

Timeline of events

Horticulture students are invited to take part in a national competition held at Derwen College on Thursday 2 May 2024

- Application deadline: Friday 12 February 2024 (click to apply)
- First round entries (to be submitted electronically) by Friday 15 March 2024
- Successful entries will be informed by Friday 12 April 2024 and must be available for the live final on Thursday 2 May 2024

Entry Requirements

- Competition is open to all Horticulture students from colleges of Further or Specialist education, aged 16–25
- Competition is open for learners working between Entry Level 2 and Level 1
- Group entries of up to 3 learners welcome

Competition Task

2024 welcomes the Olympics at Paris, France. Competitors will design and create a summer border or raised bed based on the theme of the Paris Olympics. You will need to submit your plan of your design for the first round of the competition. This will then be judged by a variety of impartial judges working in the Horticulture sector (judges tbc)

If you get through to the final:

Finalists will be invited to Derwen College on Thursday 2 May 2024 to execute their designed plan and will be given one hour to complete this

You can bring along one garden feature to include within your design – such as a water feature or sculpture, and you will need to provide your own plants

The competition will require each competitor to:

- Decide which plants to use for full effect, bearing in mind colour, season, and creativity
- Ensure your planting is in proportion and is balanced
- Ensure your plants are healthy
- Ensure plants are planted correctly and securely in the border
- Maintain health and safety
- Maintain tidiness and cleanliness

To be provided by the host:

- An area of 1mx1m size border or raised bed prepared with compost ready to be planted
- Tools and equipment

- A bin or skip for waste disposal

To be provided by the competitor:

- Arrive suitably dressed with appropriate PPE
- Flowers/Plants/Shrubs for your plan
- Feature to put into overall design – this can be a made item or a bought one and be no bigger than 50cm

Marking and Assessment

There will be one judge on site to ensure guidelines are adhered to and further judges who will judge the end product. Judging will be marked against the criteria:

- Use of Health and Safety (including PPE)
- Overall impression of design and the finished border
- Theme – does the border meet the theme of the Paris Olympics
- Plant Selection
- Choice of feature piece – does it meet the brief, is it securely installed
- Overall planting skills

Additional Information

- Competitors will receive a Health and Safety briefing at the start of the competition
- Competitors will start and finish work as instructed by the judges
- Competitors will be given one hour to complete their display
- Competitors must provide their own uniform / PPE
- Competitors who arrive late for the event will not receive additional time
- If, during the competition, competitors feel they must leave their work (e.g.: medical reasons, toilet break), they will have the time recorded on a 'time out' sheet by a member of staff
- The judges' decision is final
- Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd placed competitors, all others will be awarded a certificate of participation
- Photographs taken during the event may be used for marketing/publicity purposes. Students and staff attending the competition will be required to complete a form to confirm or deny consent to use their image
- Competitors must only receive agreed support that is outlined in their support statement. Support that is deemed to be outside that declared in the support statement could result in the competitor being disqualified from the competition

Contact Details

For any further information, please contact Jane Carrington, Pathway Lead for Horticulture at Derwen College: 01691 661234