

The Apprentice

Newsletter **December 2008**



Welcome...

to the December 2008 issue of 'The Apprentice' which keeps you up-to-date with the latest news and success stories from Swansea College's Modern Apprenticeship programme.

The college's Work Based Learning [WBL] area provides a comprehensive training and placement service for employers and learners. The programmes integrate work based training with further education and personal development.

We hope you find this newsletter informative. If you would like any further information on Swansea College's WBL programmes please contact 01792 284000.

Student Achievement... Carli Sullivan

Carli has just completed her Advanced Modern Apprenticeship in Childcare in the record time of nine months!

Having initially worked in hairdressing since leaving school, Carli decided that a career in childcare was what she really wanted so she approached the Highgate Day Nursery at Morriston Hospital and was taken on as an apprentice in January 2008. Then Carli's employer advised her to contact Swansea College and she was soon accepted onto the Level 3 course.

"It was strange going back to college after a break and - at 19 - I was slightly older than most students on the course," says Carli "Also, I'd had little experience of working with children apart



from babysitting for friends and family. However I soon settled into both the nursery and college. My colleagues in the nursery were very helpful in showing me the ropes and I soon learned a huge amount about

working with children."

Carli's work in the nursery involves planning and supervising a wide range of activities like craftwork and cooking. According to her employer Jayne Lewis, she has progressed quickly because she is very motivated to succeed and puts in as much extra work as she can at home. Her college tutors have also found her a pleasure to teach, always hard working and keen to learn.

All her dedication has now been rewarded as she is fully qualified and has been offered permanent employment by Highgate.

In the future Carli hopes to work with children who have special needs but for the moment she is happy to enjoy her success and continue working with the children in the nursery.

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GEM Electrical

Kevin Cooze is the Managing Director of GEM Electrical based in Gorseinon, Swansea.

Kevin started in the trade after leaving school when he decided he wanted to become an electrician and got an apprenticeship with Stokes Electrical, a well reputable company. He instantly took to the trade and enrolled at Swansea College to complete his technical qualifications. Kevin enjoyed his time at Swansea College and was an excellent student – he even won an award for the best AM2 result in South Wales.

After qualifying Kevin decided to get more experience with other companies and in other types of electrical jobs. He worked himself up to supervisory positions and enjoyed the challenge of managing jobs and staff. Kevin began to consider working for himself and, in 2000, he opened up his company - GEM Electrical.

GEM's workload consists of domestic, commercial and industrial installation. The company has gone from strength to strength covers a large area of work with contracts as far afield as London.

In 2003 Kevin employed his first apprentice. Because of his positive experience with Swansea College he ensured that his apprentice would also enrol in the



college for the technical qualifications. Kevin's first apprentice progressed well and, as GEM continued to grow, Kevin continued to take on more apprentices and send them to Swansea.

CollegeToday GEM is supporting nine apprentices in their advanced apprenticeship programme. Over the past five years Kevin has supported 12 apprentices on their journey to becoming fully qualified electricians.

> STOP PRESS! <

Well done to **Engineering apprentice Gary Williams** who earned a cap playing for Wales in rugby. Gary travelled to Prague to represent the Welsh Under18s team where they won an impressive 64 – 0 victory.

Always remember the college values which are...

Respect, trust and support each other

Excellence – in all we do

Success for all – embracing diversity and cultural heritage

Progression – enabling our learners to meet their aspirations

Enterprise – inspiring and supporting creativity and innovation

Collaborate – the partnership road to success

Teamwork – one united College team

Welcome to the world of...

a Skill Build Student

16-year old Tom Morris is currently enrolled on a Skill Build course in Business Administration. The Skill Build course is a 13-week programme designed to give students work experience while studying for Key Skills qualifications.



Tom didn't enjoy school and, after his GCSEs, realised he didn't want to stay in full time education so he went to the Careers centre to find out about training courses. The Careers advisor suggested that a Skill Build course would be a good idea as Tom could try working in an office while studying.

Tom has been on the course for 11 weeks and has learned what it is like to work in an office environment. His main responsibilities are faxing, photocopying, answering the telephone, using computer software and developing customer service skills. Tom has also learnt how to budget his money and how to act professionally.

During the time Tom has worked at Swansea College he has made lots of new friends.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed the Skill Build programme and am very happy in my placement," he says. "I feel that it has been very beneficial for my future career prospects."

Tom is optimistic about the future and is hoping to progress onto the NVQ Level 1 in Business Administration and then an Apprenticeship programme. In five years' time he would ideally like to be in an accountancy position and we wish him every success.



Advice and Guidance

Careers Wales is an all-Wales service that gives people of all ages **free** and **impartial** careers information, advice and guidance.

Careers Wales advisors provide specialist advice on career and training options and course information for colleges, universities and other providers. They can also provide help with CV writing, interview skills and applications forms for jobs or courses. Adult advisors are also on hand to help with redundancies and give information on any funding available from Elwa.

There is a Careers Wales centre within the Student Services department of Swansea College. If you are a student

and would like to see a Careers Advisor you can either drop in or telephone 01792 284130 to make an appointment.

Careers Wales also have centres across the South Wales area. A full list of these centres and a full list of all the services available to you through Careers Wales can be found on their website at www.careerswales.com

Careers Wales can help at any time in your life – whether you need help choosing the school or college course that's best for you, want to get back into education after time away, learn a new skill to help change career, aim for promotion within your current job or set up your own business.

Fundraising fun... well done!

Sam Godfrey and her colleagues at Flowers Day Nursery all wore pyjamas to work and raised £500 for Children in Need.

Congratulations also to apprentices and staff at Highgate Day Nursery, including Advanced Modern Apprentice Hannah Curtis, who raised money for Children in Need. Staff wore jeans and yellow tops for the day and the children took part in a 'sponsored bounce' on trampolines.

Enterprise Day **inspires students**

Work Based Learning students recently took part in a special 'enterprise day' that fired their imaginations and set them on the road to business success.

Guest speakers, including Luke Mainwaring, Scott Jewell, Ken Picton and Amy Aston, shared their secrets with the students - how they set up their business, their marketing tactics and the grants and funding they accessed.

These talks were followed by group activities designed to improve problem solving and decision making skills with each team given a business brief and a task to complete within a set time.

"After taking part in the event our students were brimming with ideas and raring to go," says mentor Nicola Hughes. "The group activities and the time spent with the guest speakers enhanced their knowledge and will hopefully inspire them to open their own business and become the entrepreneurs of tomorrow!"



Mine Rescue Service

First year Engineering apprentice Lloyd Thomas, who works at the Energybuild drift mine at Aberpergwm, has successfully completed a Mines Rescue course.

The Mines Rescue Service has developed a specialist training programme to bring skills and knowledge to people working in difficult and potentially dangerous environments. The course aids miners in the rescue and escape tactics that

may be required whilst working underground.

Core titles of the course are First Aid, Fire Fighting, Health and Safety, Confined Spaces, Breathing Apparatus and Rescue and Consultancy.

"Every mine has to have a certain amount of qualified part time rescue brigades men," explains Lloyd. "It was a five-week course, taking three days a week, which

involved crawling around in confined spaces, rescuing a casualty and working with others. There were four men in the team I trained with but a team can be made up of four to eight men. I really enjoyed the course...it was a good experience."