

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

**EXCITING NEW
ADVANCED LEVEL
PROGRAMME
ANNOUNCED FOR
2012**

**INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:**

**COLEG
MORGANNWG 3
SCOOP WALES
QUALITY
AWARD**

**'FRUGALITY'
ARE 5
WINNERS!**

**COLLEGE
COSTUME 11
COURSE
TAKES TO
WORLD STAGE**

**CAREERS 12
WALES
'MARK'**

**INTREPID
TELEVISION 14
PRESENTER
CELEBRATES
STUDENT
SUCCESS**

**COMMUNITY 18
INVOLVEMENT**

Exciting new Advanced Level Programme Announced for 2012



Photo: Principal Judith Evans , Chair of the Corporation Peter James and Ken Reed, Assistant Principal , St. David's College

Coleg Morgannwg will launch a brand new A-Level provision in 2012 to coincide with the opening of its state-of-the-art £40million campus at Nantgarw.

The college held an open evening to give prospective students, parents and friends of the college the opportunity to find out more about the full-time programme and new A-Level provision that will be available from September 2012.

Coleg Morgannwg's A-Level provision will be delivered via a strategic partnership with St David's Catholic College and will mean young people in Rhondda Cynon Taf will be able to study A-Levels in a further education environment for the first time.

"Judith Evans, Principal at Coleg Morgannwg, said: "The build up to the opening of our new Taf Ely Learning Campus is well and truly underway and it is the additional offering of A-Levels and other new courses that will really set us apart from the rest.

"The new building is looking fantastic and there is great excitement both within the college and in the local area ahead of its opening. As the most significant investment into further education in Wales, we are confident that the new building will enable us to offer new prospects to our students and continue our long tradition of providing an excellent pastoral and learning environment."

College acknowledged for outstanding practices

College nominated for top FE Award

The college was named as one of the leading Further Education colleges in the UK and shortlisted for its outstanding Leadership in Learning and Skills, in the first Times Education Supplement (TES) Further Education Awards.

Judith Evans, Principal was pleased to receive the news and said 'Everybody at the college is delighted that our hard work and commitment to improving teaching and learning has been recognised'.

College ranked as one of the best in country

Coleg Morgannwg has been ranked as one of the most successful Further Education colleges in Wales. The college has shown that its students are performing above the Welsh average for course completion rates and attainment levels in the further education sector. The average success rate of students across all courses at the college is now 84% with the current benchmark for the the country standing at 81%. These statistics place the college in the top two further education institutions in the country. Judith Evans, Principal said " It's brilliant to see that our student completion and success rates place us as one of the best performing colleges in Wales. The success is testament to our strong leadership team, committed staff, dedicated student body and excellent support from employers. Our aim is to raise learners' aspirations and ensure that they all achieve their potential in their chosen career path. We provide them with suitable career choices in a supportive and well resourced learning environment. It has been a successful year and the opening of our new campus next year will have a further positive impact". The college's most successful courses are Media and Performing Arts which have an impressive 98% completion rate and vocational design studies which has a 97% completion rate. Both courses are also very successful with a 93% and 91% success rate respectively.

Coleg Morgannwg, scoop a top accolade at the Wales Quality Awards



Photo: Members of staff join Principal, Judith Evans to celebrate success at the Wales Quality Awards

Coleg Morgannwg picked up the Quality Chairman's prize for apprenticeships, in recognition of the exceptional contribution and work the college has put into developing high quality apprenticeship schemes, and specifically its work with GE Aviation Wales.

Run by the Wales Quality Centre (WQC), the Awards are based on the internationally respected European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) Excellence Model, one of the world's most rigorous frameworks for measuring the quality of an organisation's operations

Coleg Morgannwg's Nantgarw Campus has become synonymous with the training of future engineers and in particular aerospace engineering. The long standing partnership with GE Aviation Wales, which specialises in the servicing of aircraft engines, has enabled both organisations to work together to design an apprenticeship training programme that is specifically tailored to meet GE's needs.

GE Aviation Wales supports a culture of continuous learning, particularly in terms of apprenticeship training. Its training programme is designed to maintain the exacting standards of quality that are associated with the aviation industry. The apprenticeship training programme further addresses the skills gaps identified in the aerospace sector. Judith Evans, Principal at Coleg Morgannwg, said: "Winning the Wales Quality Award is a fantastic testament to the commitment of our staff and students and we are proud that their work has been recognized with an award of this calibre."

"We are constantly striving to provide our students with the skills necessary to secure good jobs in their chosen field in what is an increasingly competitive marketplace. This particular scheme was designed to address the skills gap in the aerospace sector and has given hundreds of students the opportunity to become successful engineers. This would not have been possible if we had not had such an excellent partnership with GE Aviation Wales. We are incredibly lucky to have fostered such strong relationships with businesses in Wales that appreciate the value of developing talent, and our students feel the benefit of working side by side with industry experts."

Professors lecture supports tutors views

Science lecturers attended a public lecture at Cardiff University, presented by Robert Winston. The lecture entitled 'Can humanity afford the costs of its technology' considered technological developments from the formation of early stone tools to genetic transfers and their impacts on human societies.

After the thought provoking lecture Professor Winston answered several questions, about his views on science education. The Science staff found his comments really encouraging, as his views are in line with theirs i.e. the need for more experimental work, lack of suitable laboratory facilities, the need for links with University departments for support and for assessment methods to be carefully considered.

Don't forget to Nominate!!!

Inspire! Awards 2012

NIACE Dysgu Cymru is pleased to launch the 2012 Inspire! Awards, the ceremony for which will take place at Venue Cymru, Llandudno on 10th May 2012. This year, the Tutor and Mentor awards will also become part of the Learner Awards Ceremony.

Nominations are expected for outstanding tutors and learners from further education, higher education, the workplace or the community. Tutors may work in essential skills, vocational qualifications, languages, online through e-tutoring and / or in a voluntary capacity as a mentor. Learners can be studying any subject from Archaeology to Welsh. Overall Learner and Tutor of the Year Awards will be announced at the end of the ceremony. [Find out how to nominate](#)

Chinese Education Fair

The college, along with other universities, colleges and training providers were invited to a Chinese Education Fair held at the British Council, Cardiff. The delegate of 10 agents attended the Council and interacted in a 'speed dating' setting; spending about 10 minutes with each organisation.

A DVD of the new TELC building was shown and the visitors were given a brief history of Rhondda Cynon Taf, before talking more specifically about the college and opportunities available to international students. An interpreter was present to relay the information to several of the agents who did not speak or understand English.

Frugality are winners!



Photo: Frugality Team: Samantha Griffiths, Scott Caviel, Natalie Gillespie and Charley Delahay

2006 Apprentice runner-up Ruth Badger was on hand to judge a prestigious business competition. The Big Pitch Challenge was held at the Pierhead Building, Cardiff where teams from Coleg Gwent, Merthyr College, The College, Ystrad Mynach and Coleg Morgannwg battled it out for the first prize. The competition followed an Apprentice -style format, with contestants honing their business skills with the help of expert tuition. The 'challenge' to launch a new rock climbing centre involved finding the best way of enhancing further education sector links with the business community.

Four students studying Performing Arts at the Rhondda Campus made up the winning team - 'Frugality' and will now visit the Rock UK Summit Centre, Trelewis to experience the facilities on offer.

Coleg Morgannwg's 'Sportsters' team, made up of students studying on the Diploma in Sport, done extremely well. Team member Jack Jones impressed Ruth Badger so much with his passion that she offered him the opportunity of employment on leaving school.

Photo: Sportsters Team: Gaby Mainwaring, Jack James, Hannah Rees and Aiden Luxton



Coleg Morgannwg students produce pantomime costumesoh no they didn't!



Photo: Outrageous ugly sister costume!



Photo: Costume designers studying on the BA (Hons) Costume Construction course, Donna Adams, Hafina Harris and Georgie Phillips with production wardrobe master Nicholas Grimes.

Since September, staff and students studying on the B.A. (Hons) Costume Construction course at the college have been working tirelessly to produce the visually stunning costumes for Rhondda Cynon Taf's magical pantomime.

Cinderella, will run at the three main theatres throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf; the Coliseum, Muni Arts Centre and Park & Dare and will star Alex Winters from CBeebies and Frank Vickery.

Rhondda Cynon Taf's Cultural Services Marketing Manager, Joanne Ridout was amazed with the professional finish of the costumes, she stated "The costumes look stunning and reflect the huge amount of hard work and commitment the students and staff have put into the project.

The wardrobe ranges from outrageous Ugly Sister costumes, including an amazing gold Christmas tree complete with baubles and crackers, a Brownie uniform, Buttons' blue and gold costume and an amazing bright pink fur coat".

College students climb Pen Y Fan for charity



Staff and students from the Aberdare Campus scaled the heights of Pen Y Fan, Brecon Beacons raising money for Children in Need.

The students, studying on the Admit course, raised over £340 in sponsorship for their walk.

Well done to all who took part and thank you to everyone who sponsored the students.

Merthyr Careers Convention



The college, along with other training providers and employers attended the Merthyr Tydfil Careers Convention which was held at the Orbit Centre, Merthyr Tydfil. The event, advertised to pupils throughout the Borough was well attended by pupils and their parents. The 'Hair' department from the Aberdare Campus attended; showcasing the talents/skills gained by their students whilst studying at the college. The 'Science' department from the Pontypridd campus was represented and provided 'hands on' experiments to engage with the pupils. These proved extremely popular with pupils and provided an ideal way to chat to them.



Students support the Santa Appeal



Photo(s): Students supporting Rhondda Cynon Taf's Santa Appeal

Staff and students on all campuses purchased presents in support of Rhondda Cynon Taf's Santa Appeal; some students also fundraised to raise funds to purchase additional gifts. Tony Young, Service Director for Children's Services at Rhondda Cynon Taf C.B.C. thanked the college for its support, the response was excellent and over 1500 presents had been collected.

Kind hearted students fundraise for local Homeless Charity



Photo: Students studying on the BTEC Business course at the Pontypridd campus hand over vouchers and gifts to representatives from Gwalia, who work with the homeless throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf. The students fundraised £232.37 to purchase the vouchers and gifts

Detached Youth Workers impressed with facilities at Taf Ely Learning Campus



*Photo: Rhondda Cynon Taf
Detached Youth Workers*

Detached Youth Workers from Rhondda Cynon Taf C.B.C. attended a briefing session, taking in a tour of the Taf Ely Learning Campus Project. The overall impression was positive, they were impressed with the building and the fact that the excellent facilities will be available to the general public.

College recognised as ‘Great Supporters of EBP’

A ‘Celebration breakfast’ event hosted by Education Business Partnership and Careers Wales was held at the Heritage Park. The event, sponsored by GEEAS, was attended by pupils and staff from Rhondda Cynon Taf secondary schools and employers in the area who had worked with EBP over the year. The event included reports from the pupils highlighting how they benefitted from the mock interviews with employers, work placement and enterprise challenges which had been supported by EBP and employers throughout the area.

The college was awarded a certificate for “Great supporters of Education Business Partnership”, for the work undertaken by Campus Office staff; including attending schools and participating in mock interviews. The college provide facilities at the Rhondda campus for pupils from Porth County Community School to undertake interviews and also work with pupils from Ty Coch; supporting their enterprise of making greeting cards which are sold in the college.

Students help put finishing touches on the future of Coleg Morgannwg

Coleg Morgannwg students have been collaborating with pupils from a local high school on a project organised by Laing O'Rourke who are currently building the Taf Ely Learning Campus Project at Nantgarw. The project was aimed at supporting wildlife around the Taf Ely Learning Campus construction site by designing and building bird and hedgehog boxes. The students, who have been working on the boxes for the past two months, had the opportunity to mentor the less experienced would-be carpenters from Hawthorn High School, while the Hawthorn pupils got a flavour of the type of vocational courses available at Coleg Morgannwg, as well as being able to contribute to the £40 million development.



Photo: Tutor Wayne Howell with carpentry students

Students 'make over' village Hall



Photo: Rhondda Cynon Taf's Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care and Well-being Cllr. Mike Forey visited Oxford Hall, Nantgarw

Rhondda Cynon Taf's Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care and Well-being Cllr. Mike Forey visited Oxford Hall, Nantgarw to thank representatives from Laing O' Rourke's workforce and students from Coleg Morgannwg for the improvements they made to the hall. The hall had been subject to vandalism over the years and was in desperate need of repair.

Some of the work carried out by Laing O' Rourke managers based at the Taf Ely Learning Campus project and a group of students included replacing cladding, removing graffiti, painting and clearing the external enclosure. All materials were donated by Laing O' Rourke.

College costume course takes to the world stage



Photo: 'The Team'

Costume construction students showcased their talents at the opening ceremony of World Skills London 2011 at the O2, beating off stiff competition from colleges across the United Kingdom. Fifteen students were responsible for putting together and managing the costumes worn by performers during the spectacular opening ceremony. Course tutor Emma Highgate said: "It was a really special achievement to be assigned a very an important role in such a prestigious event. It was a lot of hard work, but the students were brilliant and learned a lot from the

Campus supports 'Wear Red for Wales' Day



Photo: Staff and students at the Rhondda Campus supporting the 'Wear Red for Wales' day during the Rugby World Cup

Careers Wales 'Mark'



Photo: Principal Judith Evans receives the Careers Wales 'Mark' from Ann Evans, Chief Executive Careers Wales Mid Glamorgan & Powys

Coleg Morgannwg received the prestigious Careers Wales 'Mark' for its dedication to continuous quality improvement for its learners. The Mark replaces the previous Careers Wales Quality Award and fits more specifically with the requirements set out by the Welsh Government. Coleg Morgannwg was the first college, excluding those involved in the pilot, to receive the 'Mark'.

Ann Evans, Chief Executive, Careers Wales Mid Glamorgan & Powys presented the award to Principal Judith Evans at a lunchtime event at Milford's Bistro, Pontypridd campus.

Ms Evans said "I am delighted to award Coleg Morgannwg with the Careers Wales 'Mark'. I have been reliably informed by my colleagues that the college and Careers Service have worked in successful partnership for many years. The achievement of the 'Mark' demonstrates their commitment to providing ongoing support and guidance to its learners regarding their career path.

Principal, Judith Evans thanked Ms Evans for attending the college to make the presentation. She said "I am delighted to receive this award on behalf of the college, as it reflects the hard work and commitment of staff and students. Providing first class careers guidance is a high priority at the college and this framework will allow us to continue to provide an excellent standard of careers guidance, from which our learners will benefit".

Christmas Card Winner



Photo: Headteacher, Cwmclydach Primary School Mrs Roome and Mikaeli Thomas

There was a good response to this years 'Design a Christmas Card' competition with 20+ schools submitting entries. The winning design, selected by the Principal was produced by Mikaeli Thomas, Year 5, Cwm Clydach Primary School; with Tia-Marie Davies, aged 5 years of Parc Primary School coming runner up. The Marketing Team were invited to the school to present Mikaeli with her prize.

Supporting Macmillan



Photo: Coffee Time at Pontypridd campus!



Photo: Rhondda campus supports Macmillan's World's Biggest Coffee Morning

Intrepid Television Presenter celebrates student success



Photo: Lowri with prizewinners Jess Prosser, Ruang Cook & Elizabeth Murphy

Intrepid Television Presenter Lowri Morgan attended the college to help celebrate the achievements of the students. Lowri was welcomed to Coleg Morgannwg and invited to join the celebrations by the Principal, Mrs Judith Evans. The annual Prize Evening recognises the achievements of those students who have successfully completed their courses.

Welcoming the prize winners and guests Mrs Evans said “Prize Evening is one of the highlights in my calendar; I look forward to celebrating the success of our students; whether it is academic or for overcoming barriers. I am sure our guest this evening will inspire many of you to believe in yourself and go for it!” Lowri presented the awards to over 30 successful students from various courses across all campuses. A number of additional college awards were presented to the students in recognition of their success. Lewis Gregory received the ‘*Contribution to College Life and Good Role*’ Model award for his contribution throughout his time at the college. Performing Arts student Samantha Griffiths was presented with the *Dennis Davies* Award in recognition of overcoming barriers in her learning journey and Nathan Williams received the college’s *Outstanding Achievement* Award for his excellent results on his BTEC National Diploma in Applied Science/Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate course. He achieved distinction grades in all his BTEC units and produced an excellent report for his individual investigation for the Advanced Welsh Baccalaureate.

Taf Ely Learning Campus Project — on target



Photo: 'The Street', ground floor, Taf Ely Learning Campus



Photo: Rhondda Cynon Taf C.B.C. Public Library

Celebrating the Festive Season



Photographs:

Top left: RCT Mayor Cllr. Sylvia Jones celebrates the Festive Season at the Carol Concert, Aberdare Campus

Above: Staff and students enjoy the festive celebrations at the Rhondda Campus

Bottom: The staff choir lead the celebrations at the Carol Pontypridd Campus

Students enjoy opportunity to participate in EU debate



For the first time this year Coleg Morgannwg was selected from schools and colleges in Wales to send a representative to participate in the Mock EU Council in Cardiff.

These events, which are also held in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, give young people an opportunity to participate in European politics at first hand. This year the Council debated on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and also on the Eurozone crisis which continues to be a very relevant issue.

In order to represent the views of his assigned member country, Sam had needed to do extensive preparation and research.

Rachel de Benedictis who coordinated the event on behalf of the Welsh Government was very complimentary about how well Sam had performed in his role.

After the event all the participants had a tour of the Senedd and a photocall with Jonathan Scheele, Head of Representation for the European Commission in the UK, Christine Chapman AM for Cynon Valley and Andy Klom, Head of the European Commission Office in Wales

The Real Conversation



Members of Coleg Morgannwg's Student Parliament, Samantha Peach Emma Kerslake and Lance Lathino represented the college at the '**Real Conversation**', Liberty Stadium, Swansea.

The event was organised for students to discuss with Welsh Government members, The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and Careers Wales, how to improve information on career paths, to enable young people to make better informed decisions and bring about closer links to employers and expectations within the world of work.

The Deputy Minister for Skills Jeff Cuthbert opened the conversation with business leaders continuing with a '**Real Conversation**' about how to bridge the gap between the classroom and the world of work.

They discussed the real and perceived barriers to employment in the current climate and explored solutions to enable young people to access work and employers to recruit successfully. The event provided young people with an opportunity to hear about the key skills required by employers, to ensure their understanding of work opportunities is realistic, relevant and inspiring in order to positively influence career choices and develop the talents and skills collectively needed by business for the future.

Miles for Macmillan



Photo: College staff and representatives from Laing O' Rourke workforce put their best feet forward to raise money for Macmillan

College staff joined forces with representatives from Laing O Rourke to raise money for Macmillan Cancer charity. The group completed the 14 mile scenic walk, from Merthyr to Pontypridd in under 5 hours; stopping for much deserved refreshments in the beautiful gardens of Pontygwaith farm. Each walker paid £10.00 registration fee and many have also collected sponsorship, which has yet to be totalled.

Community involvement



Photo: Members of Coleg Morgannwg staff and representatives from Laing O' Rourke's Project Team update residents and employers from Nantgarw on the progress of the Taf Ely Learning Campus Project

A Community Forum was held at the Nantgarw campus to update residents and organisations in the area on the progress of the project. The evening also gave residents the opportunity to discuss proposals for the 'BUND' area.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Spring Term	January 3 2012
Advice Day	March 15 2012
Advice Day	May 17 2012
VQ Day	June 20 2012

Events @ the Community Centre, Rhondda Campus

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

Request for articles

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

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Together we provide a high quality and vibrant learning environment to meet the needs and ambitions of learners, employers and the wider community.