



DerwenCollege

Where Learning Comes to Life

Spring 2018



Welcome to our Spring newsletter. Hopefully the worst of the wintery weather is behind us and we can look forward to some sunshine. A huge thank you to everyone who took part in our annual sponsored walk event on 25th March – we had another great event and all funds raised will go to support our Therapy and Fitness Centre development.

We have been working on some exciting developments in our 'DC Shopping and Leisure' commercial area this term. This includes re-siting our range of DC Handmade and food products into the Garden Centre Shop so that everything comes together under one roof to improve the experience for our students and customers. Pop in and have a look when you next visit...

Student highlights this term have included a fantastic response to Natspec 'Maths Week' with groups from each curriculum area getting involved with practical maths learning. We also celebrated World Book Day with a book cover competition – some wonderfully creative entries making the judging very difficult indeed!

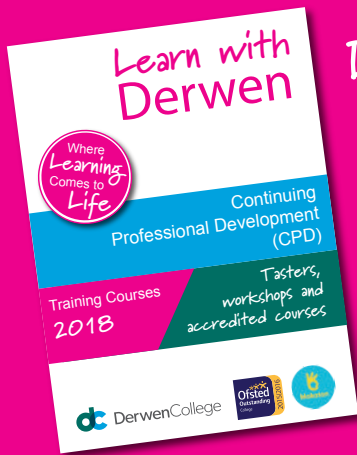
Finally, congratulations to all the students that have taken part in Inclusive Skills Competitions this term – we have had successes in both the English and Welsh competitions highlighting the fantastic skills our students develop during their time at Derwen College.

Meryl Green  
Vice CEO, Principal  
Director of Learning & Quality





Prom night is taking place on Friday 13th July and the theme decided by the Student Board this year is the Oscars ceremony. A great opportunity for the students to get out the posh frocks and suits! A huge thank you to DPA Design who have very kindly sponsored this event with £500 which will ensure that the students will have some fabulous entertainment and refreshments.



## Did you know?

We have a number of tasters, workshops and accredited courses on offer at Derwen.

To find out more visit:

[www.derwen.ac.uk/events](http://www.derwen.ac.uk/events)

## News from the Satellites

### Coleg Derwen@Ashdale

Ashdale is now more accessible than ever with our new wet room opening for the summer term.

The office is also being moved upstairs and the old office is being transformed into a classroom with improved external access.

A Hazel coppice is to be planted at the far end of the field and our orchard is diversifying to grow a greater variety of fruit/trees.

### Craven Arms

Students at Craven Arms are benefitting from a range of external work placement opportunities. These placements not only provide valuable real life experience in a working environment but also provide travel training opportunities. Two students working locally in Craven Arms have progressed to accessing their place of work independently which is a great achievement. Their comments reflect the benefits they feel this has provided:

"I feel proud and independent to have done this." "I like working by myself. I feel confident."

One of the students working in Church Stretton receives support to use public transport. One of the other students is carrying out work in two placements!



### Walford

Our horticulture students have been working with North Shropshire College's (NSC) Head Gardener, Nicola Worthing, to re-energise the large glass house on the Walford Campus, to enable them to put theory skills into practice i.e. plant hygiene, general health and safety with glass, weeding, pest control, planting and team work. Both Derwen and NSC students benefit from working collaboratively and sharing each other's knowledge and skills.

## What's been happening in HOSPITALITY & CATERING STUDIES

We will be taking over the farmers markets in Oswestry on the last Friday each month.

HCS would like to congratulate Adam Gill, Adam Richards, Gareth Crook, Serena Bennett, Naomi Ramsden, Joe Griffiths, Adam Ffoulkes-fenner and Susie Allcoat for achieving their Welcome Host certificate and badge.

Katie Griffiths, HCS Learning Support Assistant won a staff recognition award for her effective and fast actions with a customer in the Orangery Restaurant.

Mother's day saw the Orangery extremely busy, and we have had many compliments from our customers.



# INCLUSIVE SKILLS COMPETITIONS

## Did you know?

Inclusive Skills Competitions are run by Natspec in partnership with the Association of Colleges, and supported by WorldSkills UK, and enable young people with learning difficulties and disabilities to showcase their work skills and growing independence.

Winners from the regional heats taking place around the country have the opportunity to take part in the finals at the Skills Show in November.

Competitions in the West

Midlands Region include Catering, Fitness Trainer, Hairdressing, Health and Social Care, Horticulture, ICT, Media, Restaurant Service and Woodwork. Our students have had some amazing competitions – competing at regional and national level showcasing their skills to a wider audience.

*Good luck everyone for 2018!*

## What's been happening in CREATIVE

## STUDIES



We have started exploring our new theme of Festivals and Celebrations towards exhibiting at our

summer showcase on Fete Day. Students have taken part in workshops from IASS (Independent Advice Support Service) and Wardrobe Ensemble, London for some key performance skills development. Students really loved this workshop and it supported team work fantastically.

Our Derwen On Tour (DOT) group have been busy, performing for Dance for Dignity Day in the West Midlands, St. David's Day in North Wales and St. Christopher's School, Wrexham. In addition, our DC 'Narratours' group have started storytelling performances at local nurseries. This is a great opportunity for our students to perform and we're hoping to expand our work experience within this next term.

Check out our video we made for Down Syndrome Day on our Facebook page.

## Charity News



This year DC Charity is raising money to support our new Therapy and Fitness Centre. We are launching a new appeal to raise £60,000 this year to support the project and need your help to achieve this target. If you have any fundraising ideas, please get in touch.

### Wrexham Running Festival:

Volunteers from Derwen College helped out at the Wrexham Running Festival to raise funds for DC Charity. Tony and Chris Griffiths (parents of one of our students) and some staff handed out water and lots of encouragement to the hundreds of runners. Run Wales, who organise the Wrexham Running Festival, have donated £200 to DC Charity for our help.

### Shrewsbury Half Marathon:

DC Charity has joined forces with the Shrewsbury Half Marathon this year, and we have three free spaces for anyone wanting to take part and raise funds for DC Charity. The run takes place on Sunday, June 17th. Anyone wanting to take part should contact Anna Evans.

### Swimming Pool Refurb:

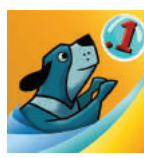
Thanks to a successful year of fundraising in 2017, work continues on the college swimming pool building. The old roof has been replaced with extra thick, highly insulating roof panels which will make the building highly energy efficient. The next stage will be to install a new energy efficient heating system.



**For all fundraising enquiries, please contact:**

**Anna Evans, Fundraiser**  
[anna.evans@derwen.ac.uk](mailto:anna.evans@derwen.ac.uk)  
**01691 661234 ext: 395.**

App of the Month  
 Motion Math Zoom



An animal adventure through the world of numbers! Motion Math Zoom (for iPad, iPhone, and iPod touch) features the most interactive number line of all time. It is a fun, engaging way for students to master a foundational pillar of maths: place value.

# Events

- 19th May Royal Wedding event in The Orangery
- 25th May Afternoon Tea in The Orangery
- 31st May Summer Fete 2018
- 17th June Father's Day @ Derwen
- 14th July Afternoon Tea in The Orangery

For more information on all the events and activities taking place and how you can join in visit [www.visitderwen.co.uk](http://www.visitderwen.co.uk)

## Short Breaks

We are excited to announce our Short Breaks provision will be extended to be available throughout the year (closed Christmas and New Year) to young adults aged between 16 and 25. Guests can take part in a range of activities and trips, as well as making use of the campus facilities and will stay in single rooms with en-suite facilities. For more information about availability and pricing contact: [shortbreaks@derwen.ac.uk](mailto:shortbreaks@derwen.ac.uk)



## How are we doing?

In a recent (March 2018) local authority audit on Derwen College, the following comments were made in the final report:

*"I found my visit to Derwen College informative and well prepared (with pre paperwork completed and other items required for the inspection made readily available). It is obvious the college is well managed and the staff team are a well-supported strong team. It is also clear that the*

*provision is student centered and that the teams work with the best interests of the young people at the fore at all times. The proactive use of external companies to bring excellent learning facilities and post college employment is most noteworthy and should be showcased as an example of good practice. There are robust behaviour management policies and practices in place. There were excellent examples of student inclusion and high Quality Assurance processes in place I am satisfied that Derwen college meets the LA's standards and expectations of placement."*

THURSDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY  
12 NOON



DerwenCollege

Summer Fete  
2018

New location  
within college  
grounds!

Stalls ☆ Games ☆ BBQ

Show Tickets  
To book your free tickets to the student performance of 'Come Fly with Us' please email: [bookings@derwen.ac.uk](mailto:bookings@derwen.ac.uk). The performance will take place at 2pm in the Student Union

Where  
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