

# PRESS RELEASE



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## COLLEGE COLLECTS GIFTS FOR TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN

Staff and students from across Yeovil College have pulled together to send Christmas gifts to soldiers serving in Afghanistan.

The students and staff have donated a wide range of items, including essentials like toiletries and healthcare products, and treats and luxuries such as sweets, snacks, magazines and playing cards.

Faculty Director of Health, Care and Teacher Training Kate Hill, was one of the many staff who got involved in the project. She said *"It was very humbling to receive the email listing all ideas for things we could send and seeing how ordinary some of the items are. You don't always think of things like this, so I think the scheme is a wonderful idea. I'm very proud that so many people, both in the Faculty and around College, wanted to get involved."*

The collaboration was organised by Childcare lecturer Val Fisher, whose son, Matt, is a rifleman in the Territorial Army. She said *"Matt's captain told him about this fantastic project and Matt asked me if I wanted to donate something to it. I decided to ask the staff and students at the College too. The students have already done so much for Yeovil Night Shelter, Children in Need and Operation Christmas Child that I thought they'd like to be involved with this too. We've had a really good response."*

Val's son, Rifleman Matt Dobbs, is part of B Company, Sixth Battalion the Rifles, which is based at Bishops Hull. He came to the College to collect the generous donations. He will be sending the gifts to friends in the Sixth Battalion who are currently serving in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

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### **Notes to Editors**

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**Photograph** shows Rifleman Matt Dobbs with a group of BTEC National Diploma in Childcare and Education students with just a small selection of the gifts received. (l-r) Abby Spoor (19) of Wincanton, Kate Wareham (18) of Sherborne, Rifleman Matt Dobbs, Katie Portch (18) of Bruton, Alice Monaghan-Phelps (16) of Stoke sub Hamdon and Lucy Clark (16) of Yeovil.