

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEARNERS TAKE ON TENTH TEN TORS JUBILEE CHALLENGE!

For the tenth year in a row, Foundation Learning students from Yeovil College have successfully taken part in the Ten Tors Jubilee Challenge, which is celebrating its fiftieth year.

Twelve Work Preparation students, all with learning difficulties, took part in the challenge. Supported by staff, they camped overnight on Dartmoor before hiking routes of up to 16km. Despite inclement weather, all of the students successfully made it to the finishing line.

To prepare for the challenge, the students had six weeks of training and practice walks, including one overnight camp at Fleet in Dorset.

Course Manager Elwin Higgins said *“I’m proud to say that all of the students succeeded in completing the walk, even though one group lost their bearings quite drastically early on! When they finished, the students were exhausted, blistered and longing for a rest, but their sense of achievement was palpable. Since they’ve been back at College, we’ve seen a huge improvement in their self-esteem and a strong, deep-rooted camaraderie. This just reaffirms what an important and special event this is for both students and staff to get involved in.”*

The students are all completing a Work Preparation programme at Yeovil College, which is designed to teach those with moderate learning difficulties the skills necessary to join other courses, live independently and gain employment. As well as the Ten Tors Jubilee Challenge, the students take part in a number of projects and activities including Business and Enterprise, residentials, catering and football.

The programme is taught by the Faculty for Preparation for Life and Work. Faculty Director Lorraine Burchell said *“The Ten Tors Jubilee Challenge has been part of the programme for ten years and is a key event for staff and students alike. As I and some of my colleagues wave the students off each year, their excitement is always clear to see. Welcoming them back the benefits are even clearer – The learners are more confident, have a greater sense of team working and a deeper understanding, and respect for, their peers and themselves. The hard work, dedication and commitment of the lecturers and support staff who not only organise our involvement, but also accompany, guide and motivate the learners to success is something Yeovil College can be truly proud of.”*

For more information on how Yeovil College can support students with learning difficulties, visit www.yeovil.ac.uk or telephone 01935 423921.

Notes to Editors

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