



ENTERPRISING
FURTHER
EDUCATION

Further Education Enterprise Case studies In Yorkshire and Humberside

This collection of case studies is from FE Colleges participating in the Embedding Enterprise in Further Education Project. These case studies highlight both the variance in enterprise activity across the region, the diversity in interpretation and the potential to offer ideas as good practice from partnership working.

The FE network in Yorkshire and Humberside, currently has 21 members – listed below:

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|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Leeds City College | ShIPLEY College |
| North LindSEY College | KIRKLEES College |
| Craven College | Leeds College of Art |
| The Sheffield College | Doncaster College |
| Selby College | Rotherham College of Arts & Tech |
| Askham-Bryan College | |
| Barnsley College | East Riding College |
| Bishop Burton College | Harrogate College |
| Hull College | Wakefield College |
| Henshaws College | Grimsby Institute |
| Calderdale College | York College |

Askham Bryan College

Enterprise Champions: Tim Englefield, Ian Snowden

Growing Enterprises

Two enterprises at the Askham Bryan College Horticulture Unit are helping students to develop their skills and get hands on experience which will help them to establish and run their own businesses.

The WorldSkills Landscape Academy
Askham Bryan College is home to the UK WorldSkills Landscape Academy and Harry Turner, landscape manager and horticulture lecturer, is the UK Team Training Manager. The competition includes regional heats and national finals before selection of two students to represent the UK at world level.



Luke Denby (front) with (from the left) Simon Ginger, Grant Finch and Will Gadd in training at the WorldSkills Landscape Academy at Askham Bryan College

As Harry explains: “ During their training each competitor’s skill level is assessed for strengths and weaknesses and an individual training plan is drawn up. Each competitor then competes in a one day individual event in which they have seven hours to achieve the required standard, according to the WorldSkills marking scheme. It’s great preparation for the kinds of situation they will need to be able to handle when they are running their own businesses. The tasks involved are paving an area 1.5 metres square, building a specified structure, planting and turfing. They also have to consider health and safety procedures, working processes and technical accuracy. We have been sponsored by some of the biggest names in landscaping including Marshalls Landscape Products, our main sponsor and companies such Makita UK Ltd, Thompson Builders, Elcocks Power Tools Ltd and Brathay Hall Trust.

Harry Turner, Askham Bryan College lecturer and UK Team Coach, is interviewed by Dougie Weake of BBC Radio York during team training.



Harry Turner, Askham Bryan College lecturer and UK Team Coach, is interviewed by Dougie Weake of BBC Radio York during team training.

Keith Chapman, one of the members of the UK team who won Medals of Excellence at WorldSkills 2007 in Shizuoka, Japan, is testimony to the benefits of being part of the squad. He has gone on to found his own successful business, using the skills, confidence and experience he gained during the competition.



Meanwhile, just across the campus, the College has opened its own floristry shop, ‘The Green House’ giving students the chance to develop their skills in a real life working environment. Customers can purchase plants, bouquets and a wide range of floristry sundries. Orders can be placed for weddings, funerals, celebrations and special occasions and are deigned and made by a trained team of specialists: Askham Bryan College won the Best College in Show Award for their floristry displays at Harrogate Spring Flower Show and senior lecturer Catherine Pepper is part of the WorldSkills training team for floristry.



Inside their greenhouse

Calderdale College

Enterprise Champions: Carol South, Judy Edwards, Furkan Uddin

A group of Level 3 Business students took part in the Challenge 500 programme which is led by The Princes Trust. In doing this challenge the students slightly diversified and raised money for current causes and appeals namely the Haiti Earthquake Appeal.

Many skills were realised during this project which aimed to engage with students and allow them to use their entrepreneurial flair in setting up mini projects to achieve their target, this also allowed team building, time management and research and communication skills to be expanded.

As a result of the initial challenge – an idea to produce a college DVD has been snapped up by the Marketing Department. Cherrelle and Danica, the stars and producers of the DVD – have impressed the Principal and Senior Management with their product, that it will be showcased and used as a recruitment tool on the College website and sent out to potential students and their families.

The following is a list of activities and the students who led them.

Well done to all involved!

- **Raffle Roulette**
Zain Mahmood and Maria Iqbal raised £26.00
- **Fruity Tooty** (Fruit Kebabs)
Sibtain Hussain and Usman Arshad raised £ 34.60
- **Nintendo Wii Fest**
Faye Mcnamara and Hannah Greenway and Chole Brittain raised £33.00
- **Haiti Earthquake Appeal**
Abbas Ali and Chole Brittain – Raised £150.27
(The money was donated to The British Red Cross)
- **College Video Tour**
Cherrelle Nugent and Danica Simpson raised £150

Craven College

Enterprise Champions: Alison Stone, Susan Hargreaves

Home Enterprise Day 2009

On Friday 20 November 2009, Susan Hargreaves from Craven College, in partnership with Sophie Wild from WorcNet and Debi Hawkins from Business Link Yorkshire ran an inspiring home working event at Herriots Hotel in Skipton. Friday 20 November was Home Enterprise Day, the last day of Global Entrepreneurship Week 2009, when organisations in over 80 countries ran thousands of events to inspire people to embrace innovation, imagination and creativity.

Local and national award winning speakers shared their home enterprise journey and there were practical workshops on subjects including how to start a business from home, registering your business and marketing tips.



One of the highlights was a keynote speech from Libby Nightingale, a successful entrepreneur from the North West, who started a business, “Chromasia” as a photoblog with her husband four years ago. Standing at the front cradling her eighth child – two week old baby Teagan – she amazed and inspired the audience with the story of how a blog set up to keep family and friends up to date has led to commissions that take them all over the world and awards such as Winner of the Northwest Women In Business Award 2009 and Most Popular Photoblog 2008 in the Photobloggies 2008 Awards!

The event was attended by over 40 people, comprising a mix of college students, WorcNet members and other individuals interested in starting or developing a home business. It was supported by organisations including PRIME, the organisation that supports people aged over 50 who want to be self employed and HMRC who can help with everything from tax to record keeping. One of over 400 events taking place in the region during Global Entrepreneurship Week, our event was supported by Enterprise UK, formerly Make your Mark as their key ‘high impact’ event in the region on Home Enterprise Day.

Feedback was excellent with comments such as ‘The event has given me a focus and some practical information on how best to move forward’, ‘I feel more encouraged about starting up’ and my favourite part of the event was ‘seeing Libby and her amazing hobby that blossomed into a business’.

Beyond Expectation

11 December saw a packed Mart Theatre full of 250 schools and college students ready to meet ‘The Alchemist’! Beyond expectation was an event hosted with Craven College by Terry Hodgkinson, Chair of Yorkshire Forward, as the Alchemist and friends. The event was based on a book written by Terry which told the story of people, places and events in his life which helped him to develop, grow and achieve. The event provided inspiration and laughter with the very clear message to ‘dare to dream- you can succeed’. Amongst the speakers was one of the characters in the book, playwright John Godber, who gave an account of events in his life which had shaped his future, the opportunities which come your way and the challenges you may face. All visitors were asked at the end of the event to tell us how the event had inspired them.

Winners of the competition are:

First Prize

‘It has inspired me to realise that sometimes your education and upbringing aren’t major contributory factors in deciding what you do in your life and whether you can achieve your dreams can transcend all boundaries and shouldn’t be discouraged.’ Billy Pinder, Ermysteds Grammar School’.

Second Prize

‘Unbelievably I have never had such inspirational people in one room. I now realise that my ambition to become a professional cricketer is really close. Thank you so much.’ Henry Barrow, Ermysteds Grammar School.

Third Prize

‘Opportunities come from setbacks and I should take the opportunities offered. I should believe in myself and follow my dreams’. Keri Bethell, BTEC Diploma in Sports, Craven College.

Beyond Expectation can be ordered via www.beyondexpectation.org.uk

The whole event was filmed and the DVD will be out next year.

Hull College

Enterprise Champions: Lesley Hawkins, Lynne Richardson

Hull College Learner Success at Clothes Show!

Hull College learner Hannah Tillison was announced the runner-up at the prestigious Clothes Show in ‘The Young Designer of the Year Award’. The show, held at the NEC in Birmingham, is an annual event that celebrates the fashion world as well as recognise up-and-coming talent.



Hannah and her cousin Sophie Marrow, both students in their second year of a Foundation Degree in Fashion, reached the final ten of the competition which received entries from all over the country! The talented girls were given a brief to design an ‘on-trend party dress’ and relished the task, designing complex outfits which they presented at the show on Monday 9th December. On the day they were expected to fulfil the role of a professional designer – dressing their model and carrying out any last minute alterations. Sophie commented, ‘It was really stressful backstage, we needed to work quickly. It was brilliant to see the real designers in action and it has just made me want to succeed in the industry more! ‘Hannah’s winning design was a purple satin, fitted dress, complete with beading and was highly praised by the judges. She found the day a great experience, ‘I was so nervous but all in all, it was a brilliant experience for me. It will add a huge amount to my CV – it is brilliant for Sophie and I to be recognised as some of the best in the country! Our Grandma is really excited and proud of us!’ Tutor Lynn Benson commented, ‘This competition is aimed at fashion students and is a fantastic chance for young and emerging talent to showcase their designs live on stage at the show. We are so proud of both Hannah and Sophie in getting this far, they are a credit to the College and their designs were among the best in this national competition’. Following the show both Sophie and Hannah were interviewed about their experience on BBC Radio Humberside.

Hull College Students Finalists in Bridal Buyer Magazine!

Bridal Buyer Magazine host a prestigious Awards Evening for the bridal industry each year in which they run an exciting and challenging student competition to find talented designers of the future.

This year’s theme was set to push the boundaries of design using the brief of ‘Marie Antoinette meets Rock chick’. Designs where submitted from Colleges and Universities from around the country and narrowed down to 15 finalists who are selected on the strength of their designs. This year the BTEC national diploma in Fashion & Clothing have five students in the final: Samantha Mason Year 1, John Taylor, Daisy Slater, Hannah Coates and Lucy Basset Year 2. The five wedding dresses will be displayed at the International Bridal Trade Show and Awards evening in Harrogate in March 2010 where the winner will be announced. The Students will also be taking part in an ‘Apprentice-style’ series to be aired on the wedding TV channel which will result in a season-long series covering the search for the best student designer 2010. The students will perform tasks set by the editor of Bridal Magazine, Susi Rogal, and international Bridal Designer, Ian Stuart. After each task the students will face elimination until the Student Designer 2010 is decided which will also be announced at the Award Ceremony.

Leeds City College

Enterprise Champions: Ian Bond, Debbie Kitchingman, Ian Norris

Global Entrepreneurship Week: Technology Campus

Before: Enterprise awareness had been raised prior to the week via student tutorials. All student tutors received training and access to resources to deliver an enterprise tutorial for all full time learners– compliance was high, with only a few second year groups needing to focus on UCAS applications instead. A rolling presentation, which is updated throughout the week, begins on the TV in reception.

Monday 16th: The Make Your Mark Challenge – 15 groups totalling over 100 full time learners take part in the Challenge, with groups from Engineering relocating themselves at Cookridge Street for the day. Kristina Grimes (runner-up on The Apprentice in 2007) worked with groups throughout the day, spoke at a lunch for learners and helped judge the contest, which was won by a group that designed environmentally friendly ‘macs’ that would carry local advertising. The winning team, from Software Development, have now been entered into the national challenge.





Wednesday 18th: Women into Enterprise – over 40 female learners attend an inspirational Enterprise lunch, with local keynote speakers Jo Darling (from the SNT Group) and Lis Wilson from HR Connections.

Thursday 19th: Social Enterprise – Judging takes place for the anti-bullying competition. The competition, promoted again through student tutors, required learners not only to come up with anti-bullying messages and images but also to identify and cost the media (T shirt, pens etc) that would be used to spread the message, and so combined national ‘anti-bullying week’ with enterprise. Rebecca Dye from Yorkshire Forward and Paula from Stop Hate UK help to sift out the entries from over 50 learners.

Friday 20th: Business Breakfast and Prize Giving. Sir Tom Farmer (founder of Kwik Fit and continuing business and social entrepreneur) addressed over 40 learners who had got in for 8.30! Prizes and certificates were presented for both the anti-bullying competition and the Make Your Mark Challenge. Each member of the winning team got an iPod shuffle with chocolates for the second and third places. After meeting with the Principal of Leeds City College, Sir Tom went on to talk with learners on Engineering and Motor Vehicle courses at our South Leeds site.

Skills for Working Life - Enterprise Project: Music CDs



“As part of a broader enterprise project, students from the Certificate in Skills for Working Life course at the Technology Campus were involved in a project to create music CDs which will be available for purchase from a college stall at Leeds Kirkgate Market.

The students learned several of the processes that are used to promote and distribute music, they designed and created flyers, posters and the front and back CD case inlays. Using original music donated by college staff, the students created

and designed a mock music store website that contained samples of music tracks that the students had edited. Finally the students burned the music tracks to CDs, printed and cut the CD case inlays and assembled ready to sell.

The music CDs will be available for purchase from Kirkgate Market on Tuesday 25th May and Tuesday 15th June at unit 514-515 row J, along with a variety of craft and stationary products all made by students on the Skills for Working Life courses at the Technology Campus”.

Finalists face the Keighley ‘Dragons’

Six finalists in the Bradford Kickstart-backed Biz Factor, a Keighley enterprise competition marking Global Entrepreneurship Week, enter a local version of the Dragon’s Den on Wednesday – with £1,500 of business support as the prize.

They will pitch their new business ideas to four judges: Jane Vincent, founder of recruitment company Horizon; Tim Hogarth, of Queensbury, who co-presents the weekday ITV programme Dickinson’s Real Deal; Bradford businessman Councillor John Pennington and Julian Hotchkiss, proprietor and presenter of Fresh Radio, Skipton.

The event, to be held at The Academy, a retail skills training centre in Cavendish Street, Keighley supported by Kickstart, has been organised by the Keighley campus of Leeds City College in association with Airedale Enterprise Services.

Also on Wednesday, Bradford College hairdressing students will offer fashion cuts, styling and make-up tips during a Hair and Beauty day at Three Valleys Beauty Centre, Keighley.

During the evening a Swap ‘til You Drop ‘swishing party’ – a fusion of fashion, pampering and ethical enterprise – will give women a chance to swap some of their glamorous clothes and accessories. This will be hosted by Bradford women’s enterprise specialist Digitalife.

The Sheffield College

Enterprise Champions: Oliver Tindall, Heather Smith

The Four Seasons Gallery

On 16th December the Four Seasons Gallery launched at Norton College. A new set of Practical Skills students have taken over the running of the gallery and have turned it into a new venture. Re-branded as the ‘Four Seasons’ the gallery is open on Wednesdays selling gifts, cards, artwork and much much more.

The gallery is hoping to showcase pieces of work from other artists and sell them at a 5% commission...So all you budding Jackson Pollocks out there get in touch and start selling your pieces. From photographs to collages, you can find a whole range of things in the Four Seasons. In November the group behind the running of the gallery pitched their ideas to a Dragon’s Den style panel, asking for a business loan to help with the start up costs of the business.

After an excellent pitch by all the students they were awarded the full amount, since then they have spent the money on frames, materials and branding their business with a logo and uniforms. “This enterprise experience has been fantastic for the

students. As well as coming up with ideas for the name and logo of the gallery, the students have all been interviewed for their jobs as finance director, marketing, sales, creative, administration and operations directors. They have gained a real sense of ownership over the gallery as they are involved in all parts of the decision making process.” Emma Blackburn, Tutor. The Four Seasons Art Gallery is open to all staff and students every Wednesday 10 – 14:45.

This year the art gallery at Norton College was handed over to the students. I teach on the Practical Skills course, where most of the students have learning difficulties, so I knew that turning the Gallery into an enterprise run by the students would be challenging, as well as hard work, but I didn’t expect it to be so rewarding (for them and me!).

We started with the students looking at different roles and responsibilities within the company, then going through a process of informal interviewing. Students assessed each other’s performance, looking at what went well and what areas they could work on, nearly all students stated in their evaluations that they learnt a lot from the exercise. We conducted some market research by asking students and staff their ideas for a name with ‘The Four Seasons Art gallery at Norton’ coming out as an outright winner. Then came the ‘Dragon’s Den Pitch’ to the enterprise team asking to borrow the money we needed to set up card-making and gift-making. When it came to the pitch, they practised some key social skills, such as giving eye contact, shaking hands, and projecting their voices so that they could be heard. They got the full amount that they asked for from the Enterprise team.

Finally, it was the students, working with Alison Coulling from publicity, who came up with the logo design for the company. They were so excited when they saw the finished logo with their work on, that one student exclaimed ‘Look! My picture of a tree is on the logo!’ It’s been fantastic to witness the sense of pride that these students have felt in their hard work paying off. We wouldn’t have been able to do it without Sally’s help and support.

Meet Afshan Islam

Afshan was working as a sports teacher when she decided on a career change and started studying hairdressing at Sheffield City College. Now, the 27-year-old mother of three is the owner of a thriving business with a long list of clients waiting for an appointment.

Part of Afshan’s success is down to her using her own personal experience and knowledge, and applying that to a gap in the market. Her salon Beauty Beneath is popular with women of all communities but particularly those who wear the hijab, who only unveil in front of other women. Afshan’s women-only salon is set back from the street and a screen covers the window so that passers-by can’t see in.



The salon’s popularity is down to word of mouth. Afshan said; ‘I sent one text message to a friend and it all started from there. In the first two weeks I was working 12 hours a day, six days a week. The clients who wear the headscarf tend to have very long hair, like my own which is waist length. But they still want contemporary and daring styles.’

Afshan is not only popular with her clients, she has won a number of competitions including Babyliss Pro.

beautybeneathsalon.co.uk

Doncaster College

Enterprise Champion: Jayne Robinson

The world’s leading long hair expert atrick Cameron has heaped praise on Doncaster College’s newly refurbished salon

The salon, renamed Inspire after the £30,000 refit, was officially opened by New Zealander Patrick on Monday, October 12 – and he even showed off his styling skills to watching students and invited guests. The open-to-the-public salon refurbishment has been funded by Success Doncaster and hair giant Wella – and the College will become a Wella Professionals Centre of Excellence.

The College’s 200 hairdressing students started to use the new facilities from September. Having just returned from presentations in Venezuela, Switzerland and Romania, Patrick wowed the crowd at The Hub showing off his skills on two models.

He said: “This is the first time I have been to the College and I have been very impressed. With the entrance to the salon connected to the outside and near a car park, it’s in the perfect location for the town. “It’s a fantastic salon and it looks brilliantly with all the students dressed in red and black just like the salon. Doncaster College has upped the ante with this salon – this is what other colleges are striving for.”

Kelly English, Assistant Director of the Academy of Commercial Enterprise at Doncaster College, said: “Not only will the new salon enable our hairdressing students to learn in some of the best training salons around but it also provides the Doncaster public with a new and exciting place to get their hair done – and at very competitive prices. The salon, under supervision, will be run by the College’s most experienced students, offering customers all the latest styles and services.”

Enterprise College gives added value

FRESHERS at University Centre Doncaster have been given the opportunity to make some extra cash through their business ideas.

The Enterprise College Team offered students the chance to develop their money-making ideas with advice and guidance at the recent Fresher’s fair.

Students from across the University Centre enrolled on an innovative 15 week entrepreneurial course at the High Melton Campus, supported by the Success Doncaster programme.

Wakefield College

Enterprise Champions: Steve Rhodes, Helen Savill

Life skills and Enterprise

Students on the College's range of Life skills courses, programme for young people who have had difficulties in learning at school, learn the practical attributes needed to prepare them for employment, and as part of this, they run 'Octopus', a self-funding enterprise project. They undertake market research to establish current fashions in such things like items of jewellery, which then informs the articles they make for the regular sales which they hold at College, on special occasions such as Christmas and Mother's Day.

This strong enterprise theme has influenced other work in such a way, that it has become core to what they do. At the recent 2nd annual Photography Exhibition, students made and produced a range of items for sale (mouse mats, key rings, placemats etc) based on their photographic work, they exhibited both at the college and at a local arts organization.

Continuing Professional Development

Since 2006, Wakefield College has offered a number of formal (some mandatory) training and development sessions for managers and for all staff. A series of sessions entitled 'What the heck is Enterprise?' attracted interest and enthusiasm from staff and feed received was very positive including comments such as "All members of staff should have this training".

Within our CPD sessions at College, we proposed that "people often consider the concept of entrepreneurship to be something difficult to embed in a further education context, particularly when they're based in a service area or a traditional academic subject. Many expect that to be enterprising, you have to set up a business and become the next Alan Sugar. However, opportunities for developing enterprise skills and attitudes in our staff and learners abound across the college, not just in the more obvious areas where we have something to sell.

Enterprise is a state-of-mind, an attitude, and it's something we can all develop. And great opportunities can be provided for developing the enterprise culture by teaching and service areas working together.

ShIPLEY College

Enterprise Champion: Sandy Brook, Star Quality

We are very proud of Art & Design student Amber-Louise Davey who has won a competition to design a new logo for Shipley Youth Café. The design, fingers forming a star shape, will be prominently placed above the entrance to the café in Market Street and on its website.

Amber, 18, of Shipley, fought off competition from fellow art students, to come up with the winning design and has been awarded the prize of an iPod shuffle MP3 player. Mr Majid, cafe manager, said: "The competition was a tight one as all of the entries were of an extremely high standard and it was a very difficult

decision to make. Well done to everyone who took part."

Entrants were asked to include the themes inclusion and equality within their work to promote the cafe which provides young people with a range of information and advice, a central place for them to meet with friends and take part in activities, clubs and events.

Councillor Michael Kelly, the council's executive member for services to children and young people, said: "Amber's winning logo is eye-catching and colourful and she should be really proud of her achievement."

Harrogate College

Enterprise Champion: Dave Brown

Students put through Dragon's Den style pitch

Harrogate College students had to present their business ideas in order to secure investment from the Business Angels. Students are on the second year of their Foundation Degree in Business and Management and have received an assignment brief to identify and develop a business plan for a potential business venture.

They then had to pitch their business idea in a Dragon's Den style event to local entrepreneur, Angela Russell and Business tutors at Harrogate College. All the groups presenting were successful in securing investment from the Business Angels. Amongst the business ideas pitched were a multi-vitamin drink, a dog walking service and a sandwich delivery venture.

"This was a great opportunity for the students to apply their learning in a business, commercial context and to benefit from the feedback of a successful entrepreneur such as Angela", says Jo Bates, the course leader for FD Business and Management.

The College was also delighted to have worked with Angela on this occasion as building links with the industry is key to getting the best learning experience for the students, providing them with direct feedback and insights from an already successful entrepreneur.

Bishop Burton College

Enterprise Champion: Judith Slingsby

Learners have designs on Humberside Police HQ

A group of landscape design students from Bishop Burton College have been working closely with Chief Constable Tim Hollis of Humberside Police on a raft of new designs for the force's headquarters on Priory Road in Hull.

At the end of last year the College was approached by Mr Hollis who was looking for ideas on how to improve the outside spaces at the site for the benefit of his employees "There is limited space for users to relax outdoors at present," said Mr Hollis. "It's an interesting site – it's quite remote and quiet with a lot of potential and it will be a nice tranquil area for the staff to use, which is important in a job like this."

The force's estates manager Martin Knapp explained the idea behind the project. "The redesigning of the gardens at the site is part of the rationalisation of the estate," he said. "We want to maximise potential savings in terms of construction and running costs and we want to be more eco-friendly.

"The students have had some excellent ideas; for example the use of year-round colour and the use of public art and how this can be incorporated into a working site such as this. "We were also pleased to see the use of plants which would increase biodiversity." Mr Hollis continued: "I actually felt quite humbled when I realised what we'd triggered. "The students have given us some terrific ideas without being too expensive to construct or maintain. It's been a very interesting journey and we've been given some great ideas."

Martin Knapp will now continue to work with the students to develop a design that can be incorporated into the Priory Road site.

Bishop Burton College Press Office 5th May 2010

Agriculture Apprentice scoops top Education prize

An agriculture apprentice from Bishop Burton College is celebrating after scooping a top award from vocational qualification body City & Guilds. Ashley Hellewell (21) of North Lincolnshire completed his advanced apprenticeship in agriculture last year and has been awarded a prestigious Medal for Excellence from City & Guilds in recognition of his hard work and dedication.

Work-based learning assessor Ben Sharpe is delighted with Ashley's success. He said: "Ashley has been an excellent student – always on time, extremely conscientious and he finished his portfolio well ahead of schedule and to a very high standard.

"I am extremely proud of him. Considering he isn't from a farming background Ashley has really stepped up to the mark."

The City & Guilds Medals for Excellence programme recognises and rewards exceptional people whose work makes them stand out.

The culmination of the programme is the prestigious Lion Awards dinner, where Medal winners are put forward for a group of awards dubbed the 'Education Oscars'.

Despite not having a background in agriculture, living in a rural area meant Ashley began working at a local farm at the age of 13.

On leaving school the company offered Ashley a full-time position and he began his apprenticeship after a year.

Ashley is the first to admit he wasn't keen on the idea of returning to education.

"I thoroughly enjoyed working on the farm," he said. "I liked the people and when they offered me a full time job I jumped at the chance.

"I wasn't particularly interested in going back to College, but my employers had put apprentices through courses at Bishop Burton before so I started and I haven't looked back since."

Ashley's manager Dale Williams of Christopher Day & Co. said: "Ashley has done very well on the Apprenticeship and has learnt a lot, as he was not previously from a farming background. It has helped him to mature in the job."

Bishop Burton College Press Office 21st April 2010

Barnsley College

Enterprise Champion: Polly Harrow

Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families Rt. Hon Ed Balls MP visited the College to open the new Health & Wellbeing Centre

Senior Leaders from the NHS and Barnsley VIPs attended the event to celebrate the opening of the new Health & Wellbeing Centre, the result of a partnership between Barnsley College, the local PCT and NHS services. The new centre is located in the college's main site on Old Mill Lane, and satellite services are also offered in the outlying college sites.

Focussing initially on smoking cessation, drug and alcohol abuse and general personal safety the centre has already engaged over 1500 students in its 5 weeks of opening. Proving of particular interest are services such as C-Card which allows young people to access free condoms, Chlamydia screening, contraception and sexual health services, stop smoking support and advice about health eating and weight management.

The Health & Wellbeing Team consists of three specialist nurses and a Health Care Assistant and works closely with the local midwifery service and other external agencies. The team offers a mixture of clinical activities such as Contraception and Sexual Health Services, Stop Smoking Support as well as educational/health promotion activities such as health and well being tutorial sessions and health promotion campaigns.

The Health & Wellbeing Centre is an important and exciting development for the college, reflecting the commitment to offer every student realistic and up to date information, advice and guidance on every aspect of our young people's health and wellbeing.

Barnsley college apprentice scoops gold medal at national skills competition final

Barnsley College apprentice, Craig Bray, proved he is one of Britain's best young trades people at the national final of the UK's biggest skills competition, SkillBuild, which is organised by ConstructionSkills, the Sector Skills Council for the industry.

Craig scooped the gold medal in the Bricklaying category, beating top students from up and down the country at the national final which took place at South Lanarkshire College in Scotland. Craig who is a Brickwork student at Barnsley College celebrated his success at a post-event awards dinner at Hampden Park stadium.

The awards ceremony was opened by television presenter, Angelica Bell, who talked to the students about the importance of teamwork and showcasing your talents. The ceremony also featured a key note speech from Mark Farrar, Chief Executive of ConstructionSkills. Earlier in the week MSP and Minister for Schools and Skills, Keith Brown, opened the competition.

Craig spoke of his success at this year's SkillBuild final: "I am very excited and surprised to have won a medal at the national final. I've really enjoyed taking part in this year's SkillBuild competition, it has been hard work but it has definitely been worth it. I feel I have gained so much experience and it has really helped increase my confidence levels, as well as looking

good on my CV. I would highly recommend other young trades people to look at entering next year's competition."

College Brickwork tutor, Keith Parr, said: "Craig is an outstanding student who has shown great commitment in all he has done. He has worked consistently hard and is a shining example of what can be achieved through the competition. We are all very proud of his well deserved achievement."

The winners from this year's national final could now be in with a chance of competing to be the best in the world by taking part in the international WorldSkills competition, which is held every two years and will next take place in London in 2011.

Media students sent to coventry for UK skills final

Seven young and talented television producers from Barnsley College won the chance to pitch their ideas for new internet-based television shows to a panel of experts in the final of the UK Skills Moving Image Production competition.

Currently studying Media at Barnsley College, the students spent the day in Coventry in the finals of the national competition where they had to pitch their ideas to industry professionals. When commenting on the work of the two teams, lead judge and "Dancing On Ice" star Todd Carty said: "The students delivered with passion and enthusiasm in pitches which were as good as I have seen from many professionals."

He also told the students: "I have enjoyed the experience immensely and I feel sure that you will progress within the industry". Sam Wilson, Curriculum and Quality Leader for Creative Media expressed his joy at the students' successes. "I am delighted with the work the students have produced; they are a real credit to the College. This is a difficult time for them especially with end-of-year assignments due but the students worked hard in a short space of time and have achieved some amazing results".

The students are now eagerly awaiting the decision from the competition panel and receiving their certificates and are looking forward to taking their success into university.

A British Youth Film Institute representative is pictured on the left with Russell Harrison, April Bird, Daniel Flintham, Gemma Spittle, Hayley Cassidy, Todd Carty, Jane Hattersley and Craig Taylor.

Kirklees College

Enterprise Champion: Nikki Davis,
Alistair Boyd-Meaney

Awards for teenagers dedicated to College club

Kirklees teenagers, who were members of a Saturday morning club where they learnt new skills at Kirklees College, received certificates of achievement at a presentation on Saturday 24 April.

37 pupils from secondary schools across Kirklees took part in the scheme that involved spending three hours on Saturday mornings at the College's main campus in Huddersfield and at the Brunel House site.

Kirklees College's Saturday club is designed to give young people an insight into occupations including hospitality, plumbing, engineering, computer aided design, ICT, joinery and motor vehicle.

The youngsters completed two different courses over 20 weeks (10 weeks on each) and recently picked up a record of their achievement which can be used towards future vocational studies.

Julie James, Schools Liaison Officer at Kirklees College said: "The club provides a great opportunity for pupils from local schools to gain a valuable insight into a variety of different work areas. The experience not only opens their eyes to the career options available but also helps them make a more informed career choice at a later stage. They have all shown real dedication by voluntarily giving up their free time on Saturday mornings."

The pupils came from the following schools in the area: All Saints High School, Almondbury High School, Colne Valley High School, Holmfirth High School, Honley High School, King James' High School, Moor End Technology College, Rastrick High School, Salendine Nook High School and Shelley College.

Catering Competition

Create a Scrumptious Sandwich

As part of British Sandwich Week 2010, Kirklees College would like Year 9 and 10 pupils to enter our competition and create a unique, World Cup theme, sandwich.

The best football inspired entries will be invited to the College's professional kitchens in order to prepare and present their culinary creation to a panel of judges.

Prizes available include:

- Meal for 4 in the College's gourmet training restaurant
- Entry for 3 to a corporate box at a Huddersfield Town FC home game
- Cook books

In order to enter, pupils should provide

- A full recipe with ingredient costs – the sandwich should cost less than £5.00
- A picture (drawing or photograph) of how it would be presented
- A catchy name for their creation

This is an example of one of the competitions the college runs, in order to keep in line with current themes, build good relations with both schools and employers and allows for students to express their creativity!

East Riding College

Enterprise Champions: Tracey Heywood,
Dennis Young

Students' designs turn waste into fashion

Two students from East Riding College have taken part in a competition to turn discarded clothing into high fashion. Zoe Oakes and Faye Theabould, who are both first year students on the National Certificate in Fashion and Clothing at the College's Bridlington campus, designed and created dresses using pre-worn and charity shop garments as part of the contest organised by East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

The competition aimed to highlight the 2,000 tonnes of clothes thrown away each year by East Riding residents alone. This is equivalent to four million pairs of jeans or 10,000 suitcases full of clothes.

Zoe was chosen as a runner up and was presented with her prize of £50 in vouchers by Councillor Stephen Parnaby, the leader of the council. Pictured right are, from left, Zoe, tutor Lorna King, Cllr Parnaby and Faye.

Zoe, 18, from Bridlington, said: "Taking part in this competition was an experience I've never had before.

"I never expected to get into the final six so I feel proud of myself for coming runner up. I spent the vouchers I won on ethical clothing.

"This was the first garment I had bought from an ethical superstore. From taking part in this competition I feel that more people should recycle clothes."

Faye, 16, from Bridlington, said: "I enjoyed taking part in this competition as I have never made a garment before and I also recycled clothes I would have never worn before. I feel proud to have been chosen to be part of the final six and found it a good experience, and it has given me drive to complete my course and hopefully enter other competitions in the future. "

Tutors Joy Verda and Lorna King supported the students in designing their dresses and preparing them for the competition.

Lorna said: "This was an excellent opportunity for Zoe and Faye to add work for their portfolios and CVs. They both felt that they had learnt a lot about recycling, reusing garments and designing using photography and drawing. Neither of them had ever made a garment before this competition and we are very proud of them."

The entries were judged by designer Brenna Yore, Dr Pauline Deutz, Programme Director of the MSc environmental technology at the University of Hull, and international costumier Wayne Martin.

The garments are currently on display in the corridor between the East Riding Treasure House and library in Beverley.

Lessons in business for budding entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurs of the future have been getting tips about starting a new business as part of their course. Peter Connor, a Director of Performance Improvement business consultants with Connor Newman Ltd, worked with the BTEC National Diploma Business students on business ideas, business plans and investments. Every student came up with a business idea and each will present their businesses to a 'Dragons Den' style panel at the end of their module in May.

Student Jess Horner, 18, from Beverley, said: "I feel that having Peter Connor come into College really helped me to gain a detailed view on how to potentially start up a new business. "Participating in certain activities and group research has enabled me to broaden my ideas and have a lot of confidence in what I would like to achieve in the future."

Kate Bardsley, 20, from Bainton, said: "This was an excellent lecture and workshop, and I really learnt a lot about business and what needs to be considered. I will take on board everything Peter has said and look forward to presenting my business idea."

Danny Bullement, 18, from Beverley, said: "I thought Peter's talk was extremely beneficial towards not only my course but also my future career. He seemed a very successful, friendly man and I have learnt a lot from him."

Mr Connor said: "This was a very enjoyable session, with time well spent in developing initial ideas and thoughts for starting a new business. "The student group took a full part in the workshop and I was very pleased with the way they interacted and generated ideas."

The special session was held during the College's "Enjoy and Achieve" fortnight, which has also seen the creation of an entrepreneur club as part of students' enrichment activities. Five themed fortnights are held each year to highlight the five main priorities of the government's Every Child Matters agenda: be healthy; stay safe; enjoy and achieve; make a positive contribution; and achieve economic well-being.

Rotherham College of Arts & Technology

Enterprise Champion: Phillipa Brown

Opportunities for South Yorkshire volunteers at 2012 Olympics

Rotherham College of Arts and Technology are one of the latest education providers within the country to offer the Personal Best training and volunteer programme where candidates will have the opportunity to volunteer at the London 2012 Olympic Games.

The Personal Best programme aims to help those furthest from employment into long term, sustainable jobs as well as helping to raise their self esteem and self confidence.

Those on the programme will have the chance to learn new skills, gain a Level 1 qualification and receive support with their search for employment or further training. They will also have the opportunity to volunteer at other local sporting, cultural and community events.

Media students produce College promotional DVD

The college recently held the launch of the brand new 'Learn it, Love it, Live it' promotional DVD produced by our very own Rotherham Academy media students who are currently studying the BTEC National Diploma in Media Production.

The DVD was created as part of a coursework project and provided the group with the opportunity to work with the College as a professional client.

The DVD offers an interesting insight into student life including an overview of the College's courses, facilities and progression opportunities.

The launch was held at the Town Centre Campus where a number of Connexions Career Advisors from the local region were in attendance to view the finished piece and listen to students; Chris Mowatt, James Hooper and Alec Holroyd-Doveton describe their production experience.

The group were later congratulated on their efforts by Principal and Chief Executive for the College George Trow who explained that the DVD would be a valuable inclusion for their portfolio.

Media Lecturer Ricky Charlesworth explained, "Making a promo for the college is always a big project that the students can undertake. They have all learnt a great deal including; teamwork, co-operation, communication skills, working with a real client and organisation skills. These skills are all vital within the media industry and the students will be able to transfer these skills to other projects on the course and in their future work in the media. The students have worked exceptionally hard to deliver this project and we are all pleased with the result."

