

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOUNDATION LEARNING STUDENTS CELEBRATE THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

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

Over one hundred guests were enthralled as they watched video footage of the students taking part in various activities such as a visit to Spain, the Ten Tors Jubilee Challenge and Bath residential.

The evening started with the Part-time students getting everyone involved in health and wellbeing warm.

The Performing Arts students demonstrated their talents with three performances; Glitter in the Air, Closer and Dance Energy Dynamics. The Communications & Media group created a short film 'The Night of the Living Bread', a comedic parody of Night of the Living Dead.

A fundraising auction also took place. Students **Joshua Dadzitis** and **Sophie Johnson** wrote letters to local businesses, larger companies and celebrities asking for donations. They received a fantastic response including a range of signed photos from celebrities including Jensen Button, Jonathan Ross, Dame Judy Dench and Daniel Craig, a cricket bat signed by Somerset and England cricketer, Marcus Trescothick and a framed signed Yeovil Town Football shirt. A total of over £500 was raised from the auction and the raffle, which also took place on the night. This money will go towards a new mini bus for the department.



Performing Arts Students



*Work Preparation
Learner of the Year,
Katie Wallis with James
Hampton, Principal*

Katie Wallis was named Work Preparation Learner of the Year. Katie was nominated because her confidence has grown so much this year and has 'come out of her shell.' She is extremely sociable, supportive and encouraging of others. She is able to use her own initiative, ask for and offer help to staff and other learners. Katie has passed a number of personal goals and is now able to make eye contact when interacting with others. She has thrown herself into Performing Arts this year and has made huge progress.

Life Skills Learner of the Year was awarded to **Martyn Crews**. Martyn has been on the course for two years. He has worked hard towards many personal goals such as staying with the group and behaving safely around College. He never complains about the health problems that he has to deal with and he always accepts help from staff. Martyn is always extremely willing and enthusiastic when given a task and will carry it out with 'gusto'. Staff around the College have got to know Martyn through doing jobs such as the tea towel run and recycling and are always commenting on how hard working he is.



*Life Skills Learner of the Year,
Martyn Crews with Emma Samuels*

Last but not least, Part-time Learner of the Year was awarded to **Leslie Bowers**. Leslie has achieved so much this year at College academically and in his personal and social skills. Every week he comes in with the latest news (but never the football!). He has also come up with fantastic verbal explanations during the 'everyday objects' game. Leslie has time and time again demonstrated that he can now join in with group discussions, answer direct questions and initiate conversations.

The evening was rounded off with a number of awards, presented by Lorraine Burchell, Faculty Director, Skills for Life & Learning.

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

Foundation 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 Janice Smith, Marketing Officer t: (01935) 845406 e: janice.smith@yeovil.ac.uk

Complete List of donations for fundraising auction:

Ip's Palace - £20 meal voucher
Viceroy II – Two course meal for 2 people
Abbotsbury Swannery – family ticket
Stephen Fry – signed CD
Leeds United – signed photo
Tony Robinson – signed photo
Noel Edmunds – signed book
Jonathan Ross – signed photo
Mulberry's Bistro – voucher for case of wine
Jackie Hughes – 1:1 jewellery lesson
Marcus Threscothick - signed mini cricket bat
Glastonbury goodie bag
Jenson Button – signed photo
Dame Judy Dench – signed photo
Daniel Craig – signed photo
Quicksilver Mail – meal for 4 people
Emma Watson – signed photo
Griff Rhys Jones – signed book
BBC – box set of Merlin DVDs
Yeovil Town Football Club – framed signed football shirt.

Raffle prizes kindly donated by:

Tesco Yeovil
Bowlplex
Mali Thai Restaurant
Marks & Spencer
Mulberry's Bistro