

The Apprentice

Newsletter **November 2008**



Welcome...

to the November 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... Ryan Jones

A Mining Apprentice has been chosen as the Swansea College recipient of an annual Institution of Engineering and Technology [IET] cash prize.

Ryan Jones, who is studying towards NVQ Level 2 Performing Engineering Operations and BTEC National Certificate in Operations and Maintenance, is also employed as an Advance Modern Apprentice at the Energybuild drift mine in Aberpergwm.

He was chosen to receive the £250 award by his tutors at the Tycoc'h campus.

The IET Local Network Prize for Student Excellence rewards achievement by students who are studying subjects at Further Education level leading to careers in engineering.

"Ryan is a first class student who is held in high esteem by all of his lecturers," says curriculum team leader Tim Clark.



"He is a self motivated individual with a positive attitude which results in work of the highest standard. It's a pleasure to read his termly reports where he is often referred to as a 'model student' and 'an

absolute pleasure to teach.' His role at Aberpergwm combines both complex and challenging work activities."

"Swansea College's Electronics team has been involved with the IET West Wales Micro Mouse Competition for the past ten years," says John Jones, Honorary Secretary, Wales South West Network.

"As a result of this new prize, our future association will cover an even greater range in Engineering."

Swansea College has offered the Mining Apprenticeship scheme for four years and is committed to supporting the resurgence and sustainability of the industry.

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Employer profile -

Enfys Foundation

The Enfys Foundation is a local charity that supports people in the Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot areas who are homeless or need rehabilitation for drug/alcohol abuse. The organisation runs two supported housing units which help clients to rejoin the community while supporting them with advice and training.

Enfys began in 1998 when its founders saw the terrible conditions endured by street children in Africa. They came back to Swansea to raise money by running a small shop selling items donated by local people. However a local church made them aware of the fact that there are many people living rough on the streets of Swansea who also needed help. They took homeless individuals into their own home and started to accept household goods that could be repaired by the residents and then sold to raise funds. This gave residents the chance to gain new skills and develop the confidence and motivation to change their lives. As the organisation grew a second residential home was opened.

Now a registered charity, the Enfys Foundation has a large warehouse on Fabian Way where it sells low cost furniture, electrical appliances and small electrical goods such as irons. They receive donations from the public of good quality second-hand items which are repaired and thoroughly tested by staff and volunteers. In addition they also receive slightly damaged new goods from shops or manufacturers. These are sold to the public from the Fabian Way showroom. People who are on benefits or who can show that they are genuinely in need receive discounts. The charity also redistributes essential items like beds and cookers to those who need them, such as asylum seekers or those moving from hostels into homes of their own.

The Enfys Foundation runs three charity shops – in Swansea, Neath and Pontardawe – to raise funds for its work with people in need. Part of the Fabian Way premises has recently been leased to Springvale, who sell high quality leather furniture. Enfys staff and volunteers work in this showroom when needed and gain useful customer service experience.

The charity helps the environment by recycling goods that would otherwise be thrown away. It also assists people in need by providing them with a range of affordable household items. It plays a valuable role in training people to repair and test electrical goods such as fridges, cookers and washing machines and has developed its own training materials and courses. The Enfys Foundation is also developing a project with Swansea Prison so that offenders can begin training whilst in custody and complete their qualification after release.



Enfys has teamed up with Work Based Learning at Swansea College by taking Skill Build trainees on work experience placements. The type of work carried out by trainees includes retail, warehousing and administration. Learners can work towards their NVQ Level 1 and develop valuable skills for future employment.

At present, the charity employs eight workers including drivers, shop managers and electricians. There is also a small call centre where customer service staff liaise with drivers to arrange for bulky goods to be collected from people offering donations.

Anyone wishing to offer donations of unwanted items in reasonable condition can call 0845 009 4646. Items they particularly need include beds, wardrobes, dining suites, sofas (with fire labels) and working kitchen appliances such as washing machines, cookers and fridges. The warehouse on Fabian Way is open to the public Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10am to 4pm. Electrical goods come with a three month guarantee and many are brand new. Take a look sometime and grab a bargain whilst supporting a worthwhile charity!

Registered Charity No: 1105315

Welcome to the world of...

an Electrical Engineer Apprentice

Andrew Lewis has been in the electrical engineering trade for eight years. After leaving school he first enrolled on a Public Services course but his interest in engineering led him to a job working in the stores of an engineering company. From there he quickly progressed into an engineering role.



Andrew currently works as an engineer for Prodem Fire Safety. He is part of a four man team responsible for the maintenance, repair and installation of fire extinguishers and fire alarms within the Corus steelworks. This is a highly challenging and sometime dangerous job.

"The job can be very hectic and there are different risks in each area of the steelworks plant so we always have to be aware of new surroundings and different dangers," he says.

Because of the dangerous nature of the steelworks Andrew has attended many Health and Safety training sessions including Gas Awareness, High Voltage, Passport to Safety etc. A typical day would require Andrew to wear all types of PPE including ear protection, safety goggles, flame proof clothing, hard hat, high visibility jackets and a gas monitor.

Andrew enjoys the variety of the job - working in a different area each day, meeting new people and facing new challenges. Although he is on 24-hour call he gets a lot of satisfaction

in knowing that he plays a part in ensuring the safety of the steelwork employees and the smooth running of the plant.

Andrew remembers one incident in the coal injection plant where a fire alarm he had installed alerted them to a problem that could have resulted in a large fire. A fire could have caused the closure of the plant with a potential loss of hundreds of thousands of pounds to the company.

Andrew is in the final year of his Advanced Apprenticeship programme at Swansea College. He has been working towards his NVQ levels 2 and 3, Key Skills, a BTEC and VRQ. He has enjoyed his time at the college and hopes to progress onto a HNC course in the future.

His long term plan is to open up his own electrical engineering company and provide a good future for his wife and two children.

Need help? Get help!

Before, during and after enrolment, students at Swansea College can access professional, confidential help and support from the Student Advisor and the Admissions Team. The Student Advisors can also help with welfare, course guidance, finance and personal issues.

You can contact the Advice and Guidance team on 01792 284000.

Help with... **careers**

Help with... **wellbeing**

Help with... **health**

Help with... **money**

Student Services is open Monday–Thursday [between 8.30am and 5pm] and Fridays [between 8.30am and 4.30pm]. Advisors are also available at the Llwyn y Bryn campus during term time.



Learning Zone opening times

Term Time:

Monday to Thursday - 8.30am to 8.30pm

Friday - 8.30am to 4.30pm

Half Term:

Monday to Friday – 8.30am to 4.30pm

Cefn Hengoed Learning Zone opening times:

Tuesday and Thursday - 9am to 3pm
[facility available at other times by arrangement with tutor.]

Star student...

Swansea College has nominated Donna Collier for a national award that celebrates the outstanding achievements of students across the country.

Donna, who has completed her Association of Accounting Technician [AAT] NVQ Level 3 Intermediate qualification and is now studying towards her Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) NVQ 4 Technician qualification, was nominated for the Association of Colleges' Student of the Year Award 2008.

"Since she started on the Modern Apprenticeship scheme Donna has grown in confidence and gone from strength to strength," says lecturer Paul Sizer. "She has achieved success in every examination and assessment that she has undertaken so far and I'm sure that she will continue to succeed and gain her qualification."

The AoC competition is sponsored by the Learning and Skills Council and aims to highlight outstanding student achievement - often in adversity - while celebrating the amazing success stories so common to the sector.



Student Code of Conduct

At Swansea College we want all our students to achieve their potential and our Code of Conduct explains what we expect from you.

To be successful in your time at College you should:

- Aim for excellence in all you do
- Attend all lessons and achieve 100% attendance
- Be on time for all lessons
- Report any absence by calling 01792 284000 before 9am on each day of absence
- Make sure you have all relevant materials and stationery for your lessons
- Take part fully in all aspects of your programme including tutorials, careers guidance, visits, work experience and any additional support arranged for you
- Complete all work set to agreed deadlines and to the best of your ability
- Make progress against targets agreed and set
- Work together with other students to achieve your goals
- Attend all examinations that you are entered for
- Only use the IT facilities as outlined in the IT Acceptable Use Policy
- Discuss with your tutor any intention to change programme or leave the college
- Treat all staff, students, the local community and the college campuses with respect
- Appreciate our college's diverse community and cultural heritage
- Park only in permitted car park bays

The Code of Conduct should be read in conjunction with the following policies and procedures which can be found on the student active desktop under Grapevine and Intranet > Intranet > Student Services:

- Bullying and Harassment Policy and Procedure
- Equality and Diversity Policy
- IT Acceptable Use Policy
- Student Absence Procedure
- Student Disciplinary Policy

>>> STOP PRESS! <<<

Congratulations to the following learners who have celebrated success recently:

- **Gavin Venkiah** - Engineering apprentice who has started a HNC with Swansea College this year.
- **All the Hairdressing Apprentices** who took part in the successful Fashion Rocks event last month.
- **Carly Thomas** - Successfully completed her Skill Build prep course and is now employed as a Customer Service Representative.