

The Apprentice

Newsletter

Spring 2010



Welcome...

to the Spring 2010 issue of 'The Apprentice' newsletter, 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... Skill Build

Greg Jones joined Swansea College in November 2005. He had left school the previous year with two GCSEs but was unsure what to do next. A pleasant learner with a mature attitude, Greg achieved four Key Skills at Level 1 Prep and then at NVQ Level 1. Due to his motivational approach, attendance and achievement, the college was very happy to progress him onto Level 2.

Greg successfully completed the Level 2 qualification and, with his employer's support, progressed to Level 3, where he decided to take a Heavy Goods qualification. He has since achieved all of his Level 3 qualifications [with distinctions and merits!] and is finishing off his NVQ, producing excellent job cards in the process.

Greg has decided to further his education by enrolling on an Electrical/Mechanical qualification, which he is doing in his own time for personal development.

"Greg has come a long way since leaving school and enrolling at Swansea College," says his assessor. "He has gained qualifications at a level that he never

thought possible. His employers, Cymru Coaches, are also extremely pleased with all he has achieved and he has become a valued mechanic and part of their team."



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Singleton Day Nursery

Since launching in November 2009, Singleton Day Nursery has provided a warm and friendly environment for children in the heart of Sketty.

Open throughout the year, the nursery caters for babies and children aged up to 8 years old.

Activities are varied and include outside play, art, messy play, reading and storytelling.

During school holidays, Singleton Nursery also runs a successful play scheme for children aged between 3 and 11. The play scheme allows children to enjoy varied activities from arts and crafts to 'Wacky Races' and planting and growing days. Situated on the edge of Singleton Park, it's the ideal position for children to get fresh air and to play in a green environment.

The nursery has 18 members of staff who are dedicated to looking after the children and helping them have as much

fun and active/educational time in the nursery as possible. Children are placed into small groups, with each having a key worker dedicated to them. This helps the children bond with their key worker and ensures that the children have enough time dedicated to their fun and development.

Singleton Day Nursery takes an active role in helping young people train and gain qualifications in Childcare. They currently have two Swansea College apprentices working with them - Laura Barnes, a Level 3 Advanced Apprentice and Bethan Seymour, a Level 2 Foundation Apprentice. They also support BTEC and work experience students.

Singleton is a very supportive nursery, with a lot of emphasis on staff wellbeing and happiness. Regular monitoring meetings are arranged to discuss progression and performance



with members of staff. They also focus on developing motivation and qualifications by running training courses and recently organised a team building event for everyone to get together and have fun while building relationships.

The staff at Singleton Day Nursery are looking forward to welcoming more children in the future and to expanding the business.

Congratulations!

Swansea College would like to congratulate two of its Engineering apprentices who reached the regional finals of the National Training Awards in 2009.

The award ceremony, held in the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, celebrated exceptional achievements made within training and development throughout the UK.

Well done to Robert Morgan for getting through to the regional final and being named as runner up in the Best First Year Apprentice category. Robert is an apprentice from Unity Mine in Glynneath. We would like to congratulate him on being recognised within this award ceremony as one of Wales's best first year apprentices.

Well done to Richard Dean too, for getting through to the regional final and being named as runner up in the Best Fourth Year Apprentice category. Richard is an apprentice from Robert BOSCH Ltd in Llantrisant. We would like to congratulate Richard on being recognised within this award ceremony as one of Wales's best fourth year apprentices.

Both students were nominated by their employer, college assessor and mentor.



Richard and Robert

Farewell...

We would like to say goodbye to two members of the Work Based Learning team.

Engineering Assessor Alan Tandy has left Swansea College after four years and all the team will miss him very much. He has left a big gap in the department that will never be filled and we all wish him every happiness in the future.



Mentor Tamsyn Bennetts is also leaving WBL after five years to take up a new role within the college as a Student Support Officer for full time students. Good luck Tamsyn!

Welcome to the world of a...

NHS Engineer Apprentices

Rob Kissick started working for the Swansea NHS trust in Singleton Hospital as a porter seven years ago. He then saw an advert for an apprentice within the hospital and he beat tough competition to secure the apprenticeship position as a mechanical/electrical engineer.

In his current role, Rob maintains air conditioning units, compressors, heating chlorifiers and also carries out plumbing and electrical work around Singleton Hospital. He was signed up with Swansea College three years ago as a Foundation Apprentice in Mechanical Engineering and quickly progressed to his Advanced Apprenticeship at Level 3.

In addition to studying for his apprenticeship, Rob is currently undertaking a HNC in Building Services. He feels that completing his apprenticeship will offer lots of opportunities for him to progress within the Estates division in the NHS trust.

"The apprenticeship has given me the opportunity to progress my career to become a qualified engineer," says Rob. "This will give me a better quality of life. For the future, I would like to progress from the apprenticeship and complete an Engineering degree."

Simon Peters has been on the electrical/mechanical engineering apprenticeship programme for the last three years. He too saw an advert for an opportunity as an engineering apprentice within Morriston Hospital and applied for the position. After several assessments and interviews, he was lucky enough to be offered the apprenticeship position in Morriston Hospital as an electrical engineer.

Simon's day to day tasks include PPM (Pre-Planned Maintenance), fire alarm systems, emergency lighting, electrical repairs, breakdowns and electrical installation work.

Prior to starting at Morriston Hospital as an apprentice three years ago, Simon was working for a travel company as a product manager, where his job entailed liaising with hotels abroad and negotiating holiday deals. When the company was sold and relocated to England, this gave Simon the opportunity to look for other job opportunities and, as he had always wanted to learn a trade, he decided the electrical apprenticeship was the best way forward.

Simon was signed up as a foundation apprentice and quickly progressed to the advanced apprenticeship at Level 3. In addition to studying for his apprenticeship Simon is also currently undertaking the HNC in Building Services.



"This apprenticeship programme has given me new skills and a trade for life," says Simon.

"I would like to further my career within the Estates division in the NHS Trust and continue to learn new skills to enhance my performance as an Engineer."

Rob and Simon's mentor at Swansea College, Nicola Hughes, adds: "I have worked with Rob and Simon over the last three years and it has been a pleasure to be their mentor. Both students have worked extremely hard throughout their qualification and I am sure they will have very long and successful Engineering careers."

Their assessor, Wyn Llewellyn, agrees: "I have worked with Robert and Simon since the start of their apprenticeship. They have completed all work set for them to a very high standard. The apprenticeship is dual skilled and this is completed both at college and in the workplace. The support given to them and the college by their managers, with their time off for courses and revision, has been exemplary. It is a pleasure working with both Robert and Simon."