

# PRESS RELEASE



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## SUPPORTED LEARNING STUDENTS CELEBRATE ACHIEVEMENTS

As part of the Festival of Achievement at Yeovil College, the Department of Supported Learning recently held an action-packed celebration evening, organised and presented mainly by the students including dance routines, awards and a fundraising auction.

200 guests were enthralled as they watched video footage of the students taking part in various activities such as a visit to Spain and the Ten Tors Jubilee Challenge. The evening's entertainment was introduced by Lifeskills student Ben Lambert, in the role of Master of Ceremonies.

There were dance performances of 'Steam Heat' by the part-time adults group, led by lecturer Deena Bulman, and a colourful Moulin Rouge-inspired act by the Flexible Learner group. Zoe Slaney also sang 'My Immortal' by Evanescence, which was accompanied by a video.



Steam Heat

A fundraising auction also took place. Student Emma Murray wrote letters to local businesses, larger companies and celebrities asking for donations. With a fantastic response including a Downing Street pen from Prime Minister Gordon Brown, a signed football from Yeovil Town Football Club, a range of signed photos from the cast of BBC soap Eastenders, a signed copy of Full Circle book by Michael Palin and many many more. A total of £925 was raised from the auction and a raffle, which also took place on the night. This money will go towards a new mini bus for the department. Emma and her

tutor Jackie Hughes would like to thank everyone who made a donation.

The Kerry Power 'Golden Welly Award', named in remembrance of a much-loved member of staff was given to the staff after the annual football match between staff and students, the staff broke their losing streak and won – although the students said they let them!

The evening was rounded off with a number of awards, presented by James Hampton, Yeovil College Principal. Jake Crofts was named Flexible Learning Programme Student of the Year for his growth in confidence and progress.



Thomas Acton is named 'Life Skills Learner of the Year'

Life Skills Learner of the Year was awarded to Thomas Acton, who was described as "a source of pride to others" because he always strives for better things and shows great enthusiasm, patience and supportiveness.



Jake Crofts with Principal James Hampton

Last, but not least, Ben Poole was named Part-time Adult Learner of the Year. He was described as "an inspiration" who had gained respect among his peers for his positive, can-do attitude and determination not to let difficulties prevent him from joining in.

Special mentions were also given to Jessica Shanahan, Richard Peachell, Vicky Quarter and Jessica Lewis.



Ben Poole accepts the 'Part-Time Adult Learner of the Year' Award

In his speech, James Hampton said *"I have seen some amazing students here tonight and I am so proud of what they have achieved. I really admire their positive attitudes in the face of so many difficulties and the efforts of the staff who support them. Thank-you to all of you for a very enjoyable evening and may I wish you all the best for the future."*

Students going on to higher-level courses were mentioned and fond farewells to those who are leaving the college.

Supported Learning at Yeovil College offers a wide variety of courses that are individually tailored to the needs of students with learning difficulties / disabilities. For further information please call 01935 423921.

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### **Notes to Editors**

All press enquiries to Eileen Furze, Marketing Officer t: (01935) 845428 e: [eileen.furze@yeovil.ac.uk](mailto:eileen.furze@yeovil.ac.uk)

### **Complete List of donations for fundraising auction:**

Fleet Air Arm Museum – 2 child tickets  
Bowlplex – 2 game vouchers  
Somerset Cricket Club – 2 tickets for home match  
Yeovil College Fitness Centre – 1 month membership (adult + child)  
Yeovil College Hair Salon – cut & blow dry  
Yeovil College Beauty Salon – manicure & facial  
Da Vinci Restaurant @ Yeovil College – three course meal for two  
Yeovil Town FC – signed football  
Haynes Motor Museum – free admission for 1 adult + 1 child  
Berry's Coaches – 2 return tickets to London  
Swan Theatre – 2 tickets for "A Murder is Announced" in September  
Boots – Man & Woman No 7 Gift boxes + illuminated mirror  
Geoff Gardner – juggling lessons + set of juggling balls  
New Image – full body airbrush spray tan worth £25  
BBC – signed photos from cast of Eastenders and celebrity signed photos from Ben Fogle, James May, Dominic Littlewood, Charlie Dimmock, Alan Titchmarsh, Tommy Walsh, Anna Ryder Richardson and Ewan McGregor  
Yeovil Court Hotel – Sunday lunch for two  
West Somerset Railway – family day rover for steam train from Bishops Lydeard to Minehead  
Prime Minister – Downing Street pen  
Wincanton Race Course – 2 tickets for the Premier Enclosure  
Butlins Minehead – family day pass  
Michael Palin – signed copy of "Full Circle"  
David Jason – signed photograph  
Southern Counties Shooting Ltd – 50 clays (value £50)  
Bottle of A Carpentier Champagne – private donation  
Cricket St Thomas Wildlife Park – family ticket for 5 people  
Granada Studios – t-shirt worn by Katherine Kelly (Becky Granger) with certificate of authenticity  
Cannons Health Club – Rucksack, towel, drinks bottle + one month membership  
Lesley Waters – signed copy of "Healthy Eating"  
Karen's Horticulture Group – 2 planters.

**Steam Heat** was performed by Rachel Daynes, Quentin Crawford, David Frowd, David Booth, Matthew Hurford, Anna Bouquet, Sarah Watson, Holly Leigh, Annabel Plinth, Amelia Haynes and Gillian Eason, led by Part Time adults lecturer Dena Bulman.

**Moulin Rouge Dancers** were Etty Fallows, Charlie Horner, Sebastien Drinkwater, Zoe Newell, Emma Murray, Amelia Hay, Tiffany Young and Zoe Slaney.