



Principal turns Top Gun for the day

Rotherham College principal Gill Alton (pictured) was flying high when she took off into the Norfolk sky thanks to a charity auction.

The flights were donated by the Norfolk University Technical College and won by education specialists Tribal, at the *FE Week* annual charity dinner and auction in aid of the Helena Kennedy Foundation.

The planes were piloted by former RAF pilots Wildcat Aerobatics, who deliver crowd-thrilling close-formation aerobatic and synchronised pairs flying.

Manoeuvres included loop-the-loop, flying upside down and spinning in the air. And Mrs Alton was accompanied on the day by Sandra Furby and Al Coates, from Tribal, plus *FE Week* director of operations Shane Mann and editor Nick Linford.

Mrs Alton said: "That was an experience of a lifetime. When the pilot described in advance the moves we would make, I was a little apprehensive but I enjoyed every minute of it. I won't forget this day for a very long time."

Visit <http://tinyurl.com/m6lqnpl> to see video footage of the flights.



Article by Shane (Goose) Mann and bottom photo by Nick (Maverick) Linford

Could Prospects be first to join college sector?

Chris Henwood
@Chris_Henwood

EXCLUSIVE

An Essex-based charity is understood to be in talks to become the first independent training provider to be legally reclassified as a college.

Prospects Learning Foundation, which has two centres in Basildon, one in Southend-on-Sea and one in Canvey Island, is thought to be looking at the move.

The charity, which has around 250 staff, 2,000 students and a turnover of £11m, already calls itself Prospects College and has a current Skills Funding Agency (SFA) adult skills budget allocation of £200,650, a contract for 16 to 18 apprenticeships of £2,461,731 and an Education Funding

Agency (EFA) allocation of £490,000.

News of the possible move towards college status comes after Skills Minister Matthew Hancock revealed last month, in an unrelated *FE Week* special report on college mergers, that his officials at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) were considering promoting the attainment of incorporated status.

"As part of encouraging greater diversity and innovation, the government is always keen to explore how new entrants might enter markets," he wrote in *FE Week*.

"The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills is currently looking at whether there is a case for encouraging different types of provider to secure incorporated status in FE."

However, Prospects chief executive

Neil Bates declined to comment.

Colleges were incorporated in April 1993 primarily to remove funding from local government and keep down council tax bills while re-focusing public-funded education on employer needs.

Joanna Forbes, senior associate solicitor in SGH Martineau's education team, said it would "mean the provider would be eligible to be funded by the SFA/EFA on a directly-funded basis as a college, rather than as a private provider."

"This would give access to more flexible recurrent funding, although recent funding reforms have reduced the impact of this, as well as to capital funding available to directly funded FE colleges," she said.

"It would also provide greater stability of funding, which might be

viewed more favourably by lenders and potential partners.

"On the downside, new colleges would be caught by legislation applicable to public bodies, such as the Freedom of Information Act, Human Rights Act and general equality duty, all of which will impact on its day-to-day operations."

A spokesperson for the Association of Employment and Learning Providers said: "Independent training providers will make their own decisions on whether or not to incorporate, but incorporation should be an open and transparent process.

"In any event, all providers should be treated in line with common principles applied to all such as contracting and access to capital."

A spokesperson for the Association of Colleges said: "FE and sixth

form colleges are the most successful part of the education sector and so, where they meet new demonstrable demand, we would be delighted to see new colleges being established.

"Where new institutions are being considered it's important that there is full and transparent consultation.

"Our membership is open to any college established under the Further & Higher Education Act 1992 therefore any new institution that meets the criteria would be welcome to join, just as Rochdale and Lowestoft sixth form colleges did in recent years."

A BIS spokesperson said: "As the minister wrote in June, as part of encouraging greater diversity and innovation, the government is always keen to explore how new entrants might enter markets. At this stage the work is purely exploratory."

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College sell-off hit by 'summer closure' delay

Rebecca Cooney

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Uncertainty continues to hang over the future of K College, which is being broken up following a "failed merger", after the tendering process was delayed.

Invitations to tender (ITT) were due to be sent out by the Skills Funding Agency between July and September to organisations interested in taking over the college's provision.

An email sent to interested bodies said: "In order to allow organisations to better prepare their tenders, rather than requiring work to be done over the summer, when many organisations are closed as the academic year ends, we have moved the launch of the ITT to early October."

Short-listed organisations are now due give presentations and attend interviews on their bids in October, with contracts being awarded the following two months.

The provision and estates of the college are expected to be split up and sold off after the college, formed by a merger between West Kent College and South Kent College in 2010, ran into multi-million pound debts.

The college was issued with a notice of concern by the agency, which it owes £15m.

The agency declined to say whether the debts would be transferred to the winning bidder.

It also declined to say how many providers

had expressed an interest in taking over the college's provision.

"While a procurement is running, we are not in a position to disclose any details with regard to applications," said an agency spokesperson.

The delay in the tendering process should not prevent contracts from being awarded on time, she said, adding: "Contracts will continue to be awarded in line with the indicative timetable we have set out."

Seven parts of the college's provision are on offer, including 16 to 19 provision in Dover, Folkestone or Ashford, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells grouped together and 19+ provision in these three areas.

Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) directly-funded provision at Ashford and Tonbridge is also up for grabs.

College principal Phil Frier said: "There is a lot of interest from other colleges, training providers and universities in bidding for the work currently operating across all five towns.

"This is great news and ensures the continuation of the college's provision for the foreseeable future."

Details of the sell-off were listed in a sales prospectus from the agency, Education Funding Agency and HEFCE.

Two open days were held on May 22 and 23, at two of the college's five campuses, for interested parties to find out more about the college and its provision. Fifty providers registered to attend.

FE Week news in brief

EFA data release

The Education Funding Agency is to start publishing delivery and funding information for providers' 16 to 18 provision.

The announcement follows a story by FE Week that the group of providers, which is funded on delivery, was overpaid around £20m last year.

An agency spokesperson told FE Week it expected the information for 2012/13 to be published around the end of the year. Meanwhile, 2011/12 data will be available from next month.

Skills 'a priority'

The government has said it accepts a recommendation that skills should be a core priority for Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).

The recommendation was made by a Department for Business, Innovation and Skills select committee report published in April, which also said LEPs should demonstrate engagement with providers.

The government, in response to the report, said it was committed to giving employers and learners control over the skills system.

Colleges join forces

The 10 largest colleges in Greater Manchester have formed a joint venture company, which will have a combined income of nearly half a billion pounds.

The General Manchester College Group will include Bolton College, Bury College, Hopwood Hall College, The Manchester College and Oldham College. Salford City, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan and Leigh colleges will also be involved in the partnership, which aims to enhance students' job hopes.

Minister 'behind' action over inadequate provider

Rebecca Cooney

@RebeccaKCooney

Moves to tackle poor provision by Elmfield were ordered personally by Skills Minister Matthew Hancock (pictured below) before its inadequate grading from Ofsted had even been published, FE Week can reveal.

The minister is understood to have been furious with the provider following success rates, as reported in FE Week two months ago, showing just 47.5 per cent of Elmfield's 13,420 leavers in the retail and wholesale sector, aged 25+, walked away with an apprenticeship certificate in 2011/12.

He wanted action to protect learners, which resulted in the Skills Funding Agency issuing a notice of serious breach this month after the Ofsted report, and stopping Elmfield taking on new learners.

Ofsted found outcomes for learners were inadequate and the majority of apprentices did not complete their framework within the planned time.

A spokesperson for the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills said: "We decided to invoke the right to impose additional conditions of funding within the breach notice and

stopped Elmfield taking on any more learners. "This underlines our tough approach to protect students and root out poor performance wherever it occurs."

An agency spokesperson confirmed action against Elmfield, which delivers training for more than 11,000 learners, including apprentices at Barclays, UK Mail and Eon, had been agreed before the publication of the Ofsted report and discussed with the provider.

"Prior to the report being published and due to the serious nature of the concerns, the agency decided in advance to invoke its right to impose additional conditions of funding within the breach notice," she said.

The Ofsted grading also resulted in the resignation of Elmfield founder and chief executive Ged Syddall (pictured above right), although he is believed to remain its majority shareholder.

The agency spokesperson added: "We have instructed Elmfield that while under a notice of serious breach it will not take on any new learners, work with any new employers or be awarded growth, until we can be assured provision has improved to an acceptable standard.

"Failure to make satisfactory progress

may lead to termination of the contract. An inadequate re-inspection would lead to contract termination."

Despite the grading blow, Ofsted acknowledged Elmfield's success rates in newer areas of provision, accounting for around 20 per cent of its delivery and including banking, were good, although some elements required improvement.

Barclays said it was standing by Elmfield, even though it would be unable to take on new apprentices.

A Barclays spokesperson said: "While these Ofsted results predate our programme, the Ofsted report itself is highly complimentary of the success rates Elmfield has achieved for Barclays.

"We therefore look forward to demonstrating the strong results that our programme is delivering in future inspections."

UK Mail and Eon declined to comment. A spokesperson for Elmfield, which has 413 staff, said: "Elmfield is continuing to work closely with the Skills Funding Agency and can confirm our contract allocation for 2013/14 is currently under review.

"This is due to our contract with Morrisons coming to an end later this month. A revision of our contract arrangements for the forthcoming year is expected shortly."



Household names get SFA budget cuts

Eleanor Radford

@EleanorRadford

Government funding budgets for training at major UK firms has been slashed, new figures have shown.

Firms such as British Gas, BT and McDonalds all under-delivered on the training they had been expected to deliver, according to the latest quarterly allocation figures from the Skills Funding Agency.

British Gas had its 16 to 18 apprenticeship contract for 2012/13 (ending July 31, 2013) reduced by 44 to £1.2m, while its combined apprenticeship budget (including 19 plus) decreased by 38 per cent to £1.8m.

British Telecom's combined in-year budget fell 10 per cent to £8.1m and McDonalds had both its 16 to 18 apprenticeships budget and its combined apprenticeship budget squeezed by 10 per cent.

Meanwhile, the Alternative Hotel Group (owned by Lloyds Banking Group) had the greatest cut in combined 2012/13 budget with a 28 per cent reduction in its apprenticeships contract to £6.6m.

The conference and hotel business had its 16 to 18 apprenticeships budget cut 37 per cent to £3.8m.

A spokesperson for the Alternative Hotel Group said the reduction was caused by an increase in the length of apprenticeships they were offering and difficulty in recruiting apprentices.

She added that the company had fewer "pro-

gression opportunities" with employers due to "the current economic climate".

A spokesperson for British Gas said: "Funding contracts are always forecasted in advance and during the period in question, we simply did not need to recruit the forecasted numbers via the funded route."

A BT spokesperson said: "We work closely with the agency to ensure that the amount granted matches our apprenticeship provision."

She added: "Factors such as changes in our recruitment profile can make a difference to our contract value."

A spokesperson for McDonalds said: "The reduction in allocation of funding is not indicative of any reduction in training for McDonalds' employees. It is the result of natural fluctuation in the training we deliver as we have seen new employees come into and through the business, started to introduce new training programmes and transitioned between providers."

The agency said 521 contracts overall had been reduced due to "underdelivery by providers".

Government commentary on the allocations said this meant £10.9m was "recovered" from adult provision and £41.8m from 16 to 18 apprenticeships.

"We have reduced contract values where actual delivery was below profile in line with our published performance management arrangements," said an agency spokesperson.

She added: "As a result we funded an additional £19.1m growth for adult provision and



£6.4m for 16 to 18 apprenticeships."

The figures showed that overall the Adult Skills budget had grown by 2 per cent from August 2012.

However, 16 to 18 apprenticeships funding slumped 20 per cent from £858.5m in August, while funding for 19 plus apprenticeships was up 2 per cent to £3.28m.

The Association of Employment and Learning Providers' chief executive, Stewart Segal, said: "It is important going forward that the agency clearly establishes the priorities for 2013-14 so that providers can plan their delivery."

It comes just weeks after FE Week reported how Education Secretary Michael Gove's Department for Education (DfE) had cut its projected budget for 16 to 18 apprenticeships by £165.5m.

The cut came, in part, because of "competition" from older applicants — who are funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), rather than DfE. And last month FE Week reported how the latest Statistical First Release showed 4,000 fewer 16 to 18-year-olds started apprenticeships from February to April (Q3) this year compared to the same period last year — a 19 per cent drop.

Government says sorry to college

Chris Henwood

@Chris_Henwood

A Dorset college that was wrongly labelled as under-performing in official statistics has won an apology.

Kingston Maurward, in Dorchester, was ordered to improve in May having apparently fallen below the Education Funding Agency's (EFA) new minimum standards for key stage five.

The land-based college, according to the Department for Education (DfE), failed to get at least 40 per cent of students to achieve an average point score per entry higher than 194 for academic qualifications or 172 for vocational qualifications in the 2011/12 academic year.

Figures, now known to have been incorrect and since removed, indicated the 4,000-learner college hit a figure of just 12 per cent of learners — 18 out of 153 of those eligible.

The problem with the figures came to light after they had been reported, in good faith and based on official information, in FE Week.

"We were very shocked to see our college mentioned in the report as this bore no resemblance to our own data sets," said a spokesperson for the college, which has a £4.6m EFA allocation for the current academic year along with one of £2.1m from the Skills Funding Agency.

"We have now received an update and an

apology from the DfE confirming that there was a major error in the data published on its website."

The error came from data supplied to the DfE by City & Guilds, where a spokesperson said: "In 2012 we supplied some incomplete candidate performance data for Kingston Maurward to the processing company for the DfE performance tables.

"Although we alerted the relevant department and processing organisation prior to the publication of performance tables, it was too late to correct the data.

"While this has not impacted any learners, this error has made it seem as if Kingston Maurward has not met the Education Funding Agency's minimum standards for key stage five.

"As a global leader in skills education, we are committed to providing the highest quality of services to our customers.

"Unfortunately, on this occasion we haven't met our own high standards and we are working with DfE and Ofsted to put things right.

"We remain committed to continually improving our processes and working with our customers to check their data to avoid this sort of situation in the future."

A DfE spokesperson said: "As soon as we were aware of this error, we immediately removed the minimum standards measure from the college and have written to them to apologise for any distress caused.

"As a matter of course we do offer all schools and colleges a two-week period to



check our results data before publication. "All schools then have a further six weeks, once the results are published, to make any amendments. We would always encourage schools to use this opportunity to check this data and alert us to any errors."

Kingston Maurward assistant principal Andy Daw (pictured above) said: "We are very pleased that the success of our students has now been recognised. The DfE has confirmed that our entry on the minimum standards table was inaccurate.

"We understand that all merit, distinction and distinction star grades of our level three students had been incorrectly registered as pass grades, therefore not recognising their achievements and considerably lowering the college's overall position.

"Although City & Guilds has now supplied the correct data, the DfE will not be publishing this on its website, so there will be no entry for Kingston Maurward College for 2011/12."

Exam problem hits hundreds

More than 600 students at a Lancashire college rated outstanding by Ofsted will not be awarded A-level biology grades after it was found they had conducted experiments almost identical to ones that were set to appear in their exams.

The AQA Examination Board informed Runshaw College, in Leyland, that learners would have to take home their predicted grades when results are published next month, rather than those they achieved in actual exams.

The action was taken after it was found staff had given students an unfair advantage about what to expect in the practical science exams. It is understood that 400 year one (AS) and 250 year two (A2) A-Level students have been affected.

A college spokesperson said: "This is an isolated incident that is the first of its kind ever for any subject at the college."

They added: "The college has an exemplary track record in relation to the proper conduct of public examinations; to ensure fair implementation of all examinations, we very regularly take measures beyond those that are required by the exam boards."

They added: "We will, of course, be taking immediate steps to ensure that a misinterpretation of this nature cannot happen again at the college in the future."

A spokesperson from the AQA said: "We don't publish or discuss the findings of cases like this. But whenever we find evidence of wrongdoing we always take appropriate action."

Editor's comment
Making employers pay

The truly 'radical' element of the government's apprenticeships consultation is not, as it might first appear, in the different funding mechanisms of the three suggested models.

Nor is it that the employer would 'own' the delivery.

What is radical is that, in each of proposals, the employer would have to make a cash contribution.

Public co-investment already stands at 50 per cent of full funding, yet anecdotal evidence is that few employers currently put their hand in their pocket at all.

This lack of a cash employer investment must restrict the quality of delivery, which in turn does little to encourage employers to invest.

It is a cycle of underinvestment that has seen the Skills Funding Agency battle declining quality evidenced by short programmes and Train to Gain-type assessment-only delivery models.

So I applaud the government for considering a funding system that requires employers, and I hope particularly large ones, to make a cash contribution.

However, the policy makers would be wise to dust off the Banks Review of Fees — an independent review commissioned by the previous government and published in July 2010.

Within the daunting 110-page document, Chris Banks' first and central recommendation was for the government to "match co-investment contributions received from employers up to a published maximum contribution".

Sound familiar? It's a policy calling for the employer's cash contribution that is long overdue and, using the third proposed funding model set out today, it could be fairly easy to implement for 2014/15 using current systems and rates.

In many ways it could operate like loan fees for the 24+ Advanced Learning Loans, where providers are currently charging the Student Loans Company up to a published maximum.

There are however three extra questions I would like to see in the consultation.

1. How would the government avoid over-spending the limited funding pot?
2. Should the apprenticeship minimum duration policy continue to be applied?
3. Can you avoid setting national funding rates where 100 per cent government-funded (eg 16 to 18-year-olds)?

Nick Linford, editor

Reforms 'precisely what's needed'

Chris Henwood
 @Chris_Henwood

Proposals to reform the apprenticeship funding system have been welcomed by former Dragons' Den investor Doug Richard (pictured), nine months after his own review called for tax breaks for employers.

Three funding 'models' have been proposed by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, the first of which is for a direct payment model where businesses register apprentices and claim government funding online.

The second is for a PAYE payment model in which businesses register apprentices online and then recover government funding through their PAYE return.

The third option, although all could be amended as part of the consultation, is a provider payment model where government funding continues to be paid to training providers, but it can only be drawn down when the employer's financial contribution towards training has been received.

They are part of a ten-week government consultation ending on October 1 and come around nine months after the Richard Review looked at how apprenticeships in England could meet the needs of the economy.

It concluded the National Insurance or tax credit system should be used to give employers breaks as payment for training. Mr Richard said at the time such changes should be "at the heart" of apprenticeship reform.

"The funding models put forward by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is precisely the steps needed to encourage more businesses to take on apprenticeships and view young people as the valuable resource they are," said Mr Richard.

"By giving more power to employers, the new schemes will help businesses big and small have more of a say on the training their employees receive, meaning more efficient businesses and better training for apprentices."

Neil Carberry, CBI director of education and skills, said: "This could be a watershed moment for apprenticeships, putting employers genuinely in the driving seat for the first time."

"A radical overhaul is long overdue and business has been arguing loudly for targeting funding directly through employers."

"The new system must keep red tape to a minimum if we want more firms to take on apprentices. A skills tax credit is by far the best

option on paper, but needs detailed piloting to ensure the transition is smooth."

However, there were words of caution from John Allan, the Federation of Small Businesses' national chairman; Martin Doel, the Association of Colleges chief executive; and also Stewart Segal, the Association of Employment and Learning Providers' chief executive.

"Getting any change to do with funding, or wider issues around apprenticeships, right is crucial," said Mr Allan, adding: "Therefore we strongly urge government to take its time with any reforms so that they get it right first time to create a system that will last for decades to come."

Mr Doel said: "I question the need to make further significant changes to apprenticeship funding in the middle of a recession with youth unemployment at an all-time high."

And Mr Segal said: "We have considerable doubts over whether the PAYE proposal would actually bring more employers into the apprenticeship programme."

"In fact, it might put smaller businesses off. The co-funding option [model 3] might have merit if it properly recognises the contributions which employers make towards an apprentice's framework achievement."

Shadow Skills Minister Gordon Marsden said: "We will want to examine carefully all three options."

"What the government has proposed inevitably delays implementing Richard reforms and, depending which option they go for, could depart substantially from them."

"There are also no questions about the ability of small businesses to put money up front bearing in mind we need to expand their take-up of apprentices substantially."

The first two funding models would both need the "time-consuming" construction of a new online system, but could be in place by 2016 "at the earliest".

However, common to each is for "the employer and provider negotiating the content and price of eligible apprenticeship training". It would replace a system of government-set national funding rates.

Skills Minister Matthew Hancock said: "By radically reforming the funding system we will allow employers to agree with training providers the content and price of training ensuring greater competition both on quality and on price."

Responses to the consultation should be sent to apprenticeships.consultation@bis.gsi.gov.uk



by October 1. Visit www.gov.uk/government/news/government-sets-out-radical-plans-to-shake-up-apprenticeship-funding for further details.

A French lesson?

Apprenticeship funding reform is hot news in France right now too, where the government pays out around £2.4bn in fiscal support for programmes along with £173m in tax credits.

It is looking at abolishing the lump sum compensation (ICF) paid to employers by the French regions after research suggested it was proving an ineffective incentive. The move is expected to result in savings of around £474m.

Analysis was also critical of specific employers apprenticeship tax credits, but praised employer exemption from social contributions in return for taking on apprentices — a measure costing the state of around £1bn every year.

Instead, the government wants to provide direct aid to companies with fewer than ten employees for the employment of all apprentices.

It also plans to improve the tax credit to benefit employers and proposes to exempt employers from social contributions for hiring of apprentices.

France has an apprentice target of 500,000 by 2017 — an increase of 60,000 on current numbers.

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The FE Week National Apprenticeship Week 2013 supplement	NCFE	Mar 2013
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Celebrating 20 years of college independence	NOCN	Apr 2013
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Adult Learners' Week 2013 Supplement	apt awards	May 2013
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WorldSkills 2013 souvenir edition	NCFE	Jul 2013
Special report on traineeships	OCR	Jul 2013

Top ten online news articles 2012/13	Views	Published
1 Newcastle College boss accuses Ofsted of flaws in their good inspection grade	5,944	Aug 16, 12
2 Colleges given green light to recruit full time 14 and 15-year-olds from Sep	5,607	Dec 7, 12
3 Elmfield Training tells 400 staff their jobs are at risk	4,599	Nov 11, 12
4 Exclusive: Leading college falls from outstanding to inadequate	4,554	Mar 15, 13
5 Elmfield boss quits over Ofsted's inadequate grading	4,475	Jul 12, 13
6 FE colleges urged to adopt new flag and anthem	3,737	Apr 1, 13
7 Principal defiant after ofsted grade four	3,732	Apr 25, 13
8 Providers appalling pass rate	3,599	May 2, 13
9 Government reveal plans for traineeships	3,550	Jan 10, 13
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Comments

Apprenticeship funding consultation launched

The introduction of any one or all of these models would see an immediate increase in youth unemployment, right at the time when the government are trying to encourage employers of all sizes to take on more apprentices. Insisting on employer contributions will be counter-productive.

Dave Hall

I think most employers would be happy to contribute financially to the training of their apprentices if what they purchased in

return was high-quality training provision with industry standard resources and practices.

Unfortunately there is too much poor delivery of apprenticeship training, both in the FE and private TP sector. Apprenticeship teaching & learning is often seen as secondary by colleges, with apprentices in-filling into existing FT provision or being delivered onsite by assessors via a series of meaningless Q&A booklets.

Tim Ponsford

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Students put heart and 'soles' into charity

Brave schoolboy Harry Moseley has left a fund-raising legacy that has found its feet at a Birmingham college, as Rebecca Cooney found out.

Students in Birmingham took steps to help others in memory of a young boy who died of brain cancer, by donating their old shoes.

South and City College Birmingham hosted the launch of the national scheme Footsteps4Harry, where students collected 300 pairs of shoes to provide affordable footwear for impoverished communities in West Africa.

Each pair of shoes will also raise 35p for the charity behind the scheme, Help Harry Help Others, which was set up by Harry Moseley who died of a brain tumour in 2011, aged 11.

Georgie Moseley, Harry's mum, said: "I am, and will always be, so proud of what Harry achieved and how many people he helped.

"So much of what he did was about trying to inspire other school children to do just a little bit more to help others, and Footsteps4Harry is a great way for schools and children alike to help those people here at home, and around the world, to face the battles they fight every day knowing that there are others out there thinking of them."

Harry started the charity in 2009, selling bracelets to help raise money to help support his close friend and fellow cancer patient

Robert Harley.

However, Robert died four weeks into Harry's campaign, but Harry was inspired to go on raising money for research into a cure for brain cancer, and organised nearly 100 events, raising £750,000 in the two years before his own death.

After Harry died, his parents decided to continue his fantastic work, and the charity's aim is to collect 60,000 of shoes a year with the Footsteps4Harry campaign.

Each person who donated a pair of shoes tied a label to them with a personal message to the new owners.

South and City Birmingham College textiles student Amira Albokaii, 19, said: "I think this is a great idea as they will go to someone who needs them more than me.

"The message I wrote was: 'I wore these to my first sewing class as part of my college course, and I have just finished my second year in college. I hope you get to do something you love in these shoes too!'"

College students, along with 150 Birmingham school pupils and TV presenter Ben Shepherd helped to load the first 300 pairs of shoes onto a truck bound for West Africa. "Harry was such a special boy," said Mr Shepherd.

"This initiative is an amazing legacy for Harry and will help show other schoolchildren just how much their support for others can change the lives of those people around them here at home, and across the world."

The charity's chief executive, former



Above from left: South and City College principal Mike Hopkins, Georgie Moseley and Ben Shepherd and inset: Harry Moseley sporting the charity bracelets

Coronation Street star Adam Rickitt, said: "The response from the students was fantastic — they really went to town on it, not only bringing in their old shoes, but there was a sense of them really trying to get it out there as much as possible, the response was absolutely brilliant.

"Georgie was blown away, as ever, by the all support we got from members of the public.

"It's a charity which is very much driven by the public support — much of what Harry was about was about inspiring others and he'd have loved it. He was a remarkable little boy."

The charity is working alongside BCR Global

Textiles, which has set a target of raising £30,000 by the end of the year.

"We hope to smash that," said Mr Rickitt. "We've already raised about £15,000 in a couple of weeks.

"What we want to be able to do is to say that if we laid every single pair of shoes toe to toe, we would be able to walk around the world."

The charity is urging other schools, colleges, companies and families across the UK to get involved by installing shoe bins for people to donate their old but functioning footwear.

Visit www.footsteps4harry.org.uk to order shoe bins and to find existing bin locations.



From left: Umph! winning team Chris Gibson, Zhi Hui Zhao, Ben Bentley, Saakshi Barman

Putting the Umph! into business

Students from Huddersfield showed they meant business when they beat more than 100 other Yorkshire students to win the Umph! business and enterprise competition.

Greenhead College A-level business studies students Zhi Hui Zhao, Saakshi Barman, Chris Gibson and Ben Bentley, all 17, gave presentations, were tested on their business knowledge and participated in workshops with Huddersfield entrepreneurs as part of the competition.

"We are learning about the theory and the academic side of business on our course at college but meeting the entrepreneurs,

who have started businesses from scratch, and made a success of them, was truly inspirational," said Zhi.

A dozen entrepreneurs, including Huddersfield Town chairman and Card Factory founder, Dean Hoyle and Nick Glynne, founder of online retailer BuyItDirect.com.

During the day-long competition, the competitors also used business simulation software to demonstrate their business acumen to the panel of judges from competition organiser chartered accountants Grant Thornton.

Artist keeps it in the family for a bursary



Lydia Atkinson with her exhibition pieces

An art student from Derbyshire won a bursary to help her show off her creative streak at university.

Derby College art foundation diploma student Lydia Atkinson, 19 and from Belper, was awarded £400 by the Derby Decorative and Fine Arts Society to support her move into higher education.

Lydia said: "I am really pleased to have won as this will be very useful to buy materials for my university degree."

She was one of five Derby College students shortlisted for the award whose work was

judged by members of the society at the art and design faculties end of year show.

Lydia's winning pieces for the exhibition were two giant paintings of her father and younger brother showing different facial expressions.

"I didn't feel ready to go straight from school to university so came here to explore more about the different aspects of art and design," she said.

"Having completed this one year course, I feel ready to make the move... and my ambition is to become an artist."

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