Bridges event in Boston, and the launch of Canadian-owned gold company Dalradian on the London Stock





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# Academy delivers 20 graduate openings

BY CLAIRE CRAIG

A NEW training academy aims to provide 20 graduates with leadership and management skills.

The Deloitte Human Capital Academy will offer experience and training in the areas of project and programme management capabilities with human resource consulting, change management, organisational design and leadership expertise to manage and solve people issues.

Targeting graduates from any discipline, the academy will offer an intensive six week training programme with successful participants gaining relevant industry skills and a potential offer of employment with Deloitte.

Launching the training academy, the minister for Employment and Learning, Stephen Farry said: "The introduction of this new Human Capital Academy is further evidence that companies like Deloitte believe in the talent of our young people and that Northern Ireland is a good place to invest." The training will be delivered by Belfast Metropolitan College and applicants have until July 31 to apply for the programme starting on October 5.

Meanwhile, 20 new jobs are to be created when a US-based firm establishes a software engineering centre in Belfast.

Supported by Invest Northern

Ireland, NuoDB's centre will have 20 highly skilled and experienced software engineers developing database solutions designed to support "cloud-scale" applications and connected devices.

The software team will be recruited over a three year period with an average salary of £40,500.

Barry Morris, CEO and co-founder of NuoDB said: "During the Web Summit in November 2014, I accepted an invitation from Invest NI to visit Northern Ireland and explore the possibility of opening an office here. Invest NI's support played a major role in our decision to choose Belfast.

"In addition, I am familiar with the strong talent pool in Northern Ireland, the focus on skills development and the pro-business climate. We are looking forward to working with Invest NI."



**Wanted: Finance director,  
SEE PAGE 6**



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## Third Recruitment Academy delivers 29 jobs

The success of a global recruitment agency operating in Northern Ireland has been praised by the Employment and Learning minister after it secured employment for 29 graduates.

Dr Stephen Farry was speaking at the launch of a third recruitment academy – which aims to build on the achievement and equip a further 20 graduates with the necessary skills and experience to take up exciting opportunities being created by Alexander Mann Recruitment

Academy, in recruitment skills and candidate sourcing techniques.

Dr Farry said: "This third cohort will provide a further 20 participants with the skills required to take up exciting new opportunities with Alexander Mann Solutions, building on the success of the previous two academies, which saw 29 trainees secure employment with the company.

He added: "My department's Assured Skills initiative continues to be a great

example of a pro-active government intervention to meet the needs of investors, whilst enhancing the skills of unemployed graduates and providing job opportunities."

The recruitment campaign will target Higher National Diploma and degree graduates from any discipline.

It will offer an intensive six-week training programme leading to the opportunity to compete for a role with Alexander Mann Solutions and will be delivered jointly by the company and Belfast Met.

The company has industry expertise in a number of sectors, including: retail; investment banking; technology and media; defence, engineering; healthcare and life sciences.

Applications to the Academy can be submitted up until 4pm on Wednesday, July 1, and the training will commence on Monday, August 17, 2015. Further information can be found at: [www.nidirect.gov.uk/ams](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/ams) and applications can be submitted online at: [ams.mindmill.co.uk/MyMindMill/AMSLanding](http://ams.mindmill.co.uk/MyMindMill/AMSLanding)



Dr Farry (centre) with John Collington of Alexander Mann Solutions and Academy graduate Amy Reynolds pictured at a previous graduation





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## Grab EY data academy places

AROUND 20 people are to be offered a place at a data and analytics academy run with business advisers EY.

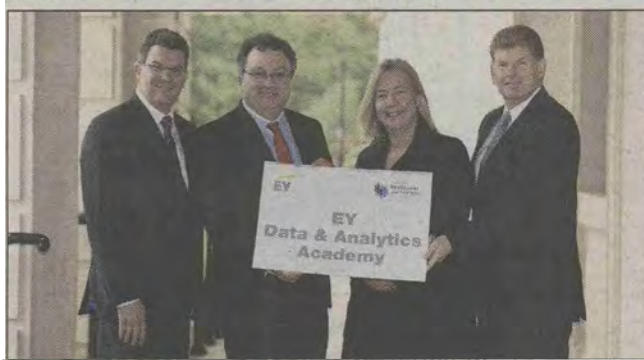
EY last year announced it would create nearly 500 jobs in Northern Ireland — some of which will require skills in data and analytics.

And applications are now open for the academy — starting in August — which will provide the skills and experience needed for jobs in data analytics.

Employment Minister Stephen Farry said: "The decision by EY to create these 486 jobs in its offices in Belfast shows the confidence the company has in the talent and skills that are available in Northern Ireland.

"My department's assured skills programme will ensure that EY has the necessary support for training initiatives to develop the skills required for these new roles."

The academy has been designed by the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL), EY and Belfast Metropol-



**Colm Devine, risk advisory partner of EY, with Minister Stephen Farry, Janice Edgar, chief operating officer of EY UK&I delivery centre and Mike McKerr, Ireland managing partner for EY.**

itan College ([Belfast Met](#)). Candidates will train for nine weeks in IT and data analytic skills — and then there is a potential offer of employment with EY.

EY Ireland managing partner Mike McKerr said: "The data and analytics academy will play a crucial role in building a new talent pool within the EY UK and Ireland delivery centre, which is vital to the successful delivery of

services to our clients here in the UK, Ireland and beyond."

Applications to the academy will close on July 17 at 10am and the training programme for successful applicants will start on August 17. For more information, go to [www.nidirect.gov.uk/ey-data-and-analytics-academy](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/ey-data-and-analytics-academy).

Applications can be submitted online at: <http://ey.mindmill.co.uk>.



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## Over 500 jobs snapped up at East Belfast fair



Alliance MLAs Chris Lyttle and Judith Cochrane with Michelle Hatfield from George Best Belfast City Airport and Deirdre Timoney of Business in the Community

Hundreds of people descended on the first jobs fair in 10 years in East Belfast recently.

Over 500 jobs were on offer at the event, organised by Business in the Community in partnership with George Best Belfast City Airport.

The Jobs Fair – the first one held in 10 years – was bespoke to East Belfast and was attended by over 300 people of all ages from the area.

Deirdre Timoney from Business in the Community's Citywide Employers' Forum said: "From the second the doors opened at 12 noon, we were inundated with a mass of people.

"Some knew exactly which sector and which companies they wanted to talk to and made a beeline for them.

"For others, they methodically visited employer after employer to find out about all of the vacancies on offer. The

Jobs Fair was a major success for both the employers and those looking for work. East Belfast certainly was buzzing with excitement and anticipation."

The event enabled employers to provide guidance and support and the opportunity to potentially meet a future employee.

Those attending were able to take away information on how they can get a job and the best way to apply it in a particular company that interested them.

In some cases immediate interviews were carried out on site.

Employers attending included: George Best Belfast City Airport, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Belfast Metropolitan College, BT, Citi, Firstsource, Four Seasons Health Care, PWC and many more.





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Ref: Belfast Metropolitan College 12

# Innovators hailed for projects at awards

BY CLAIRE CRAIG

FURTHER Education's top innovators have been rewarded at the Business & Education Through Skills & Training (BEST) Awards.

A range of prizes and awards were presented for the most promising and exciting new projects linked to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) emerging from Northern Ireland's six regional FE colleges.

Organised by Colleges NI, an expert team of industry and innovation specialists chose 13 category winners and four grand award winners at the event, while eight outstanding students were selected to take part in the STEM-focused Frontiers Programme in Massachusetts, USA this summer.

Curtis Adams from Belfast Metropolitan College, took top spot in the 16-18 age category for coming up with the design of a green traffic light for cyclists. Andrew Neill, Daniel Killop, Curtis Wilson and Michael Speirs from Northern Regional College took the runner up spot with a project that a comic book app that incorporates augmented reality. In the 19+ Age Category John Ward from South Eastern Regional College took first place for his development of a wireless

self-levelling jockey wheel. Malise Lowe and Emma Green from North West Regional College were runners up with for their idea for a 100% organic, yet heat and light sensitive nail polish.

Gerry Campbell, chief executive of Colleges NI said: "Our congratulations go to each of the winners and all the finalists who were shortlisted for the BEST Awards. The calibre of submissions this year points towards a very bright future for young and mature innovators in the FE sector.

"They demonstrate a huge range of skills and talent so we know that entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation are thriving in Northern Ireland," the chief executive added.



**Wanted: Graphic designer, SEE PAGE 6**





# The Importance of Innovation

## Technology partner at Deloitte in Northern Ireland, Dr Danny McConnell, discusses the importance of innovation to local businesses

Learning and innovation go hand in hand. The arrogance of success is to think that what you did yesterday will be sufficient for tomorrow". In today's rapidly changing business environment William Pollard's quote is particularly relevant. Organisations are looking to reinvent themselves to gain competitive advantage

either by harnessing the power of data analytics or by embracing the digital age and establishing or growing their digital presence.

The key to transforming an organisation is innovation, but what are the main questions that companies seek to answer when they look to transform their business through innovation?

### ■ How do I innovate?

This is the most difficult question to answer as most likely your organisation has been very successful in your chosen market for a number of years, yet you are being advised that you need to change the way that you operate, or you will see an erosion in your market position.

Getting started on the innovation journey is a challenge as there will be many views and ideas on how to set off, particularly for organisations looking to understand how they can maximise their data assets or embark on the digital journey.

The recently launched Deloitte Greenhouse aims to provide organisations across Northern Ireland with an environment which will stimulate creativity and innovation from exploring data assets

to understanding how to embark on the digital journey.

### ■ How will the market perceive innovation?

Understanding the potential impact of innovation on your customers is critical – to quote Bill Gates, "software innovation, like every other kind of innovation, requires the ability to collaborate and share ideas with other people, and to sit down and talk with customers and get their feedback and understand their needs".

The impact of innovation in the market place should not be underestimated.

As an example, let's look at the establishment of Deloitte Digital. As a leading provider of professional services we understood the growing demand from our clients for digital services, however, to gain acceptance in the market place it was necessary to differentiate these services from the traditional Deloitte services of audit, corporate finance and tax and the associated branding.

Deloitte Digital was therefore created with 15 Digital Studios established globally, one of which is based in Belfast, to provide our clients with creative and digital

engineering services to help them address the challenges of the digital age.

### ■ Do I have the right people to drive innovation?

Securing the right talent to drive innovation is critical and becoming more challenging in Northern Ireland with the increasing competition for talent, particularly within the technology sector.

Given the war for talent, organisations across Northern Ireland need to develop innovative talent strategies to initially capture talent and to provide them with a challenging environment in which they can flourish, develop and innovate.

From a Deloitte perspective, the development of the Analytics Training Academy in conjunction with the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) and Belfast Metropolitan College (BMC) and the recent launch of the BrightStart Programme have been hugely beneficial in providing talent with the necessary creativity and drive to help fuel our innovation journey.

In summary, the importance of innovation to the Northern Ireland economy in general is best summed up by borrowing a quote from Jim Hunt, the former Governor for North Carolina, who said:

"A creative mindset is in increasingly high demand: employers are vying for workers who are able to dream big and deliver big with the next must-have product. Creative thinking fuels innovation, it leads to new goods and services, creates jobs and delivers substantial economic rewards".

Dr Danny McConnell is speaking at EnterConf. He can be contacted at [dconnell@deloitte.co.uk](mailto:dconnell@deloitte.co.uk)





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Employment and Learning Minister Dr Stephen Farry pictured with Clare Watson (Cloud Graduate now with CVS Caremark) Simon Cole from Automated Intelligence and Daniel Russell winner of the Top Student Award and working for Relay Software Ltd

BY **Dr Stephen FARRY MLA**  
Minister for Employment and Learning,  
Northern Ireland Assembly

# Success Through Skills

Technology is the driving force of a globally competitive economy across all types of business, underpinning innovation, competitiveness and long term prosperity.

My department has a key role to play in supporting this by delivering the objectives of the Northern Ireland Economic Strategy, which aims to rebalance the economy by stimulating innovation, research and development; improving workforce skills and employability and encouraging business growth.

Through my department's Skills Strategy for Northern Ireland, 'Success through Skills - Transforming Futures', I have set out the overarching vision for the development of skills in Northern Ireland. It advocates the need for higher level skills and in particular, skills in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

Individuals who have STEM qualifications are in demand and are in a stronger position in today's competitive job market.

As Minister responsible for skills, I have identified a number of economically important sectors with skills gaps and these are priority areas as we move forward.



Sectors include ICT as well as financial services and manufacturing.

ICT is one of the sectors which my department is focussed on to ensure that Northern Ireland takes its proper place in the global economy. I am determined to ensure that the sector is supported to continue to provide real opportunities in innovative and technology driven businesses.

As our forecasts continue to reveal a growing requirement for higher level skills, particularly under a lower corporation tax environment, our policies continue to focus more strategically on the types of qualifications employers in Northern





Employment and Learning Minister, Dr Stephen Farry launched the third cohort of the ICT Apprenticeship Scheme with participating companies (ltr) Lee Rees, Resourcing Specialist, Allen&Overy, William Hamilton, Managing Director, Liberty IT and Brenda Campbell, Senior Project Manager, Liberty IT. Picture by Kelvin Boyes / Press Eye



Jonathan Heggarty, Belfast Met, Clarke Hamilton, Graduate, Chris McConkey, DEL and Xandra Garcia-Ortiz, Graduate.



Minister Dr Stephen Farry and Queen's Vice-Chancellor Professor Patrick Johnston.

Ireland actually require.

My department has been working closely with the local ICT industry to develop apprenticeships as an alternative pathway to recruit and train skilled individuals. Apprenticeships deliver a range of benefits to participants by supporting a variety of learning preferences through both on-the-job and off-the-job training, and affording opportunities for well-paid jobs and sustainable employment.

'Securing our Success', the Northern Ireland Strategy on Apprenticeships, is creating a new apprenticeship system. The new employer led model will extend apprenticeships into a wider range of occupational areas. Apprenticeships will be offered from skills level 3 to 8 and provide

a pathway to higher level qualifications including at degree level and above.

The successful academy training model is delivered as part of my department's innovative Assured Skills Programme and trains students with the bespoke set of skills required by the companies involved. It has delivered to date Academies in priority areas such as software testing, cloud computing, data analytics, internet security and financial services. Our six further education colleges, who have also established excellent partnerships with the technology industry, have been an integral part of the Academy model.

Our local higher education providers also have an increasingly crucial and integral role to play in meeting our current and

future skills needs. Since I took office in 2011, my department has supported an additional 1,419 undergraduate places in STEM subject areas. At postgraduate level, I have funded an additional 234 new PhDs in areas of economic relevance, increasing the number of Postgraduate Awards to 729. In addition, both of our universities have achieved a rise of over 90% in applications to IT-related degrees.

The ICT Action Plan, which I launched in 2012, brings together a range of actions which have been identified by employers as being central to addressing the skills needs of this sector.

I have worked closely with other government departments, employers and our local further education colleges and

universities, through the ICT Working Group, to develop and implement an ICT Skills Action Plan which is central to address the skills needs of the ICT sector.

The plan has already produced a number of positive results since its launch in summer 2012. We have developed a Public/Private ICT Apprenticeship Scheme and our local universities are now offering postgraduate MScs in Software, aimed at non-IT graduates. The introduction of a new Software and Systems Development A Level will also help to increase the level of skills and attract more young people into the industry.

Other actions set out in the action plan are initiatives to increase the number of young people choosing to study subjects and courses that are relevant to a career within the sector, a 'Bring IT On' campaign to highlight the range of attractive career opportunities available in the industry and interventions to promote alternative methods of recruitment into the ICT sector, such as the Assured Skills Programme.

As we continue to attract high quality investors to Northern Ireland, a thriving ICT sector is crucial in the growth of a globally competitive economy.

The technology sector is one of the most rapidly growing sectors in Northern Ireland and with many high quality companies looking to invest here; much will depend on our ability to deliver a highly-skilled, fit-for-purpose ICT workforce.

Employer engagement continues to be a key focus for my department in the implementation of the Skills Strategy and local employers will have a vital role in supporting that work by ensuring that young people have ongoing exposure to the world of work through meaningful work experiences and mentoring programmes.

Through the range of initiatives and programmes, my department aims to ensure that organisations have access to a suitable skills pool of potential employees. This is only possible through collaborative working and continuing to meet the current and future demands of our local economy.





## TRAINEE CHEFS LEARN THE VALUE OF ARTISAN FOODS

Artisan food and drink enterprises in Northern Ireland will benefit from a bridge-building initiative by the region's biggest culinary and hospitality institute.

Trainee chefs and catering students at Belfast Metropolitan College, based in the city's Titanic Quarter, are learning how best to use food from Northern Ireland's burgeoning artisan sector in their dishes and menus.

Students and staff are visiting local artisan producers to help integrate their training and local products in meals prepared in their training programmes for the college's upmarket Linen Lounge restaurant.

The first artisan enterprise to be visited by students and staff was Brighter Gold Rapeseed Oil, an award-winning business based on a family farm near Limavady.

The staff and students saw the fields of oil seed rape growing on the farm and were then shown how to cold-press the seeds to create the unique oils used by top chefs and home

cooks throughout Ireland and also in Paris, where the products are now sold by La Grande Epicerie, France's first ever department store.

Leona Kane, who founded Brighter Gold Rapeseed oil with husband, Richard in 2011 in what has turned out to be a highly successful farm diversification project, welcomed the opportunity to host the first visit by the trainees that included a tour of the cold-pressing and bottling plant.

"It gave me a tremendous opportunity to highlight the many benefits of cooking with rapeseed oil over other culinary oils," she remarked. "It's low in saturated fat and contains omegas 3, 6 and 9. It's also a healthy option for fried dishes."

"I was delighted to support the college's initiative because it strengthens the knowledge of trainees on locally-sourced products now available across Northern Ireland, products which combine quality, taste and, of course, provenance. It's good for



Leona Kane of Brighter Gold addresses students from Belfast Metropolitan College during their recent visit.

the trainees seeking to create high quality and tasty local dishes from the superb produce now available throughout the province."

Most of the students were enrolled in the successful City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma in Professional Food and Beverage Service (QCF), a course which

provides a flow of young chefs and other staff to the food industry here.



Source: Belfast Telegraph - AM

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# Apprenticeships at colleges could create 100 new accountants

NORTHERN Ireland Further Education colleges are providing 100 accountancy apprenticeships to meet the growing demand for new blood in the profession.

The scheme has been developed by Accounting Technicians Ireland and the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL).

The Higher Level Apprenticeship will be available at all six of the province's FE colleges — Belfast Metropolitan College, Northern Regional College, North West Regional College, Southern Regional College, South Eastern Regional College, South West College.

The two-year programme, which starts in September, will allow the students to gain a

BY JAMIE STINSON

professional qualification — the Diploma for Accounting Technicians (MIATI) from Accounting Technicians Ireland — and work-based experience.

The course will include four days working in an office and one day training at the college.

Employers taking on apprentices include BDO, Deloitte, and Goldblatt McGuigan.

The apprenticeship is part of a growing trend of accountancy firms looking to school leavers to meet an increase in business.

Last week, Grant Thornton announced it will create 71

jobs at its two Belfast offices before the end of the year — some of which will be jobs for school-leavers.

Louise Gorman, president at Accounting Technicians Ireland, said: "We are delighted to partner with the Department for Employment and Learning on this important new apprenticeship scheme, which

has the potential to create up to 100 jobs annually within the accountancy sector."

There has been a sharp rise in the number of firms looking for accountant technicians, Ms Gorman added.







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**Big companies such as BDO, Deloitte and Goldblatt McGuigan are all keen to take on apprentices**

"We're seeing an unprecedented demand for accounting technicians from companies throughout Ireland, with a 45% increase in demand this year, so the prospects for these students are extremely positive. Employers are increasingly aware of the important role that accounting technicians can play in managing key finance functions," she said.

DEL Minister Stephen Farry (left) said employers will play an important part in the apprentices' curriculum.

"I am greatly encouraged by

the interest shown by other employers and I look forward to the Higher Level Apprenticeship in Accountancy rolling out across Northern Ireland, with all FE Colleges involved from September 2015," Mr Farry said.

"As highlighted in our apprenticeship strategy, employers will be central to the success of our new apprenticeship system having a key role, through sector partnerships, in agreeing the curriculum and content of apprenticeships and ensuring they continue to be relevant to

the needs of their sector.

"Given the support of Accounting Technicians Ireland and key employers in the sector, I am pleased to announce our intention to establish an accountancy sector partnership which will help to promote and refine the current Higher Level Apprenticeship.

"This will also develop further apprenticeship opportunities which would offer a progression route to even higher level qualifications for those working in the sector."



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# Met students' Fashion Show

## GOES DOWN A STORM AT STORMONT

**O**ver 50 fashion students from Belfast Metropolitan College showcased their designs at the annual end of year Fashion Show, which took place in the Great Hall of Parliament Buildings at Stormont.

The show was supported by the Committee for Employment and Learning for the third year running. The event, which welcomed 200 guests, was the finale of Belfast Met's annual Creative Week which showcased the talents of students across the creative services areas including fashion, hospitality, art and design, performing arts, and supported learning.

Including original ideas, assignment work, and pieces created for competition entries, over 100 student-designed creations hit the runway. It was a real student-led affair with them not only conceiving and designing the impressive creations, but also modelling, often in their own designs, and providing entertainment throughout the evening. Students and staff from Belfast Met's Hair and Beauty department created the eye-catching looks for the show.

The designs, which included evening gowns, cocktail dresses, industrial skirts, men's heritage, modern tweed, and theatrical costumes were created by fashion students at all curriculum levels in Belfast Met including the BSc (Hons) Fashion Management, BTEC Level 2 and 3 Diploma's in Fashion and Clothing, part-time BTEC Certificate in

Fashion, Fine Art and Design, and City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate in Theatre Costume Fashion.

Cathryn Bartolovic, a first year degree student from Ballycastle was singled out by Ken Nolan from Baird McNutt, a fabric and linen supplier based in Ballymena as a student to watch due to her choice of fabric and her use of trimmings. The fashion staff have high hopes for Cathryn and are looking forward to seeing more of her work in the remaining two years of her degree.

Cathryn's two daughters Iva and Ana (pictured below) opened the show with an impressive Irish dancing performance, wearing costumes made by their mum.

Kevin Lavery, head of the School for Creative and Service Industries at Belfast Met, said:

"The dedication and passion that our learners put into their original ideas is inspiring and it is fantastic to see this brought to life in the end of year Fashion Show. We congratulate and commend each stu-

dent who was involved in this outstanding event because it is clear to see they will have a great impact on the future success of the creative economy in Northern Ireland."

"We would like to thank the Assembly Committee for Employment and Learning for again providing such a beautiful and fitting setting to showcase the

stunning designs. Belfast Met has always maintained links to the fashion world in order to keep up with the latest trends, teach new methods of design, and ensure our learners gain relevant work experience. We appreciate the continual support of our partners organisations who have played a huge part in our students' tremendous achievements."







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## NI hosts global tech training conference

Employment and Learning Minister Stephen Farry has given the keynote address at an international conference aimed at promoting learning and innovation across borders and the value and importance of a global perspective.

The Trans-Atlantic Technology and Training Alliance is a consortium of leading community and technical colleges in the US and Europe and addressing its annual conference at Belfast Met's g3 campus, Dr Farry said their presence was welcome and significant.

"Whilst here, our visitors will also have the opportunity to see the outstanding facilities that our colleges can offer to potential students and learn how they are working with employers to develop world class skills."

The three day conference theme is 'Preparing the Future Global Workforce - Bringing Employers and Educators Closer Together' and provides an opportunity to showcase the work and employer collaboration of the further education sector in Northern Ireland to an international audience.

"The single most important objective for all aspects of this work is to ensure that identifying, and then meeting, the skills needs of employers and the wider local economy are at the centre of our programme of reform," said Dr Farry.

"We have now embarked on the implementation of a new apprenticeship system in Northern Ireland which will be effective from September of next year.



**Source:** Mid-Ulster Mail - South Derry Edition



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## Magherafelt students to take up roles within leading company

Christopher Dawson and Sean Mooney, from Magherafelt, have graduated from the WhiteHat Security IT Academy at a graduation ceremony held in Belfast Metropolitan College's (Belfast Met) E3 Campus.

The IT Academy provided graduates with the skills and experience required to take up a role with this leading internet security company. The graduates will now be interviewed for a position within the company.

Speaking before the event, Employment and Learning Minister Dr Stephen Farry said: "It is with great pleasure that I congratulate the first set of graduates to complete this Academy. Since I first met with WhiteHat Security last



Christopher Dawson receives his certificate from (left) Jonathan Hegarty, Belfast Met and (right) Chris McConkey, Department for Employment and Learning Assured Skills Senior Client Executive

October in San Francisco to discuss our skills offer, to the announcement that they were bringing 80 jobs to Belfast in December, we now have our first cohort of graduates with the exact skills required by the company.

"Through my Department's Assured Skills Programme the Academy model has continued to deliver graduate jobs over the past four years for local companies and those wishing to invest here such as WhiteHat Security. It provides





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## Ten jobs to be created at Magilligan Prison

TEN new jobs are to be created at Magilligan Prison as part of a programme to provide greater learning and skills in Northern Ireland's three prisons.

Almost £3m will be divided between Belfast Metropolitan College and the North West Regional College who will provide the services in Maghaberry, Hydebank College and Magilligan.

In all, 33 new jobs will be created thanks to a collaboration between Justice Minister David Ford and the Employment and Learning Minister Stephen Farry. The full and part-time jobs include instructors and assessors, management and administration staff.

A wide range of subjects including numeracy and literacy, IT, arts and crafts, bricklaying, joinery, painting and decorating as well as horticulture, hospitality and catering, and food safety will be included in the curriculum for each facility.

The Justice Minister described the partnership as a core part of the work

to reform Northern Ireland's prisons.

"This will deliver a comprehensive education and vocational curriculum which will focus on prisoner's individual needs," said Mr Ford.

His Alliance party colleague, Dr Farry, said the partnership with the Further Education Colleges was a positive one.

"The partnership will ensure that prisoners are able to access a range of high quality accredited training opportunities that will equip them with the skills they need to enhance their employment prospects upon release, and in turn make a positive contribution to both the economy and wider society," he said.

Leo Murphy, Principal and Chief Executive, North West Regional College added that widening access to lifelong learning was a 'key curriculum strategy' at the college.

"We look forward to delivering these new education and training opportunities to the trainees at Magilligan in the hope that we can improve their employability potential in the future," he said.



## Strabane student graduates from renowned recruitment academy

STRABANE man, Adam Vaughan, has graduated from the Alexander Mann Solutions Recruitment Academy in Belfast.

The Academy recently provided graduates with the skills and experience required to take up new opportunities being offered by Alexander Mann Solutions.

Twenty-one trainees who have completed the Academy will now be interviewed for available jobs within the company.

Employment and Learning Minister, Dr Stephen Farry, said: "I am pleased to celebrate the completion of the second Alexander Mann Solutions Recruitment Academy.

"The Academy model continues to deliver graduate jobs and is a tried and tested process. It provides the employer with an opportunity to be involved in developing the programme and also allows graduates to refine their skills to meet the needs of the employer.

"I know that Alexander Mann Solutions have been impressed by the pool of talent they have found in Northern Ireland and the high calibre of the graduates on the Academy.

"Following the success of this intake, plans are being initiated for another Academy later in the year and with more graduates securing employment, this continues to benefit our local economy."

The Academy was been designed by the Department for Employment and Learning, Alexander Mann Solutions and Belfast Metropolitan College (Belfast Met) under the *Assured Skills* initiative. Targeting graduates from any discipline, the Academy provided them with an intensive six-week training programme covering a range of training in the recruitment sector.

John Collington, chief operating officer at Alexander Mann Solutions, extended his congratulations to the local man and the other graduates.

He said: "I am thrilled to congratulate the Alexander Mann Solutions Recruitment Academy graduates on successfully completing the programme.

"I am proud that we've had the chance to engage such a passionate group of graduates, and to support the development of

business skills, and talent acquisition and management capabilities.

"By helping us develop and nurture enthusiastic, talented individuals, programmes like the Alexander Mann Solutions Recruitment Academy help us to deliver on our promises and delight our blue-chip clients - today and into the future.

"The Alexander Mann Solutions Recruitment Academy provides its participants a strong and positive start to their careers, offering them the opportunity to work for a truly innovative, global organisation.

"Our partnerships with the Department for Employment and Learning and the Belfast Metropolitan College help us to do this, and we're excited for this continued journey as we engage further emerging talent."

Belfast Met's head of business development, Siobhan Lyons, said it was delighted to work with the Department for Employment and Learning and Alexander Mann Solutions on the delivery of the second cohort of this Academy programme."



Adam Vaughan, from Strabane, who recently graduated from Alexander Mann Solutions Recruitment Academy, is pictured receiving his certificate from Employment Minister, Dr Stephen Farry, and Tracy Hurst, head of Global Client Service Centre (Belfast), Alexander Mann Solutions. SU2303CM





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# Minister's top marks for student

**A COLERAINE student has been congratulated by Employment and Learning Minister Dr Stephen Farry.**

The Minister presented a certificate of achievement to Adam Leighton who recently participated in the Deloitte Data Analytics Academy.

The Academy model is part of the Department for Employment and Learning's (DEL) Assured Skills programme. Assured Skills provides tailored training to help employers find staff with the skills they need or support to develop the necessary expertise within their existing team.

Presenting certificates of completion to the graduates at Belfast Metropolitan's  campus Minister Farry said: "This Academy proves that Government and our further education colleges can respond quickly to design a bespoke programme to fill a skills gap, such as that identified by Deloitte. The Academy model has been successful and has been offered in a number of areas, including Software Testing, Sales and Marketing and Cloud Technologies."

"We have a vast wealth of skills and qualifications amongst those who are currently out of work, and the Academy model is an extremely effective way of harnessing those skills, and is vital in encouraging economic growth."

The ceremony was attended by Academy trainees, along with representatives from Deloitte and Belfast Metropolitan College.

Dr Danny McConnell, Technology Partner at Deloitte said:

"We are hugely proud to welcome our latest academy graduates from the Deloitte Data Analytics Academy."

"This is a terrific position for every one of them to be in, with great opportunities to gain and many new skills to learn. The future of the Northern Ireland economy is vested in our young people and Deloitte is pleased to play its part alongside Belfast Metropolitan College and the Department for

Employment and Learning."

The Assured Skills programme is a joint programme between the Department for Employment and Learning for Northern Ireland and Invest Northern Ireland. The programme is designed to guarantee existing companies wishing to expand and potential new inward investors looking to locate their business in Northern Ireland that their skills needs can be provided for here.



**Adam Leighton from Coleraine receiving his certificate from Employment and Learning Minister Dr Stephen Farry after graduating from the Deloitte Data Analytics Academy. CC20-76s**