

# CAMPUS ROUND-UP



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## A TALL STORY

STUDENT JOINS THEATRE COMPANY FOR SHORT ACTORS, LED BY FILM STAR WARWICK DAVIS [PAGES 6 AND 7](#)



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# Welcome to CAMPUS ROUND-UP edition four



@Suzie Cain  
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Hello, my name is Suzie Cain and I'm the guest editor of this week's Campus Round-Up digital magazine.

I'm a third year journalism student at Harlow College, in Essex, and have been working at *FE Week* as a paid intern for the last fortnight.

During my time here, I have been given responsibility for sorting through all the press releases and photos sent to the paper from providers.

I have been tasked with finding the most fun, interesting, and inspiring stories for the magazine. I have also had to chase up details from press officers, agents, staff, students, and photographers, attend regular meetings with the *FE Week* editor, and write up the articles.

It has been a valuable experience. The team here is close-

knit, which has allowed me to have important contact with everyone and to see how each role works.

Plus, they've all been really welcoming, friendly and given me some great advice.

In this week's edition, we spoke to performing arts student, Francesca Mills, about her role alongside film star Warwick Davis, in the Reduced Height Theatre Company's production of *See How They Run*.

Other highlights include the Duke of York's visit to Buckinghamshire University Technical College, Myerscough College football student Rhys Turner signing for Oldham Athletic, and dozens of lambs being delivered in front of visitors

during Sparsholt College's open weekend.

*FE Week* is running a paid internship scheme for journalism students.

Each of them will be guest editor of Campus Round-up for two working weeks, under the guidance of our training manager. We are now accepting applications for the summer term. Email paul.offord@feweek.co.uk for more details.

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# Rhys scores pro contract after football studies



Left: Rhys Turner wearing an Oldham Athletic shirt. Above left: Anthony Pilkington holding a Norwich City shirt. Above right: Joe Bunney

Hotshot Rhys Turner is the latest student from Myerscough College to be signed for a professional football club.

The striker has signed an 18-month contract with League One side Oldham Athletic.

Rhys, aged 18, completed a level three BTEC in football studies last

June and started a foundation degree in football coaching in September, also at the college, which he will now not finish as he must dedicate all his time to the professional football club.

He is the latest former student to be signed by professional club after completing the BTEC course

at the Preston-based college, after winger Anthony Pilkington, 25, joined Premier League side Norwich City in 2011, striker Joe Bunney, 20, joined League Two side Rochdale last April, and midfielder Alex Kenyon, 21, joined League Two side Morecambe last July.

Phil Brown, head of the college's

football academy, said: "The move Rhys has made shows what can be achieved if students are prepared to work hard and learn."

Rhys scored 61 goals last season for the college side, which plays in the English Colleges FA Premier Division, and two for the England Colleges' representative side.

DO YOU WANT TO BE IN CAMPUS ROUND-UP? Send your stories with pictures to campus@feweek.co.uk including names, ages and course details of students where applicable

## EDITION 4

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Campus Round-up is a sister publication of the weekly newspaper *FE Week*. *FE Week* is the only newspaper dedicated to the further education and skills sector.

*FE Week* is offering a two-week paid internship for people who want to be journalists. They will be guest editors for two editions of our new Campus Round-Up magazine, under the guidance of our training manager. E-mail us at campus@feweek.co.uk to find out more.

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Georgia Murray with her winner's certificate

# Going Gaga for talented young singer Georgia

A winning rendition of Lady Gaga's hit song Speechless left the audience at the MidKent College talent final lost for words. Georgia Murray, aged 18, received a standing ovation following her performance, which



Left: Street dancer Harry Rowe

saw her beat 16 other MidKent's Got Talent finalists to win the annual competition. Street dancer Harry Rowe, 18, from Maidstone, and dance collective Urban Vibe clinched second and third place, respectively. Other acts included a circus skills performer, a gymnast, several singers, a live band and another dancer. Students Union president Matt Stanley, who was a member of the judging panel, said: "It was difficult to pick a winner from so many talented students, but I think Georgia deservedly came out on top. "She has an amazing voice and makes singing seem so effortless."

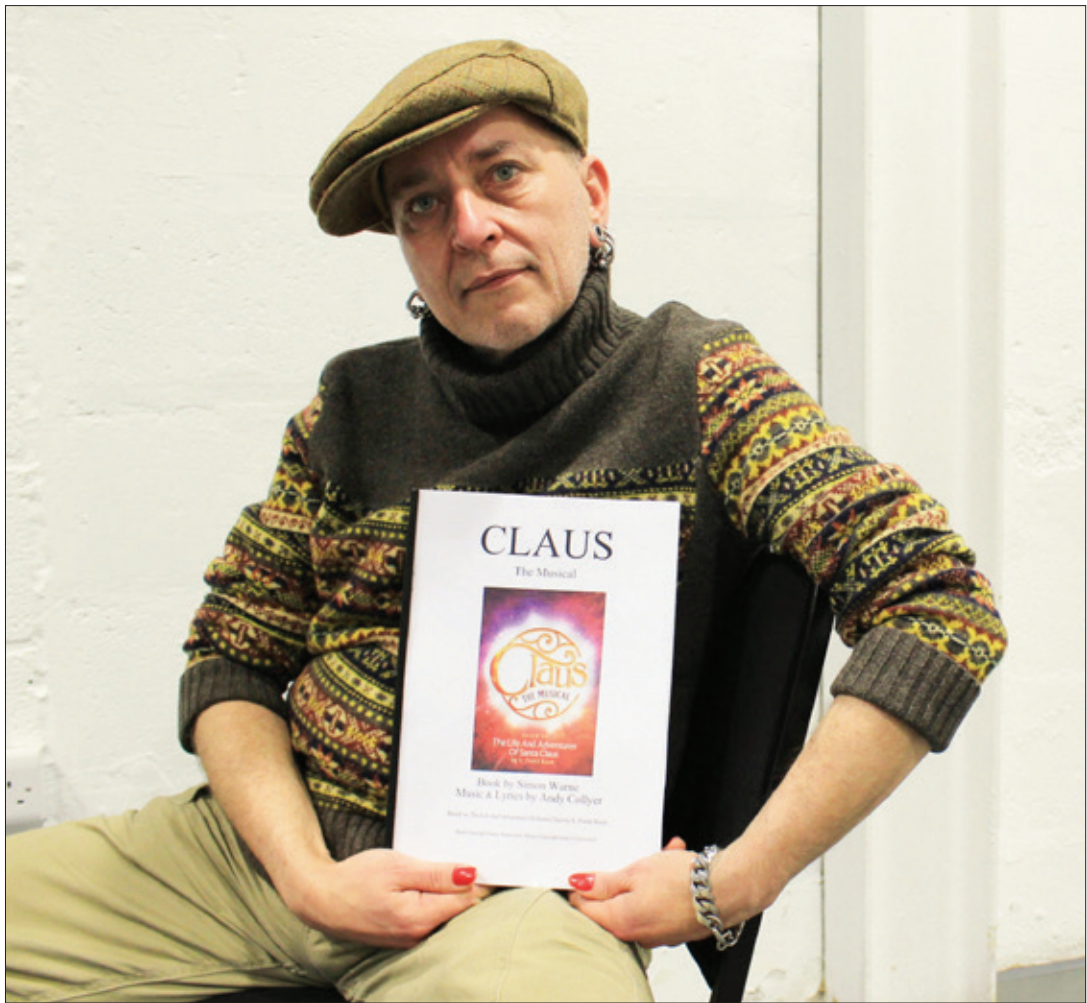
# Going back in time for hair and beauty inspiration

Hair and beauty students from South Cheshire College proved they can cut it under pressure by creating striking new 1950s and music-inspired looks for a competition. The college challenged its level three hairdressing students to come up with hairstyles based on famous songs from the charts, musicals, or films, with Paige O'Neill, aged 17, and Anna Mekelova, 36, sharing first place for their styles influenced by Disney musical film Tangled and Abba hit Dancing Queen. Samantha Dugdale, 18, won a category for make-up artistry level three students. She transformed models' faces following a 1950s theme. Tracy Dony, hair and beauty technician at South Cheshire college, said: "The competition was a fantastic opportunity for students to demonstrate their skills. "It also gave them all some useful experience of working under pressure."



Ellie Robertson, aged 18, modelling s hairstyle created by Anna Mekelova, which was inspired by Abba song Dancing Queen

# Musical writer hopes to send Santa to Broadway



Musical theatre lecturer Andy Collyer

Weston College lecturer Andy Collyer is crossing fingers that a musical he is involved with will be taken up by producers in New York. Andy, a lecturer at the Somerset-based college in musical theatre, has written music and lyrics for Claus The Musical — a new production that looks at Santa Claus's childhood, showing how he develops into the mythical figure known all over the world. The story is based on a book, The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus, by L Frank Baum, who wrote The Wizard of Oz. The musical is now set to be scrutinised by a panel of judges from the American-based National Association of Musical Theatre. If they approve, it could be performed in Broadway, New York, and in touring productions across America. Andy said: "I couldn't believe it when I heard it is going in front of the judges. "It would be an amazing opportunity to have a show produced in New York, and maybe across the rest of America."

# Visitors can hardly baa-lieve their eyes as newborn lambs delivered



From left: Student Harry Benney, aged 17, shepherd John Garrett and student Tom Van Oppen, 17, with a newborn lamb

Visitors to Sparsholt College could have been forgiven for thinking spring had arrived early as they watched agricultural students helping to deliver dozens of new-born lambs. Members of the public weren't sheepish as they were welcomed into the Hampshire-based college's lamb baa-rn during an open weekend. College shepherd John Garrett provided a running commentary as a group of eight students delivered 33 lambs under his guidance. Philip Holroyd-Smith, who organised the event, said: "I can't imagine there are many opportunities for people to get so close to a new born lamb and to witness one being born is pretty special. "There were a number of occasions when visitors let out a collective aaah as they saw a new lamb arrive in the world."



# Touring with Warwick Davis — talented Francesca has joined film star’s new theatre company for short actors

Performing arts student Francesca Mills is determined that her 4ft frame should not stop her achieving big things on stage and on screen. She hopes a 12-week tour with a theatre company for short actors, led by movie star Warwick Davis, will help launch her career, writes Paul Offord.



From left: Reduced Height Theatre Company cast members Jon Key, Warwick Davis and Francesca Mills checking out the script for play See How They Run. Above: Mr Davis on the set of Willow. Below: Mr Davis playing an ewok in Star Wars

Talented teenager Francesca Mills is worried that at 4ft tall she will find it harder than most of her classmates to get ahead in the acting world. But the 17-year-old, who will complete a BTec extended diploma in performing arts in June, feels “unbelievably lucky” to have Britain’s most successful short actor Warwick Davis as her role model and mentor. The star of classic films such as Willow and Star Wars, who recently appeared with comedian Ricky Gervais in BBC show Life’s Too Short, has just launched The Reduced Height Theatre Company — and cast Francesca in its first play. Francesca, who attends the Staffordshire-based Academy for Theatre Arts (which is jointly run by The Jill Clewes Academy and Newcastle-under-Lyme College),

will play the maid in See How They Run, a farce written by Philip King set in Britain during the second world war. Francesca said: “Short people get a bit type-cast, which means we often don’t get lead parts. “We will play all the parts in this play and the entire set, including the furniture, will be made smaller — so there will be no laughs to be gained from seeing us have to climb up things. “The original script made no mention of short people and it hasn’t been changed for this production, so the idea is people will forget about our height and just become absorbed in the performance.” She added: “I would

like to follow Warwick into films one day, but I’m only young so I’m going to concentrate on my studies for the time being then see where my career takes me.” Francesca and the rest of the cast have been rehearsing for two weeks and they will set-off on a 12-week national tour on February 19. She also recently appeared on ITV show This Morning, alongside Mr Davis, to promote the play. Mr Davis said: “Fran is absolutely brilliant as the maid. Watching her rehearse has made me think that I’m going to have to up my game. “As a performer, she really sums up the ethos behind the project — to give a platform to the talented individuals there are within the short actor community and allow them to shine.” Francesca sat most of her final BTec exams five months early, in January this year, to give her time to rehearse and tour with

the play. She said: “All my tutors are really supportive of the acting work I get. They understand what a great opportunity performing with Warwick is and were prepared to be flexible with my exams. “I did most of them early and don’t know how I did yet, but will be returning in June to appear in the academy’s end of year show.” Francesca appeared in her first show, a production of Oliver at the New Vic Theatre, in Newcastle-Upon-Lyme, when she was just seven years old. Her most recent performance was as the fairy Tinkerbell in a Peter Pan pantomime, at the Liverpool Empire theatre, last December. Karen Dobson, principal at Newcastle-under-Lyme College, said: “We’re all extremely proud of Francesca. I have no doubt that she will go on to have a long and successful career.”

## The tour dates:

- Churchill Theatre, Bromley February 19 to 22
- Palace Theatre, Southend February 24 to March 1
- Belgrade Theatre, Coventry March 3 to 8
- New Victoria Theatre, Woking March 10 to 15
- Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne March 17 to 22
- Richmond Theatre, Richmond March 24 to 29
- Wycombe Swan Theatre, High Wycombe March 31 to April 5
- The Derby Playhouse, Derby April 7 to 12
- Theatre Royal, Plymouth April 14 to 19
- Civic Theatre, Darlington April 22 to 26
- Opera House, Manchester April 29 to May 3
- New Theatre, Cardiff May 6 to 10



# Shaping-up for workshop with willow sculptor



Artist Serena de la Hey with student Amber Few-Hastie, aged 19. Inset: The Willow Man sculpture

Pic: Emma Patterson

Art and design students from Yeovil College feel inspired about the shape of things to come after a workshop with famous sculptor Serena de la Hey.

Ms de la Hey, who created the iconic Willow Man sculpture next to the M5, near Bridgwater, in Somerset, worked with students from the college studying for level three BTEC extended diplomas in art and design.

She answered questions about creating artwork from willow and showed how to cut and manipulate it for sculptures. The artist also helped learners develop ideas for their next sculpture project, which will feature a model bird in a cage made from willow.

Student Katy Fox, aged 18 said: "It was really nice to work with something natural, rather than paint."

The Willow Man, which was unveiled in 2000, is 40ft tall and has a 16ft arm span. It is made of willow woven over a three-tonne steel frame.



Catherine Merriman (back left) and Hannah Rodrigues (back row, second from right) at the day care centre with Catherine's sister Hannah (centre front), another young volunteer from England and children suffering from cancer, HIV/Aids and other illnesses

## Young volunteers travel to Uganda to help Aids and cancer patients

Winstanley College students who dream of becoming doctors spent three weeks volunteering in Uganda working with Aids and cancer patients.

Catherine Merriman and Hannah Rodrigues, both 18, who are both currently studying maths, biology and chemistry A-levels at the Wigan-based sixth form college, organised the trip themselves.

They were also joined by Catherine's sister, Hannah, 23, who used to attend the same college.

Hannah said: "Shadowing nurses and witnessing the administration of morphine for those with HIV, Aids and terminal cancers had a profound impact on me."

Catherine said: "It was extremely challenging and I quickly became aware of the influence of poverty and culture on the accessibility and delivery of health care."

"It was also a great opportunity to practice my French while interacting with Congolese patients at a local hospital."

## ROUND-UP IN BRIEF



### Annie cuts it

A student designed and created a stained glass window for her college.

Annie Egan (pictured by the window), aged 54, was the winner of a competition run by City of Bath College in December 2012, to design a stained glass window for its Roper Building.

She spent the next year cutting-out the pieces, which have now been installed within a lead frame.

### College fights prejudice

Morley college has been awarded £19,000 by the government to tackle prejudice through education.

The project, called Educate Out Prejudice, is set to run until June.

The London-based college will use the money to look at how it can incorporate more lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender themes into its lessons.

It will also aim to help students and staff feel more comfortable talking about their sexuality should they wish to.



### Centre gets £6.5m boost

Isle of Wight College has secured £6.5m from the Skills Funding Agency to build a new science, technology, engineering and maths centre.

Computer generated images have been released (pictured) showing how the new building will look.

Building work is due to start in March and should finish by September next year.

## Royal seal of approval from Duke of York



Construction student Matthew Greaves, aged 16, with Prince Andrew and Nick Hand, head of construction. Inset: IT student Thomas Hurley, 14, talking to the prince with Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire (centre left) and Alan Bailey, head of IT (centre right), in the background

Buckinghamshire University Technical College (UTC) got the royal seal of approval when it was visited by The Duke of York.

Andrew was at the UTC's official opening ceremony with former education secretary Lord Baker, who is chair of the UTC brand.

Andrew spent time with information technology and construction students who showed him a new computer game they had created and their bricklaying skills.

He said: "Having listened to the students today, I can see that they have clearly grasped the the purpose of the UTC which I believe they will make a significant difference both to their own futures and their community."

The UTC, which specialises in IT and construction, cost £10m to build and opened to students last September.

It currently has 100 students, but still has the capacity for another 400.



Lord Baker with Mr Hand and construction student Sandro Ferreira, 14

## Dance show crosses the generation divide



Students performing to Money Makes the World Go Around, from the musical cabaret. Inset: Freelance dance artist Vicky Frayard dancing with over-60s dancers from Age of Grace

Younger learners shared the stage with a group of dancers aged over 60 for a show organised by Richmond-Upon-Thames College.

Second year dance students performed a routine to the song Lost in Paradise, by Valarie Pettiford. Ms Bennett said: "It was wonderful to showcase all the talented dancers, both young and old, that the local area has."

Alena Bennett, a dance lecturer who organised the show, also brought in acts from outside the college including a group of people aged over-60, called Age Of Grace, who did a Charleston-style dance to the song Hot Honey Rag, by Valarie Pettiford. Ms Bennett said: "It was wonderful to showcase all the talented dancers, both young and old, that the local area has."



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