

# WorldSkills 2013

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### Souvenir edition



# FE Week in Leipzig for WorldSkills 2013

**Chris Henwood**  
**@Chris\_Henwood**

It seems nigh on impossible to truly replicate the highs and lows of WorldSkills Leipzig 2013 and Team UK's journey to two golds.

From the grandeur of the opening ceremony and, before that, Team UK's visit to a nearby German primary school, to the tense competition arenas and the nervous wait for results — there can be no substitute for having been there to experience it all.

So, for those who made it to Leipzig, what follows will be a reminder of a treasured experience.

For those who weren't there, it will be a faithful portrayal of the emotions, the tensions and the successes of WorldSkills 2013.

Around 1,000 young people, aged 18 to 25, from across the globe competed for medals in more than 40 different skills — from electrical installation to hairdressing; from mechanical engineering to stonemasonry; from welding to cooking.

And Team UK competed in most of these skills categories.

But before outlining the contents of this WorldSkills Leipzig 2013 souvenir edition of *FE Week*, it would be right to first thank those who've helped to make it possible.

And there are simply too many to mention, including every Team UK competitor, but particular mention must be made of photographer Ellis O'Brien and, from the Skills Funding Agency, Jaine Bolton, Nikki Shuttleworth and Harry Smith.

Finally, a big thank you must also go to our sponsors, awarding organisation NCFE.

Nevertheless, we begin with the opening ceremony on the next page, before a write-up of competition from the first and second days on pages 4 and 5, featuring an interview with WorldSkills International president Simon Bartley.

Events from the third and last days of competition, plus an interview with Team UK alumni and pastry chef Will Torrent, are on pages 6 and 7.

The closing ceremony is on page 8 with the medals table on the following page.

A picture pinboard sits across pages 10 and 11, before coverage restarts on

*FE Week on location: Shane Mann, reporter, Nick Linford, editor, and Chris Henwood, deputy editor*

page 14 with Team UK's pre-competition visit to a German primary school.

Pages 15 to 22 give a competitor's eye view of the competition with comments from every single member of Team UK along with descriptions of their WorldSkills 2013 tasks.

The final page is given over to Team UK's supporting staff — the impassioned training managers who make the difficult transition to impartial experts when competition gets under way and the performance coaches who keep the team performing at their best.



Team UK take a tour of 10 Downing Street with Apprenticeships Ambassador Andrew Jones MP (centre)

# WorldSkills opening ceremony



**Chris Henwood**  
**@Chris\_Henwood**

It had glitz, it had glamour and it even had a VIP appearance from German chancellor Angela Merkel, but more than 1,000 competitors took centre stage for the opening ceremony of WorldSkills 2013.

The Olympic-style parade of the 52 competing nations and regions, saw teams step down from the stage and onto the audience floor of the huge Samsung Arena at Leipzig Messe [conference centre].

Team UK were among the last to emerge — to their anthem, *Spectrum* by Florence and the Machine — and came out after the New Zealand team's impressive on-stage Haka (Maori war dance) performance (pictured bottom right), more commonly seen on the rugby pitch.

The grand team entrances followed a recorded address from Dr Merkel, who said: "These competitions are something very special. Even just taking part is a wonderful achievement."

"It is the ultimate confirmation that the decision to engage in vocational training was the right one. Successful training is and remains the key to a promising career."

"We will have to wait and see who comes away with a medal. But well-trained young professionals are worth their weight in gold for every business."

She added: "All participants will face particular challenges over the next few days. To come out tops, you need more than know-how and skill. You need a real sporting spirit, perseverance and a cool head. That is what makes a champion."

The ceremony was hosted by German MTV presenter Hadnet Tesfai and Briton Michael Underwood, known in the UK for having presented for the BBC.

It opened with a performance from the local St Thomas Boys' Choir and other

German musicians before a number of speeches from host nation officials before WorldSkills International president Simon Bartley spoke.

"Competitors, experts, delegates, team leaders, organisers, volunteers and all of you here tonight — you are part of what is the biggest international skills event ever held and on behalf of WorldSkills I welcome you to Leipzig and the 42nd WorldSkills competition," he said.

He added: "Leipzig has promised us the most exciting competition ever and I have no doubt that over the next few days they will deliver what they have promised and much, much more."

"Competitors, if I may, I would like to turn my attention to you — everyone of you is already a winner."

"As you compete to show that you are the best in the world, I congratulate you for what you have already achieved and thank you and congratulate you for what you are going to achieve here and throughout the rest of your lives."

Speaking to *FE Week* straight after the opening ceremony, UK official delegate and National Apprenticeship Service chief operating officer Jaine Bolton said: "The biggest job tonight seems to have been calling all the competitors from the countries to come out together, but this is a celebration of youth and it's great to part of it."

"Team UK being here is the culmination of all the years and months of training and support from experts so to see them here tonight was quite a relief and obviously very exciting."

"Now I'm just looking forward to being on site and seeing everything happening — it's all about the competition from here on and the competitors doing their personal best and showing their families, friends, colleagues and country just how great they are."



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# Team UK fully focused on four days of competing



Andrew Maguire, competing in the manufacturing team challenge

**Shane Mann**  
**@ShanerMann**

If Tuesday night was all about the spectacle of the opening ceremony, Wednesday was down to serious business as the first of four days' competition got under way.

Chris Henwood and I arrived at the Leipzig Messe site mid-morning and the venue was packed with German school-children.

A large proportion of the visitors were primary age youngsters that had taken part in WorldSkills' One School, One Country Initiative.

It was great to walk around and see their faces light up when they first got sight of some exciting machinery or the sparks flew from a welder.

WorldSkills Germany had certainly organised a very slick and impressive competition.

We had been on site for three days and the soles of my shoes were in need of being replaced.

The site was huge. Really huge. Officials were having to make use of Segways and kids' scooters to get around.

But back to business, and much of day one was spent familiarizing ourselves with the competition venue and the locations of Team UK competitors.

We were fortunate enough to spend some time with WorldSkills president Simon Bartley (see far right).

We met him at his makeshift office

suite, right next to the competition halls. Mr Bartley was as enthusiastic as ever about the importance of competitions and certainly looked proud of the event that was taking place under his watchful eye.

**Earlier my saw broke. I panicked at first, but quickly composed myself and sorted it out**

Following the interview it was time to trek through the site over to the competitors' dining area.

We waited outside with other media for competitors to come out after their first day's work.

It felt like we were waiting outside the theatre stage door for a glimpse of the lead act.

For the UK we had more than thirty lead acts in Germany and they were putting on a stunning performance.

We managed to catch around a third of competitors, all of whom were chuffed with their performances.

Some reported back the odd technical challenge they had, but we didn't speak to one competitor who felt down about their challenge.

Team UK bricklaying competitor Ashley Terron spoke to me just before

his dinner.

He was elated by his performance from day one.

"Overall, today has gone really well and I am very pleased with my work so far," he said.

"Earlier this afternoon my saw broke, I was without a solution for about ten minutes. I panicked at first, but quickly composed myself and sorted it out."

While ten minutes might not sound a great deal of time when competing for more than 22 hours in four days, Ashley said such delay could make all the difference.

"We have three separate projects to build over the four days," he said.

"It is for us as competitors to decide the time we allocate to each one."

"I have planned all three between seven and seven and half hours. Ten minutes can make all the difference."

"Fortunately, I will get those ten minutes back."



Matt Page, sheet metal technology and George Callow, cabinet making pictured top



Katie Wright, competing in beauty therapy



Simon Bartley, president of WorldSkills International, speaks exclusively to FE Week deputy editor Chris Henwood

It's often said being leader is a thankless task, but if audience reaction at the opening ceremony was anything to go by, then WorldSkills International president Simon Bartley is one exceptional leader.

So, with Leipzig 2013 visitors seemingly queuing around the block to meet him, *FE Week* pulled rank as WorldSkills UK media partner for an interview on day one.

First up was how he thought it had gone so far:

"Seeing experts and competitors

**We want the best young people to come into vocational education**

streaming in through the entrance followed soon after by bus loads of young schoolchildren and their teachers was a highlight," said the 56-year-old former City & Guilds executive committee member.

But, he added: "WorldSkills is not just about skills competitions. It's about the promotion of vocational education as a valued career choice."

"We want the best young people to come into vocational education, not just to go off to university."

However, with the next WorldSkills taking place in faraway Brazil, in 2015, before the UAE (United Arab Emirates) plays host in 2017, plus public and private sector purse strings tightening, why would a provider or employer

want to be involved, allowing staff valuable time away from the workplace?

"The best person to sell WorldSkills to a boss or principal who hasn't been involved, would be a boss or principal who has been involved," said Mr Bartley.

"Go and see Marian Plant [principal North Warwickshire & Hinckley College] or go and see Dawn Ward [principal Burton and South Derbyshire College] and they will tell you what it's done for their colleges."

"I can tell a principal why they should be involved, but unless they come and see what this can do; unless they experience the buzz young people involved in competitions develop within a college, or competition environment, they're never going to do it. College principals get it if they see it."

But if it's so beneficial, why not do it every year?

"The countries themselves would have to find twice as much money if you wanted to do this every year; or if you split it to four years, like the Olympics — and that's been suggested — you would end up with a whole one or two-year cohort of kids who would never be the right age to compete," said Mr Bartley.

"They'd be the 17-year-olds beaten by the 21-year-olds, so two years seems to be right, but sometimes that gap is frustratingly long."

"Some have said three years but it really messes things up and we've got countries queuing up to bid for 2019 and they don't particularly want to wait three years."



# Put down tools and let the judges take over

**Shane Mann**

@ShanerMann

Team UK passed the halfway mark with two things on their mind — crossing the finish line on Saturday and celebrating at the closing ceremony the following night.

My pedometer indicated that I had pretty much walked a marathon by the end of day two and my body was telling me I needed sleep.

But as soon as I got back to the competition site for day three, all of my whining about tiredness stopped because straight away I caught sight of the stunning work our competitors had done. I was buoyed with admiration and pride.

At 5pm, Chris Henwood and I headed down to the competitor eating

area for our daily catch-up with Team UK. There were certainly one or two tired faces among the staff (including me and Chris).

But the competitors were still buzzing on adrenaline with the thought of crossing the finishing line soon.

We spoke with Stephen Smith (pictured far right), 18, from Hertfordshire. He is Team UK's confectioner/pastry chef.

He seemed pleased with his work so far, but conceded the competition was proving tough.

"The French are really good at this skill and Korea, too, but I've

not seen other chefs' work — you can't," he said.

"I prefer it that way and don't think it's always helpful, because you might change and try to be more like theirs, which might not be where your strength lies."

The next time we would get to chat with the competitors they would have done all that had to be done.

But onto the final day and, predictably, emotions were running high.

Family and friends from across the globe had now descended upon Leipzig and, specifically, the competitors' working areas ready to cheer during the hair-raising countdown to task completions.

Having spent the week with Team UK, you couldn't help feeling part of it all and happy as our competitors finished their work to moving embraces with loved ones.

It was certainly an emotional roller coaster: I spent the day running between



skills sections, frantically nudging my way through the crowds to witness our competitors' final efforts.

The first skill we caught finishing was that of Warrington bricklayer Ashley Terron (pictured right). He stood in front of his work with complete and utter pride.

"It's over, I can't believe it," he said.

"Four days and three tough challenges. I am very happy with my work. But who knows what I will be awarded — I would love a medal."

From there it was onto landscape gardening with five minutes on the clock. It took place in a huge marquee and, as you would

expect, it was very hot. It was also packed with family and friends shouting and screaming, but fortunately the smell in there was beauti-

ful (thanks more to the hundreds of plants and foliage than my aftershave).

We watched as the Team UK competitors raced around attending to every last detail, knowing that every leaf and blade of grass left imperfect would affect their score. But Matthew Bradley and Ewan Sewell (pictured below right) were ecstatic once they finished. Matthew said that he was "incredibly proud" of what they had achieved. We've certainly earned a cold pint of German beer," he said, rightly.

The competition may have ended, but the wait for results had only just begun. It would be another 24 hours before competitors found out if theirs was a golden fate.



## Team UK finish on a hug



Cooking team, from left: Louisa May Matthews, competitor and Michael Godfrey, training manger.

Landscape gardening team, from left: Matthew Bradley, competitor Jody Lidgard, training manger and Ewan Sewell, competitor

managers need anything, in any of the skills."

He added: "Yolande was my training manager. We're fantastic mates.

"I say a lot of the time that without WorldSkills I wouldn't be here, but actually, without Yolande I wouldn't have gone to WorldSkills, so I owe her pretty much everything, which sounds a bit soppy but it's true."

And with a blossoming media career, plus book number two due out next year, Will is keen to promote how WorldSkills helped his own career:

"What WorldSkills does is act as a springboard for your future career," he said.

"It gave me 20 years' worth of experience crammed in to two-and-a-bit years, which allowed me to decide 'I don't like this bit of the industry so I'm not going to go there, but I do like that bit

of the industry so I'm going to try that out'.

"And it gives you a really comfortable confidence to say 'I've represented my country and I have achieved, but I have also worked hard.' Without doubt WorldSkills is a badge of honour for me."

He added: "The next big thing for the UK is to get more exposure for WorldSkills and maybe that requires mainstream television coverage?"

"When we give so much time and money to Team GB or the national football team — which is worthwhile — why isn't our young vocational skillsbase getting the same recognition and support?"

"Here, we've got more than 30 amazing, skilled young people chomping at the bit to represent the UK, and there's next to nothing. If we got that recognition I think we'd see a rise in our vocational education. Yes, you've got to work hard, but come out the other end and you can do what you like."



Former competitor speaks to FE Week

Pastry chef Will Torrent, sweet talks FE Week deputy editor Chris Henwood

Chef Will Torrent is showing no signs of WorldSkills fatigue despite Leipzig being his fourth experience of the global showcase of vocational skills.

Having become the UK's first pastry chef to win a medallion for excellence, in Japan 2007, he became a WorldSkills UK ambassador for Canada in 2009 and kept the job for London two years ago.

So *FE Week* caught up with him to find out what he's doing at Leipzig 2013.

"I'm still an ambassador for World-

Skills UK and am also on the Alumni Advisory Board," said the 27-year-old.

"I've helped train our current confectioner/pastry chef competitor, Stephen Smith, along with training manager and WorldSkills chief expert Yolande Stanley, but I also tell people my own WorldSkills story, lead guided tours and meet delegates from the UK.

"I'm also simply on hand if training



# Golden duo

Business Secretary Vince Cable said: “Congratulations to Team UK who brought home six medals and 17 medallions for excellence.

“They have demonstrated that when it comes to skills Britain has world class ability.

“Vocational skills are important to the success of every business. That’s why in these difficult times I have priori-

tised apprenticeship funding, so that employers can access the country’s talent to help build a stronger economy.”

Skills Minister Matthew Hancock said: “Congratulations to Team UK on their fantastic achievements at WorldSkills.

“They have played a hugely important role in promoting the importance and value of vocational skills and practical learning to young people, their parents and employers.”

A bricklayer from Warrington and a cabinet maker from Chichester proved to be golden for the UK as they were honored as the best young tradesmen in the world.

Twenty one-year-olds Ashley Terron (right) and George Callow (far right) took top spots at the WorldSkills Leipzig 2013 closing ceremony.

A visibly moved Ashley told *FE Week* just moments after learning of his success: “I’m so happy. I saw my mum and my dad when my gold was announced and they were going crazy.

“I’ve lived WorldSkills for the past two years, but I wasn’t expecting to win anything.

“It means everything to me. It will change my life – I’m the world’s best young bricklayer now.”

George, who also scored highest among Team UK to claim the best in nation award, said: “I knew I’d done well in the tasks, but thought there was really little in it.

“I tried my best, but when I saw other countries winning golds I thought ‘maybe it’s not our year’.

“But I’m ecstatic. All the hard work I’ve put in has paid off.”

A silver medal added to Team UK’s awards haul

thanks to the stonemasonry efforts of Somerset 21-year-old Robert Broomsgrove.

Three bronzes came Team UK’s way, too, courtesy of 22-year-olds Matthew Quinn, from Northern Ireland, in autobody repair; Benjamin Tullett, from Hampshire, in aircraft maintenance; and, Matthew Crane, from Bristol, in electrical installations.

Prime Minister David Cameron said: “British ambition and ingenuity has once again taken on and beaten the best in the world and I extend my congratulations to Team UK.

“As we compete in the global race, this government is on the side of ambitious young people who want to work hard and get on and we will continue in our efforts to build the biggest and best apprenticeship programme.”

There were also 17 medallions for excellence dished out among Team UK members who hit world class scores in their skill.



“All the hard work I’ve put in has paid off.”



## Medals table

| Position | Member         | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Medallion for Excellence |
|----------|----------------|------|--------|--------|--------------------------|
| 1        | Korea          | 12   | 5      | 6      | 14                       |
| 2        | Switzerland    | 9    | 3      | 5      | 18                       |
| 3        | Chinese Taipei | 6    | 4      | 8      | 13                       |
| 4        | Japan          | 5    | 4      | 3      | 18                       |
| 5        | Brazil         | 4    | 5      | 3      | 15                       |
| 6        | Austria        | 5    | 2      | 4      | 11                       |
| 7        | Germany        | 2    | 4      | 3      | 16                       |
| 8        | France         | 2    | 5      | 1      | 16                       |
| 9        | Finland        | 1    | 2      | 3      | 19                       |
| 10       | United Kingdom | 2    | 1      | 3      | 17                       |









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# Team UK get football warm-up



**Chris Henwood**  
@Chris\_Henwood

It was a close game, played in true WorldSkills good spirit, but in the end Team UK succumbed to the greater footballing prowess of their young German hosts.

The game, hastily organised by Team UK photographer Ellis O'Brien, ended 4-3 in favour of the children from Grundschule Am Rodelberg primary school, in Torgau, around 35 miles north east of Leipzig.

In goal for the visitors was Preston 25-year-old Sam Andrews (pictured above), a manufacturing coach and Team UK alumni.

"The game was great fun and the kids kept talking to me about Wayne Rooney," he said.

"I managed to make a few spectacular saves, but they were just too good for me in the end."

The visit was part of the WorldSkills One School, One Country programme where every competitor nation is teamed up with a primary school from the Saxony region of Germany.

And as part of the programme, the Torgau children learned all about the UK and gave their adopted team a huge

celebrity welcome when they arrived.

The youngsters shrieked with excitement and waved Union Flags as the team stepped off the coach. The pupils then performed a medley of English songs, played Simon Says and rounded off the warm welcome with the Team UK anthem, Florence and The Machine hit Spectrum.

Jaine Bolton (pictured right), National Apprenticeship Service chief operating officer and UK official delegate to WorldSkills 2013, addressed the children and teachers for Team UK.

"I'd like to say a massive 'thank you' to everyone who helped organise this welcome — you've all been bright, shiny stars for us," she said.

"We've got an amazing team from the UK — amazing like the children at this school. We've enjoyed this visit and meeting you all so much."

Team UK's Nehmaan Ahmed (pictured top right), 21 and from Luton, was

swamped with youngsters as he took five minutes to speak to *FE Week* (before heading off to take part in Team UK's lunchtime kickabout with the children).

The IT network administration competitor, who has a foundation degree from the University of Bedfordshire and a qualification from IT giant

Cisco, said: "I'm quite a shy person, so really appreciate the welcome we've had — there was no way I would have been up and dancing when I was their age."

He added: "Coming to this school and seeing the children's reaction to us has really got me ready for the competition. And I'm also looking forward to seeing what other competitors are up to, like the mechanics and landscape gardeners — their skills and tasks are really interesting."

The visit, the day before competition began back in Leipzig, was the culmination of several months'



German primary school staff, from left: teacher Anne-Maria Rahnfeld and head teacher Bettina Schwengber

preparation by the children, organised by Year 1, 3 and 4 teacher Anne-Maria Rahnfeld.

Head teacher Bettina Schwengber said: "The children researched the UK and some of them were very surprised about how the UK has school uniforms, which is something we don't have, and we had a really good classroom discussion about the pros and cons of uniforms."

"They were also shocked about how you drive on the left hand side of the road and found the things people in the UK eat very funny, like the breakfasts, the passion for fish and chips and how everyone drinks English tea all the time."

## Matthew Quinn

Autobody repair | Riverpark Training | Charles Hurst



Matthew worked on the new BMW Series 1 model, manufacturing in Leipzig at BMW's plant. He had five separate modules to complete that thoroughly challenged him on all areas of his skill.

Getting to know everybody in the team has been great — it really feels like a team because we've been going everywhere together. The challenges were really hard. The timings were the hardest thing and it was so close getting things finished.

## Ashley Terron

Bricklaying | Warrington Collegiate | Peter Terron Brickwork Contracting Ltd



Ashley had three separate brickwork projects to complete. They included the construction of a wall with the Brandenburg Gate (Berlin landmark) portrayed in the centre using brick, and the German Bundesflagge flag.

It's been crazy to be honest, from the moment we all met up in London. It's been a whirlwind of emotions.

## Katie Wright

Beauty therapy | Cambridge Regional College | Salon at Number 5



Katie worked on mock clients throughout the competition. She was assessed over the course of five modules, including treatments such as manicures, body wraps, bridal make-up and lash and brow tints.

I had my moments, but I pulled it together and just got on with it. I'm pretty proud of the work I did.

## George Callow

Cabinet making | Chichester College of Technology | Cimitree Furniture



Over the course of 22 hours of competition George had to construct a sideboard with drawers. The components for the sideboard were made in parts and assembled towards the end of day three.

It went to plan, but you can't really plan too much. For me, it was important I finished early to look at things like checking dimensions and sanding where around 6 per cent of marks were still on offer.



**Gary Greer**

Car painting | Riverpark Training | John Lennon ARC



Gary was challenged with six separate modules. These included such car painting tasks as wet-on-wet application, spot repair, standard application, colour matching and plastic painting.



"I was happy with my task because I managed to finish it in time — lots of others didn't. I was really doubting myself, but I did it and it was the best feeling ever.

**Benjamin Shaw**

CNC milling | Central Nottingham College | The University of Nottingham



Benjamin had his hands on some expensive machinery at WorldSkills, as he does every week. He was assessed on various programming activity on CNC machines. His margin for error was half the width of a hair.

"One of the mornings went well, but the afternoon was particularly shoddy. But I trained two years for this and I did the job of my life to try to rectify it.

**Philip Glasgow**

Carpentry | South West College Omagh | R L Scott



Philip had the challenge of constructing a traditional garden gazebo. He chipped away at the task each day until it all came together on the last day of competition.

"It was a challenging competition, but I loved it. I competed in EuroSkills last year and to have been here is just great.

**Ben Anderson**

CNC turning | Training 2000 | MotorSport Advanced development



Not only was Ben assessed against various modules using CNC machines, but he also had to work in a team of nations with a mystery brief before the competition. The idea behind it was to demonstrate international teamwork and co-operation.

"I hope to have done my best and see what comes of it. Both my parents and my boss were here — they've been over all week.

**Stephen Smith**

Confectionery/pastry | Westminster Kingsway College



Stephen was hard at work crafting delicious and delicate sweet treats within the confines of a troublesome, warm arena. His tasks included the creation of a plated dessert using a mystery basket of ingredients and an artistic chocolate presentation piece.



"I've been making a layered mousse sort of cake called an entremet. It didn't come as a shock that I'd be doing it, so I was quite happy.

**Matthew Crane**

Electrical installations | Bailey Engineering Academy | N G Bailey Building



Matthew worked on four separate modules. His tasks tested him in areas such as the development and composition of automation devices, automation plants and systems presenting solution proposals.

"It was an unreal experience. Just getting through a day meant experiencing many ups and downs, but it was worth it.

**Louisa May Matthews**

Cooking | Worcester College of Technology | Bekynton Eton College



Louisa was executing her culinary excellence in assessments based on a shift system, where competitors belonged to one of two groups competing either in the morning or afternoon.



"It's been amazing. My category had the most entrants with 34, so there was a lot of competition.

**Chloe Woolf**

Floristry | Moulton College | Bluebell Flowers



Chloe had to complete ten projects ranging from hand bouquets to table pieces. The tasks set ranged from one to three hours long and included an array of flowers.



"We did lots of team building beforehand. Meeting the other competing nations was also a great experience, too.



**Hannah Clague**

Hairdressing | Red Edge Training Company | Reds Hair Company



Hannah had a wide range of challenges that meant she had to deploy all her technical skills. She had eight separate styles to complete, from men's avant garde to ladies' transformation cut.

It was a great competition. I am proud of what I achieved and that's the most important thing.

**Nehmaan Ahmed**

IT network administration | Barnfield College



Nehmaan was faced with a new challenge every day. He was required to showcase his skills in softwares such as Lynx and Windows, and processes such as network and security.

The experience of competing in WorldSkills was great. I feel fortunate and thankful to have had the additional training.

**David Beattie**

Joinery | South West College | The Green Oak Framing

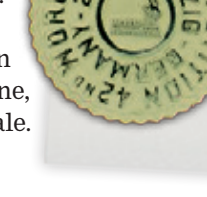


David used his skills to complete two projects. The first involved building an intricate window frame, followed by a small set of stairs.

I am happy with the work I did. The overall experience has been great, but after familiarisation you kind of enter your own world.

**Benjamin Tullett**

Aircraft maintenance | RAF Odiham | Royal Airforce



Benjamin had seven modules to complete, including tasks such as rotating the blade manually on a helicopter, filing rotor blades of engines, using cord to stabilise and balance wings and electrically wiring a plane. He was up against a dozen competitors; one, a Finnish female.

These past few days have been an amazing experience. The challenges were tough, but I am really proud and grateful to have had the opportunity to represent my country.

**Matthew Bradley**

Landscape gardening | Bishop Burton College



Matthew and Ewan had to construct a 'traditional German garden'. Their tasks were spread over the four days of competition included the construction of a water feature, laying paving stones and bench seating. The task culminated on the final day with the creative addition of flowers and plants.

This was a challenging experience, but one that I really enjoyed and I definitely learned a lot.

**Ewan Sewell**

The opportunity to represent the UK alone was great. Working in a team was also a lot of fun and I made a great mate.

**Daniel Gebhard****Andrew Maguire****George Moffat**

Manufacturing team challenge | Carnaud Metalbox Engineering



The manufacturing team challenge (MTC) required, first and foremost, teamwork. The three competitors over the four days were required to design, construct and manufacture a recycling sorter that would identify, sort and crush different materials. The competitors' marking was meticulous, with marks even being awarded on the cost of manufacture.

It's really helped us on the MTC challenge that we work together every day back home. Other countries' teams don't have that.

The quality of competition has surprised me. Until you see them in action you don't believe just how good, but we've done our best.

Our bosses and mates at work have been great and we've even had guards of honour through the factory.



**Andrew Craig**

Aircraft maintenance | RAF Odiham | Royal Airforce



Andrew was shown a 'top secret' project that he had the task of recreating.

His skills' testing ranged from creating graphic models and drawings to documents and files.

"I had three decent days from the start, but didn't want to jinx it by being too confident. Everything I did, I'd had training on, but I still found some parts harder than others.

**Kirk Croft**

Painting and decorating | South Leicestershire College



During the first half of the competition, Kirk was faced with wallpapering and a surprise free-hand design challenge against the clock. For the remaining two days he had to produce a door frame and free-hand technique painting.

"The competition was an amazing experience; the whole process from start to finish.

**Kenneth Wilson**

Plastering &amp; dry wall systems | Belfast Met College | Wilson Plastering



Kenneth had his skills thoroughly challenged, with focus on areas such as interior plaster, dry-wall and attic constructions, development and design of buildings with gypsum materials.

"I found competing and seeing how other people do my job really enjoyable. There's 13 countries and I've seen 13 different ways of building a module. It's really interesting.

**Ashley Bainbridge**

Plumbing &amp; heating | Salford City College | John Fletchers Engineers



Over the four days Ashley was tested on installation skills as he put in traditional bathroom amenities such as a toilet and sink. Ashley also had to produce a creative shower head before the competition that demonstrated his creative skills.

"I'm happy with what I did. I've learned to keep my design much more simple, with fewer bends and so less opportunity for something to go wrong.

**David Cargill**

Mechatronics | Northern Regional College



The Team UK duo of James and David had one project over the four days of competition. It required competitors to understand the intertwining of mechanics with electronics and informatics — the individual skills that form the basis of mechatronics.

"The competition was huge — far bigger than I was initially expecting. The experience from start to finish was priceless and I have made a great friend for life in James.

**James Overend**

"The support from home has been lovely. Having my wife tweeting every day cheering me on has been motivating. I hear she has even been tweeting FE Week requesting pictures of us working.

**Steven Burge**

Refrigeration and airconditioning | Eastleigh College | Cosham Refrigeration



The theme for Steven's competition was 'keeping the world cool'. Over the four days, modules included refrigeration system installation and air condition system fault-find and repair.

"There was a problem with my testing result, but I learned from it and took something away from the experience — you'd be silly not to.

**Matt Page**

Sheet metal technology | KMF Precision Sheet Metal Ltd



Matthew's skills set has been scrutinised. The tasks of sheet metal included manual model development with the use of CAD, production welding, operating machines, welding and assembling components. His end goal was the construction of a cooker.

"The first day was an eye-opener — I knew WorldSkills was going to be big, but not this big.



**Robert Broomsgrove**

Stonemasonry | Weymouth College | Wells Cathedral Stonemasons



Robert worked on his piece throughout the four days of competition — each day working on separate parts of the final piece. From developing stencils to chipping away at stone to create a Roman numeral, Andrew had little room for error.

What an experience — I competed at the Skills Show and that was great, but to compete globally was truly amazing.

**Mark Woods**

Wall and floor tiling | South West College Omagh | Artie Mullan Tiling

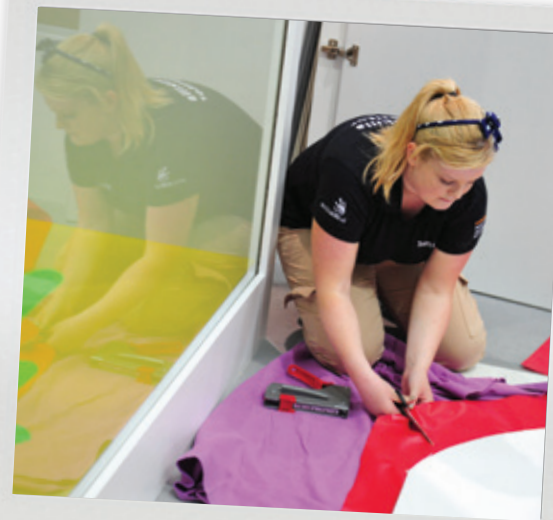


Mark recreated German-themed designs each day of the competition. They included the Brandenburg Gate and a map of host nation Germany.

Germany was so good. It was the first time I'd been, so I didn't know what to expect. But what surprised me most was the sheer size of the event.

**Sarah Smithers**

Visual merchandising / Window dressing | East Berkshire College



Sarah had two themed tasks to complete in tropical holiday and eclectic dinner. The themes were both spread over two days, with one day for research and the second for implementation.

The Dutch girl was the one to watch. She'd beaten me at competition before when I got silver and she got gold, but we're good friends.

**Alastair Wilson**

Welding | Training 2000 | Doosan Power Systems



Alastair worked his way through various modules each day. He was required to read drawings, standards and welding symbols, use the right welding technique and know the properties of available metals. Strict safety regulations also had to be complied with.

The tasks were both very different with their own challenges. It truly tested my skills to the limit — but what an experience. I'm so proud to have been able to represent the UK.

**Supporting Team UK in line up for medals**

Training managers from left: Anthony Battison, David Cleghorn, Jody Lidgard, Christian Notley, Ray Coyle, Andrew Pengelly, David Thomas, Alan Westcott, Robert Rosseau, Ian Thompson, Michael Godfrey, Yolande Stanley, Paul Dodds, Peter Moore, Mike Cunningham, Eugene Incerti, Sue Simpson, Steve Jinks, Chris Cooper, Frazer Minskip, Stephanie Willoughby, Jonathan Lloyd, Katie Kyrousis, Mark Forsyth, Mike Burdett, Wyn Rowlands, John O'Neill and Kevin Large

**Shane Mann**  
@ShanerMann

A crack team of skills experts have provided the supportive bedrock Team UK.

Thirty six training managers and four performance coaches dedicated thousands of hours mentoring and training the team over the past few months and years in the run-up to Leipzig 2013.

The role of training manager requires they not only ensure the UK competitor is at international standard, but also to befriend, to lend a shoulder to cry on, and to motivate them.

But the journey to WorldSkills competition, where training managers must stand away from their teammates to become impartial experts, can be just as emotional and demanding for the support team as it is for the competitors.

Plumbing and heating training manager Paul Dodds was at Leipzig having been involved with the competition for eight years.

"I do this because I love it," he said.

"If I was a millionaire I would spend every day of my life doing this."

He added: "The time commitment is quite large — at least 14 weeks of training.

"But that also requires preparation to develop drawings, marking schemes, planning materials, getting into the

I'm incredibly appreciative of the support of my colleagues and employer

location where we need to be.

"It can be difficult and trying at times, but it works out quite well."

Being part of the team is full-time, but it's not a paid job.

Many of the training managers are full-time employees who have been released by their employers.

Andrew Pengelly, training manager for joinery and a lecturer at Somerset

College, said: "I wouldn't be able to train without the time given to me by my employer. I'm incredibly appreciative of the support of my colleagues and employer.

"The students benefit a lot because what we learn in training we bring back to the classroom, passing on lots of information — it's like an enrichment activity for the staff."

Team UK are also supported by four performance coaches who support and care for the competitors. Coaches have to understand each individual competitor, what makes them tick, when they need a supportive pat on the back and when they need a break from the pressure.

Coaches can be seen darting around the 80,000sq m of competition space to cheer on the team.

Salvatore Circelli, performance coach and team leader, is at his first WorldSkills, but was in the UK team for EuroSkills 2012.



Performance coaches from left: Craig Tweedie, Lucy Noble, Lynn Kimpton, and Salvatore Circelli

"The team bonded really well together and they're very good at supporting each other, buying into our coaching techniques and putting them into practice," he said.

"Any challenges the competitors meet head-on and as team leaders we're with them.

"We've had no major issues. Some of our competitors have been right up against the clock, but they're coping really well with it.

"We've got a really good management team supporting our competitors and the alumni support is a great addition to the team."



**Their success,  
is your success,  
is our success.**



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