



# College Merthyr Tydfil News January 2015!

Welcome to first edition of The College Merthyr Tydfil Newsletter. This newsletter will be published on a monthly basis to provide you with regular updates on college news, events and success stories.

*Stay in Touch!*



## College Student sets her sights on Cambridge!

Sophie Griffiths, an A2 level Humanities student at The College Merthyr Tydfil is smiling after being offered a place at St John's College, Cambridge to study English. Sophie, whose offer is conditional on her achieving an A\* and two A's in her A2 examinations, also applied to Cardiff, Warwick, Bristol and Exeter University, but had her heart set on Cambridge after taking part in the Shadowing scheme in February 2014. She was ecstatic when she found out that she had an interview at Cambridge. Sophie commented "I couldn't believe it when the letter came through informing me that I had been invited to attend an interview at Cambridge University. I was very nervous about going but I really enjoyed the experience. I was thrilled when I



subsequently got my offer letter.”

Lisa Thomas, Head of A level programmes at the college, stated “The college has a unique programme for more able and talented students which provides stretching and challenging term-time and summer school activities linked to Oxford, Cambridge and other UK and international universities. As an outcome of this programme, we currently have a number of students applying to study at universities like Penn University, Harvard University, Oxford and Cambridge. We have also been selected to be part of the new Oxbridge Hub for South Wales from September 2015.”

Sophie, who previously attended Cyfarthfa High School, is just one of over 225 of the college’s level 3 students who have applied to study at university in September 2015. This is 50% higher than previous years and reflects the level of support and activities that are being provided to help inspire students to progress on to higher education.

Amongst the college’s vocational students, BTEC level 3 sports students have received a number of university offers. Jess Osbourne, John Hughes and Chloe Lloyd have received offers from the University of South Wales and Cardiff Metropolitan to study sports degrees whilst BTEC Outdoor Adventure students Luke Thomas Enoch, Patrick Burchell and Christian Golden have received Double Merit conditional offers from the University of Wales Trinity Saint David for BA Outdoor Education.

Sarah Kerrigan, Head of Sport at the college commented “I am really pleased with the offers that our Sports students have received. We work hard to encourage our students to progress on to higher study and it is really encouraging to see so many youngsters taking up these opportunities and realising that BTEC’s offer an A level equivalent route into university.”

## College student chosen as ‘Young Ambassador’ for Enterprise in Wales

Lee Williams, a Foundation Degree Business student at the College Merthyr Tydfil has recently become one of the first eight young Big Ideas Wales ambassadors for enterprise in Wales.



The Young Ambassador programme, led by the Welsh Government, seeks to recruit and train young entrepreneurs aged 16-24 who have started their own businesses within the last two years. Each of these young entrepreneurs have been trained to deliver short sessions to add further value to the Big Ideas Wales Services and the extended sessions delivered by the Role Model Network.

Lee also recently scooped ‘Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award’ at the Merthyr Tydfil Business Awards in recognition of his enthusiasm and hard work to drive forward his new business ‘Maid in Wales’ whilst at the same time studying hard at college and working part-time at EE. Lee commented “Growing up on one of the biggest and poorest council estates in the world is an experience I will never forget for both the good and bad reasons.

It made me what I am today, determined, innovative and downright entrepreneurial. I am really looking forward to being a Young Ambassador and inspiring other young people to think seriously about setting up their own business whilst also using my experience to provide them with an understanding of the realities of setting up in business, the support available and barriers and challenges that they may have to face” Lee can now be booked to go into school and college classes to help young people understand what it takes to start a business.

He goes on to say that “It doesn’t matter where you are from or what your background is, if you want something that much, you will find a way to it, just like I did”. For further information on the Young Ambassador Programme, please visit [www.BigIdeasWales.com](http://www.BigIdeasWales.com)

## New York, New York!

A group of Business Studies and Travel and Tourism students have recently visited New York to learn all about Supply Chain Management. Please visit our Facebook page /CollegeMerthyrTydfil to view the photos of the trip or visit our Twitter page @TCMTBusiness to find out what the students had to say about the trip.



## Students meet Welsh Author Ioan Kidd

AS and A2 Welsh students recently had the opportunity to attend a revision day at Swansea University where they met the Welsh Author Ioan Kidd.



## College Merthyr Tydfil students gain invaluable European work experience.

Three groups of College Merthyr Tydfil students have recently returned from two weeks experience in Jena, East Germany. Over 100 business, travel and tourism, hairdressing and beauty and construction students were chosen to attend a Leonardo funded work experience placement in Germany. They had the opportunity to learn German before they went and to experience the culture, language and work ethic of the East Germans. The students also took part in cultural visits during their two weeks in Germany including a visit to Berlin. The trip is fully funded by Leonardo. Although a little nervous about holding down a work placement in a foreign country, all of the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and gained confidence and skills during their time abroad.

Hairdressing student Stephanie Caoie, 23, spent her time at the *Schnittpunkt* hair salon where she was able to get a taste of hairdressing German style. Tutored by Nadine Schmidt, Stephanie experienced a very different perspective to her future profession, in particular, having an opportunity to try out the dual education system that operates in Germany.

Business students also thoroughly enjoyed their time.

BTEC level 3 student Janine Esteban commented, *“The Germany trip was very enjoyable. I gained and enhanced some skills such as confidence and being independent. I also met some people and made friends with them. I would love to go back if I get another chance.”*

Travel and Tourism student, Casey Chinnock stated, *“It was one of the best experiences I’ve ever had, working there allowed me to gain a greater insight into the working world whilst experiencing a different culture.”*

## Students gear up for Big Ideas Wales Bootcamp

A2 Science, Computing and Humanities students, Giorgio Baglioni and Jordan Coates are two of only 25 people from the whole of Wales chosen to attend The Big Ideas Wales Bootcamp at the end of January. Giorgio and Jordan got through with their innovative idea of a Social Enterprise designed to take the stress out of exam time for students.

They will now join the other 25 successful 16 – 24 year old entrepreneurs in an intensive three day residential business Bootcamp where they will be inspired by world-class entrepreneurs, access business support, network with likeminded young entrepreneurs and get coached and challenged on their business idea.



Find out how Giorgio and Jordan get on in the bootcamp by following Twitter: @CollegeMerthyr and @Bigideaswales.

## College student gets ready for Cambridge Shadowing Scheme!



Maria Lewis, an AS student at The College Merthyr Tydfil is smiling after successfully beating off competition from over 2,000 students to gain a place on the prestigious Cambridge Shadowing scheme.

Maria, who is an ex Penydre High School student, is one of only 450 students to get accepted on the scheme. She will

now join other Law students from across the country to get engaged in lively Law lectures

and debates and experience first-hand what it is like to study at Cambridge University. Maria, who is intent on reading Law at university hopes that the weekend will also provide an insight into the key aspects of Law that are covered on the degree programme.

She commented "I'm really excited about the prospect of attending the programme and feel extremely lucky to have been chosen.

I hope to gain valuable skills that I will be able to use throughout my future studies. It's a fantastic opportunity and I am grateful for all of the support that I've had from my Law tutor."

Law tutor, Dawn Price commented "***Maria is a really hard worker and thoroughly deserves this opportunity***".

## Former students sets up his own plastering company

A former plastering student has successfully set up his own company which is going from strength to strength. Michael David Hunt, who completed both his level one and two plastering qualifications at the college, travelled from Builth Wells three days a week, never missing a day of his studies.

**Tutor David Ridout commented, "When attending college, Michael was extremely committed to learning the trade and was a pleasure to teach. He never complained about the long distance he had to travel each day. He was just keen to learn and complete his qualification. I wish him every success for the future."**



## Sporting Successes!

Congratulations to our sports students Chloe Lloyd and Gemma Evans for representing Welsh Colleges' v Australia on 23rd January. They won 1-0 and Chloe scored the winning goal. Well done Chloe!

Well done to our sports student Nathan Jenkins who

represented Welsh Colleges against Australia Schools on 23rd January. They played at Cardiff Metropolitan University and won 4-2.



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Congratulations to our A2 level student, Kate Bowen. Kate has been selected to represent Welsh Colleges' at the British Colleges' games, for trampolining.



Congratulations to Cameron Trowbridge a year 2 BTEC level 3 sports student, who has been selected to represent Welsh Crawshay's at under 18 level.

## New for 2015 – College Travel Agency

The Level 3 Travel and Tourism students will have the fantastic opportunity to take part in real life work experience through the opening a new college travel agency, which will be based in the student service interview rooms on **Tuesdays 1-3pm.**

They will be offering a 'Best of Britain' theme, which is part of their 'UK as a destination'

module and will enable them to try out the skills learnt in their customer service module. They have put together some fantastic offers for staying in the UK along with concert tickets, football and hotel packages. They have attached a copy of some of our offers.

All enquires/bookings made with us are fully ABTA and ATOL protected, so your money is safe. All bookings and enquires are also confidential.

If you are looking for a holiday please pop in and see us or fill in the attached form and email to [HolidayCentre@outlook.com](mailto:HolidayCentre@outlook.com). We can get back to you with a quote with our best price. We can sell a wide range of holidays for all over the world as well as short breaks, concert and football tickets in the UK.

## Forthcoming Events!

### **College Merthyr Tydfil Open Evening, Thursday 5th February 2015 at 6.00pm - 8.30pm**

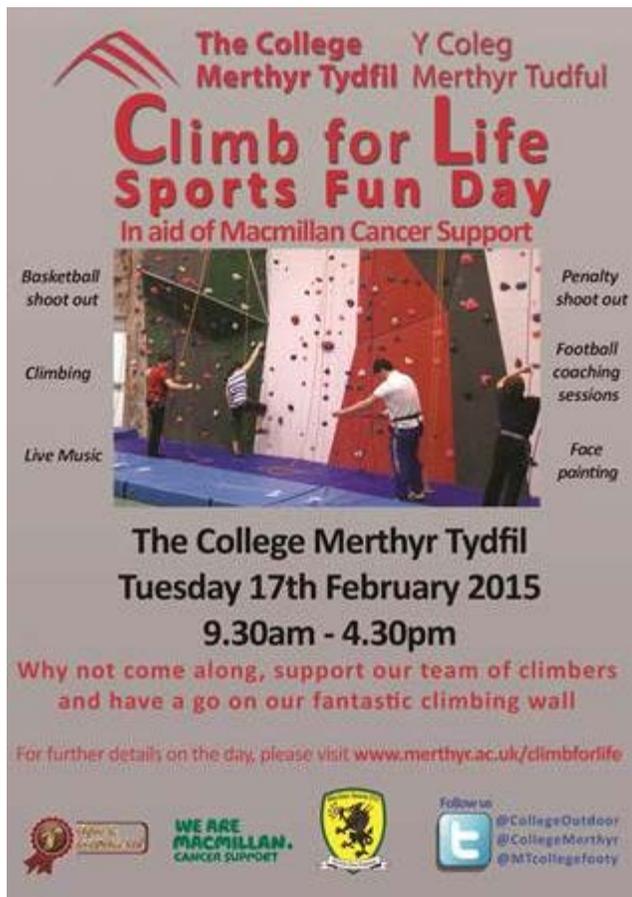
Our next open evening is taking place on Thursday 5th February at 6.00pm. The evening will provide you with a perfect opportunity to:

- Find out what The College Merthyr Tydfil has to offer
- Talk to Heads of Division and subject area leaders about courses on offer
- Talk to a Careers Advisor
- Ask as many questions as you need

The evening will commence with an introductory presentation at 6.00pm. You will then have the opportunity to walk around the college, meet our staff, sample the wide range of courses and enrichment activities on offer, speak to our current students, view the fantastic facilities on offer and ask those all important questions about your chosen course.

**If you live in the Brecon area, we will be running a free return bus from Brecon High School to the College Merthyr Tydfil for you to visit our Open Evening on Thursday 5th February. The bus will depart Brecon at 5.30pm and return at 7:30 pm. To book a place on the bus, please visit: <http://bit.ly/1K2wH43>**

We look forward to seeing you on the evening!



**Climb for Life in aid of Macmillan Cancer, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

Are you looking for something to do over the half term holidays? Do you fancy a challenge? Why not come along to our '**Climb for Life and Sports Fun Day**' on **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February**. As well as having a go on our fantastic climbing wall, you will be able to take part in lots of other activities, including basketball, football coaching, penalty shoot out, live bands and much more! And it's all taking place indoors, so, whatever the weather, you will be able to come along, have fun and help us raise money for a great cause.

For up to date information on the event, please follow us on Twitter: @collegemerthyr, @collegeoutdoor or @MTcollegefooty or Facebook: /collegemerthyrtydfil

Please like, share and retweet the event poster and adverts to as many of your friends as possible so that we can encourage maximum attendance on the day and raise as much money as possible for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Thanks very much for your support

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