

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**

**WORK CONTINUES ON THE TAF ELY LEARNING CAMPUS**

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## Progress on Taf Ely Learning Campus



*Photograph: Construction work on the Taf Ely Learning Campus is on target*

Construction of the college's £40 million Taf Ely Learning Campus is well underway. A second Community Forum was held at the Nantgarw Campus on Tuesday November 23rd; 5:00 - 7:30. where residents and organisations in the area were invited to receive an update on the progress and current status of the Project. Drawings, plans, a 'fly through' and a 3D model of the new building were displayed and visitors had the opportunity to meet the Project Team and ask questions. The construction of Coleg Morgannwg's new Taf Ely Learning Campus at Nantgarw is on schedule; piling work has been completed and the erection of the main structural columns is in progress. The Project Team are eager to engage with all stakeholder groups' especially local residents and business owners, to establish strong relationships with the community throughout the construction of the building.

## Basic Skills Presentation



Students on the Pontypridd campus received their certificates from Dave Brookes, Head of Learner Services

*Photograph: Dave Brookes, Head of Learner Services presents the students with their Basic Skills certificates*

## Successful Collaboration



A Presentation was held at Treorchy library in October with Principal Judith Evans presenting certificates to the successful students. The group is an initiative involving Coleg Morgannwg, Treorchy Jobcentre and Treorchy library. Gareth Dawe, Manager of the Jobcentre and Ros Williams, Area Manager of the Library Services attended the event. The students received certificates for ICT including Communication and Word processing.

*Photograph: Students celebrate successful collaboration*

The majority of the students are Jobseekers, placed on the course on a voluntary basis to extend their ICT skills - others were members of the community referred through the library. The partnership has been in effect for 3 years and has proved to be very successful.

## There is nothing like a dame!



*Photograph: Hopeful dames!*

Flamboyant characters of all shapes and sizes strutted their stuff at the college hoping to be crowned the ultimate pantomime dame.

Students on the Foundation Degree in Costume Construction for Screen and Stage have been busy designing, measuring and sewing for weeks to create the perfect costume for their chosen dame.

Using characters from classic shows such as Cinderella, Aladdin and Robinson Crusoe, the 23 second-year students worked in groups of twos and threes to create the costumes from scratch – complete with body padding to create curves in all the right places

## Launch of the Academy Spa



A successful launch of the Academy Spa took place when staff, students and external guests were invited to free treatments. Brochures and price lists are available from Impact, the Business Unit or directly from the Academy.

Sara Billingham - 01443 663024

Stephanie Collins - 01443 663156

A successful Christmas Fayre was held at the Academy Spa offering residents and staff an intimate shopping experience, with Ruby's Drawer, Dreamy Delights Cupcakes, Karen Dell' Armi jewellery and Pink Daffodil handmade gifts offering gifts with an individual touch. Those attending were delighted with the festive entertainment including mulled wine and mice pies

## Fundraising for Breast Cancer Awareness



Photograph: Students and staff at Nantgarw campus challenge staff from Laing O' Rourke on the Climbing Wall

Photograph: In the Pink!



Photograph: Pink nail painting!



Photograph: and Pink cakes!

A number of activities took place on all campuses to fundraise for Breast Cancer Awareness - pink cakes, pink nails and pink attire were evident throughout the college! College staff and students on the Nantgarw campus joined with Laing O' Rourke staff from the Taf Ely Learning Campus project for a Climbing Wall Challenge.

## College Rugby Team get off to a winning start



The newly formed college rugby team have got off to a winning start with some outstanding scores against tough opposition from college teams including Pencoed, Ivybridge and Filton. Good luck for the new year!

## Opportunity for Student

Nicholas Clements is the first student to benefit from a work placement at the new Taf Ely Learning Campus project at Nantgarw. Nicholas is enrolled on the Foundation Degree in Sustainable Construction and has been given the opportunity to work with staff from Laing O Rourke; the main contractors building the college's state-of-the-art campus. He works alongside the contractors for four days and spends one day studying at the college.

Nicholas also assisted in the production of a DVD for the UHOVI Launch (Universities Heads of the Valleys Institute)

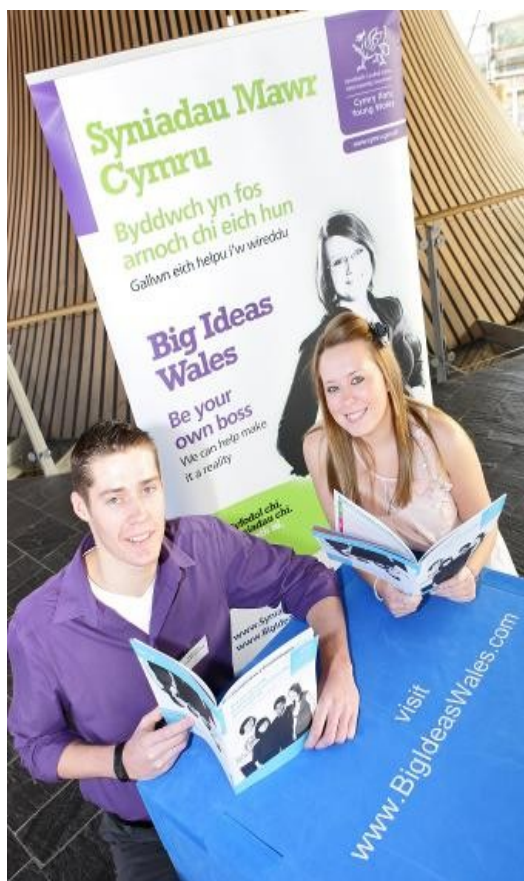


Photograph: Nick on Taf Ely Learning Campus site

Photograph: Filming at Nantgarw campus for UHOVI DVD



## College students launch Enterprise Strategy at the Welsh Assembly



Photograph: College students Bethan Davies and Sam Elliott help launch the Youth Enterprise Strategy at the Welsh Assembly Government (YES)

Two Coleg Morgannwg Global Enterprise finalists, Bethan Davies and Sam Elliott, took part in the recent Senedd media launch of the Youth Enterprise Strategy (YES) and 'Big Ideas Wales' website; the event marks the start of Enterprise Week 2010. Opening the event the Minister for Education Leighton Andrews emphasised the need for young people to develop these important entrepreneurial skills and for everyone to adopt a 'positive, can do approach to work and life generally'

The event proved invaluable to Bethan and Sam who gained experience presenting an excellent account of their entrepreneurial journey to dignitaries and the press. Both Bethan and Sam were members of a Coleg Morgannwg team who earlier in the year represented Wales at the Global Enterprise Challenge in Indonesia, where the students were awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place out of 14 teams from across the world and highest marks for creativity and marketing.

Enterprise is high on the agenda of the college with Campus-based Enterprise Challenges scheduled. Teams from the Art and Design and Business areas of the college also took part in a Heads of Valleys Innovation Partnership (HOVIP) Challenge between Gwent, Ystrad Mynach and Merthyr Colleges.

## College obtain Green Dragon Status



The college has successfully obtained the Level Two Green Dragon Environmental Standard; our efforts to improve the impact on the environment has proved beneficial and is also helping to reduce costs. The college's details will be registered on the Green Dragon website and the college will receive a certificate demonstrating its commitment to environmental management. In recognition of reaching this stage the college can also display the Green Dragon Logo on their corporate literature, website and internal and external signage.

## 5 X 60 initiative kicks off

Rhys Jones is the designated 5 x 60 Officer at the college and is available across all campuses to listen to ideas and suggestions to help set up activities the students want to see happen in college. Activities can range from traditional team sports such as rugby, football, netball or hockey to outdoor pursuits such as mountain biking, hill walking or rock climbing to indoor classes such as Zumba, street dance or martial arts. The activities can also vary in how they are structured to suit the needs and preferences of students. They can be run as “turn up and play”, structured coaching sessions, competitive fixtures, or fun festivals.

The 5 x 60 programme is now in place to provide opportunities for students to become more active and aims to encourage people who do not currently play sport to get more active and have fun. It also aims to provide opportunities for volunteers who want to gain more experience in working in a sports environment to help run clubs and to gain awards and qualifications. As well as setting up extra-curricular clubs the 5 x 60 programme tries to make sure all activities are sustainable by developing links with local clubs.

A successful 5 a side club has already been established at the Rhondda, where students meet weekly at the Sports Centre

If you have any ideas for activities, Rhys can be contacted via the Student Welfare Officers

## Careers Advisers invited to Information Briefing



*Photograph:  
Careers Advisers at the  
Briefing session,  
Llewellyn's , Aberdare  
Campus*

Careers Wales Advisers from Aberdare, Pontypridd, Rhondda, Merthyr and Cardiff were invited to an information sharing session at the Aberdare Campus. The Advisers took part in a ‘speed dating’ type of session where the Curriculum Area Managers updated them on college provision, facilities and opportunities. Assistant Principal, Hywel Vaughan welcomed the visitors and informed them on the progress of the new campus under construction at Nantgarw. A buffet lunch was prepared and served by the Hospitality & Catering students, co-ordinated by NVQ Level 3 student Simon Watkins. Positive feedback was received from the advisers and their comments will be taken on board for the next session.

## Fundraising for Children in Need



*Photograph: Staff and students participate in a variety of activities to raise money for Children in Need. Some of the activities included car washing, cooking full breakfast for staff and students and beauty treatments. Fancy dress ranged from 'spotted Pudsey Bears' to 60's and 70's fashion.*

## Childcare Students at Coleg Morgannwg support Operation Christmas Child Appeal

Shoe boxes filled with a selection of toys, toiletry items and gifts left the college recently, bound for less fortunate children over the world.

Childcare students based at the Rhondda campus donated items to support the world's largest children's Christmas project, Operation Christmas Child. The project sends a message of love and hope to children in need around the globe, through gift-filled shoe boxes.

Last year, almost 1.2 million shoeboxes were filled with gifts and goodies and sent children who need them in some of the toughest parts of the world.



Photograph: Childcare students filling the boxes

Childcare tutor, Alison Llewellyn who co-ordinated the effort at the college said "We support the Operation Christmas Child project every year. The kindness and generosity of students and staff and their willingness to help others less fortunate than themselves is tremendous, especially in this current economic climate."

Childcare student, Natalie Williams, studying on the Cache Level 3 course said "We've had fun filling the shoe boxes and hope the children will enjoy the gifts we've chosen. It is good to know that these children will receive a present and will enjoy their Christmas as much as us"

## A Day in the Life of.....



As part of the college's Learner Involvement Strategy senior managers will periodically spend a day accompanying a learner to see what it is like for them.

Principal, Judith Evans led the way as she tracked learner Hollie Lacey at the Nantgarw campus. Throughout the day she done her best to blend in as a student. She said "I would like to thank the teachers who have been brave enough to have me in their class and Hollie for helping the "new girl" through the day

The aim of the day was to raise Judith's awareness of student life and give learners full access to her for the day.

Photograph: Principal Judith Evans with student Hollie Lacey

## Coleg Morgannwg wins national education award



Coleg Morgannwg is celebrating after winning one of the UK's most prestigious awards for its outstanding contribution to further education.

The college scooped the Edge Award for Practical Teaching and Practical Learning for its costume construction in theatre and screen foundation degree. Most students on the course progress to university or straight into a career in the entertainment industry.

The Association of Colleges Beacon awards, which this year celebrate 17 years of outstanding teaching and learning in further education colleges, were announced at the AoC's annual conference and exhibition in Birmingham.

The awards recognise colleges providing excellent practical teaching that results in students having learning experiences that are real, meaningful, challenging and life-changing.

The college has strong links with theatre and film production companies and won the award for the course which was developed to meet an industry need for higher level practical skills in costume construction. During the course students produce costumes for theatre and screen productions and benefit from working alongside professionals in theatre, dance, screen and opera companies. Most students go on

to complete the full BA degree programme in costume construction at university, while the remaining students take up jobs in London's West End or go on to work in the television and film industries.

The UK-wide Beacon Awards provide national recognition for excellence and innovation as well as acknowledging the talents of staff at all levels. They highlight the breadth and quality of education in the college sector.

Coleg Morgannwg will host a local celebration event in the New Year and will be presented with their award by John Hayes MP, Minister of State for Further Education, at a national presentation ceremony due to be held in Westminster on 9 February 2011.

## Lucky Student wins iPod

Student Carly Griffiths won an iPod in a recent competition held by Aramark. Carly's completed questionnaire was picked out from dozens of forms from across all campuses.

Aramark have recently introduced the Switch campaign into FE colleges across the UK to give students information, choice and the benefits of opting for a healthier eating lifestyle.

Numerous posters in the college refectories and a "spinner" showing the healthy alternatives will be used to advertise the campaign. For example, if the spinner lands on chips, the alternative is jacket potato. The new year will see the 'meal deals' aimed at the healthier dishes more healthy options will be available in both the refectories and shops.

*Photograph: Winning student Carly Griffiths receives her iPod from Alan Ball, Group Manager, Aramark UK Ltd.*



## College win Quality Award for Most Improved organisation



*Photograph: College Principal Judith Evans, Members of the Senior Management Team and College Governors receive the award for Most Improved Organisation*

The college has been successful in gaining the 'Most improved' title in the Wales Quality and Innovation Awards. The Wales Quality Centre (WQC) recognised the college's commitment to improving services for its students and the community as the best in the country. WQC Chief Executive David Phillips said "Coleg Morgannwg has shown real best practices over the last year"

## Kallum's angel design is a winner



Young Kallum Westacott, a pupil at Maerdy Community Primary School was the winning designer of the college's corporate Christmas card competition.

Each year the college invite pupils from all primary schools throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf to take part in the Design a Christmas Card competition, with the winning design being used for the corporate Christmas card.

The college received hundreds of entries which made the judging extremely difficult.

Head teacher, Mrs Suzanne Belcher was presented with a certificate for the schools participation and Kallum received an artists compendium and a quantity of the Christmas cards to send to his friends and family.

Photograph: Head Teacher, Mrs Suzanne Belcher, Competition Winner Kallum Westacott and Ann Crimmings, Coleg Morgannwg

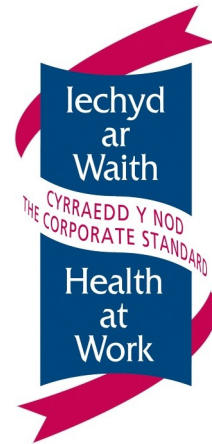
## Coleg Morgannwg achieves top health accreditation

The college has been awarded the Silver Corporate Health Standard in recognition of the initiatives put in place to promote the health and well being of its employees.

A health and wellbeing programme for staff and learners has been developed across the four campuses, including fitness classes, pedometer challenge and the introduction of the *Cycle Scheme* for staff.

The Corporate Health Standard is run by the Welsh Assembly Government and the college is only the second College in Wales to receive this level of award.

The college will now be able to display the Health at Work logo on their on their corporate literature, website etc



## Mural Design Project 2010



Students studying on the First Diploma in Art & Design at the Nantgarw campus designed the mural entitled 'The Youth Today and Yesterday' the Youth as it is and was'.

The project provided part of the evidence for the Intermediate Welsh Baccalaureate themes of Active Citizenship and Team Enterprise.

The mural has been erected on the ground floor in the Community Centre on the Rhondda Campus and has been admired by staff, students and visitors.

## Bethan's baking raises £500 for worthy charities



Student Bethan Lewis attends a Coleg Morgannwg course at Treorchy Library. She raised over £500 selling her homemade cakes; the money was split between Children in Need and The Joshua Foundation.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Prize Evening - Thursday March 24th 2011

Advice Day (Adult Learners Week) —Thursday May 19th 2011

HE Advice Evening - Thursday May 26th 2011

## Events @ the Community Centre, Rhondda campus

To find out what's going on at the Community Centre, or to book a room, contact Stephanie Collins on (01443) 663156 or e-mail [s.collins@morgannwg.ac.uk](mailto:s.collins@morgannwg.ac.uk)

### Request for articles

If you have any news, events or articles you would like included in future newsletters, please contact either:

**Ann Crimmings**                      **01443 663239**

**Andrew Keeping**                    **01443 663249**

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