

YOUNG SHEPPEY HERO WINS NATIONAL LOTTERY AWARD



Inspiring 'young hero', Caitlin Walker, from EKC Group's Sheppey College was recognised for her exceptional community work during the Covid-19 pandemic at the National Lottery Awards 2020.

Having faced a series of personal challenges in recent years, the Level 3 Business, Finance and Marketing student received the National Lottery's 'Young Hero' award for her outstanding acts of selflessness to support others.

As a keen volunteer and young advocate, Caitlin drew upon her years of volunteering experience to lead a series of community initiatives as the nation went into lockdown.

The creation of an online hub to support NHS workers was one of Caitlin's notable achievements, uniting the hub's 3,000 members to collect donations of essential items that were then gifted to ICU staff in appreciation of their work during the pandemic.

Alongside this, Caitlin ran errands for elderly and vulnerable neighbours who were shielding, produced reusable facemasks for friends, family members and people in her community, and created much-needed uniform bags for nurses, filling them with goodies to thank them for their incredible work.

Caitlin learnt about her award win whilst filming a video with the National Lottery about her volunteering efforts.

YouTube star and 2019 Strictly Come Dancing contestant, Saffron Barker, had the honour of surprising Caitlin with the news via a video message.

"I was so shocked when I saw Saffron on the screen in front of me and even more surprised when she said I had won the Young Hero Award!" commented Caitlin.

She continued: "I didn't see myself as a hero - I was just doing what I thought everyone should do for those that need it. But I'm so happy to receive the trophy and be recognised for what I have been doing these last six months. I hope to continue helping as many people as I can."

Speaking after announcing Caitlin as the winner, Saffron Barker commented: "Everyone's world has been turned upside down lately and it has been a real challenge for many. Caitlin is such an inspiration with everything she has done, despite her own battles. She is so deserving of this award and I was so honoured to be the one to name her Young Hero at this year's National Lottery Awards. Well done Caitlin!"

Caitlin received a National Lottery Award trophy and a £3,000 cash prize for Youth Resilience UK, a Nationally Lottery funded organisation that Caitlin has been a long-standing volunteer for.

Show Me - An Exhibition

Sharing the hidden voices of Thanet



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An Artline for Margate, Past, Present and Future.

Or online at www.themargateschool.com/artlineformargate

YOUNG POETS EXPLORE THE HIDDEN VOICES OF THANET ARTISTS

Budding poets from EKC Group's Canterbury College explored the thoughts, feelings, processes and artworks of local unknown artists during a recent exhibition by The Margate School titled, 'Show Me'.

The exhibition, part of the 'Hidden Voices' strand of The Margate School's Arts Council England funded 'Art-Line for Margate' project, included original pieces of poetry from BTEC Level 3 Creative Writing and Journalism students Alex Bragg, Eloise Hope and Josh Gibson, as well as transcripts and recordings of conversations with Thanet creatives.

The exhibition is still available to view online by visiting www.themargateschool.com/diverse-artists-strand-show-me

YOUNG RADIO ENTREPRENEUR RECOGNISED IN NATIONAL 30 UNDER 30 LIST

Inspiring Creative Media Production student, Jordan Foad, from EKC Group's Canterbury College was named one of the top '30 Under 30' radio professionals in the UK by ReelWorld Radio Academy.

Jordan's appearance on the 2020 list was in recognition of his work establishing and managing local community radio station, Whitstable Bay Radio.

At sixteen, Jordan was one of the youngest radio professionals to make it onto the 2020 ReelWorld list, alongside rising stars from eminent players such as the BBC, Kerrang!, The Guardian and LBC.

Upon hearing news of the achievement, Jordan commented: "I'm stunned to be winning this award so early in my career, especially when many of the other nominees come from big names in the music and entertainment industry.



"To think Whitstable Bay Radio has an award-winning Station Manager, and that it's me, is absolutely insane. I really wasn't expecting it!"

FOLKESTONE LOCAL CROWNED NATIONAL ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR BY TV DRAGON



I had a little idea that has now turned into a big one!

"I've had the backing from my course leaders, Alexandra and Charmaine, from day one. They encouraged me to enter the competition and have supported me all the way through."

With her sights set firmly on the future, Megan added: "In five years' time, I would love to have an international business."

"I want to see my game in schools up and down the country, and in a variety of languages."

An enterprising student from EKC Group's Folkestone College secured a £5,000 business investment from BBC Dragon's Den star, Peter Jones CBE, and the title of 'National Entrepreneur of the Year 2020'.

Level 3 Enterprise and Entrepreneurship student, Megan Parfitt, received the national accolade after impressing the well-known business mogul and a panel of esteemed judges during the virtual final of the 'Peter Jones Foundation National Entrepreneur of the Year' competition.

Megan's award-winning idea, 'Eat Your Dinner Trivia', aims to encourage young children to eat their fruit and vegetables by playing a fun trivia game.

The children are challenged to answer school curriculum and general knowledge questions. If they answer a question correctly, they earn a 'treat' that is decided by the reward cards.

The innovative dinnertime solution can be tailored to meet different house rules and individual needs, offering parents and carers flexibility in how they play.

As one of only five young entrepreneurs nationally to face the TV Dragon, Megan pulled out all the stops, gaining praise from Peter Jones CBE for her 'brilliant idea', and her 'confident' and insightful business pitch as he announced her as the winner.

Megan credits her win to the support she received from her tutors, namely former Head of Enterprise, Finance and Sport at Folkestone College and current Assistant Principal of Ashford College, Alexandra Syrotiuk, and Business and Enterprise Lecturer at Folkestone College, Charmaine Jacobs. She noted: "When I started the course,

"To see my name on a range of products would be awesome."

Folkestone College is one of only 21 Peter Jones Enterprise Academies (PJEAs) in the UK. The Peter Jones Enterprise Academy is a flagship programme by the Peter Jones Foundation which aims to 'bring the boardroom into the classroom' and equip students with the skills, knowledge and experiences needed to succeed in their chosen careers.

For more information about the Peter Jones Enterprise Academy at Folkestone College, visit

folkestonecollege.ac.uk



VALIANT STUDENTS SAVE YOUNG MAN'S LIFE



A group of six teenagers including four students from EKC Group's Colleges in Broadstairs, Canterbury and Sheppey, have been hailed as 'heroes' after saving a young man's life at a railway station in Herne Bay in October.

Health and Social Care student, Chloe Skinsley, from Broadstairs College, along with Art and Design student, Tia Hancock, from the Canterbury School of Visual Arts at Canterbury College, and Construction students, Jack Williams and Kyle Pattison, from Sheppey College, were

among the group of friends that intervened to prevent a suicidal young man from making it onto the tracks.

The group recalled seeing the young man looking distressed on the edge of the opposite platform and rushed to his aid. Their quick thinking and bravery saw them pull the young man back from the edge, holding him until the train passed.

Chief Executive Officer of EKC Group, Graham Razez, said: "Our whole Group community is really proud of these students

and their quick thinking which ultimately saved a life. Their emotional intelligence and sense of community spirit should certainly be commended. As a Group we seek to imbue all of our students with this sense of community through our programme of social action, and it's wonderful to see our young people showcase such compassion and empathy for those around them who may be struggling with life. These students have done an amazing thing, and I'm fantastically pleased their efforts have been recognised."

EAST KENT STUDENTS GIVE BACK TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES DURING FESTIVE PERIOD

Students from EKC Group's six Colleges brought festive joy to communities across East Kent with a series of philanthropic initiatives.

From fundraising and letter writing, to creating Christmas gift boxes, students from the Group's Colleges in Ashford, Broadstairs, Canterbury, Dover, Folkestone and Sheppey, delivered some much-needed holiday cheer to those in need.

At the Group's Dover Technical College, students banded together to create 106 Christmas shoeboxes containing essential items and gifts for those less fortunate. The boxes were distributed to nominated Dover residents, and charities including, Age UK, Oasis UK and Channels and Choices Children's Home.

Meanwhile, at Folkestone College, the Hairdressing and Catering departments teamed up to send handmade mince pies and cards to each of the elderly residents at Balgowan House in Hythe. Each card contained a special message from a student.

Elsewhere, the Group's Sheppey College hosted a Virtual



Christmas Fayre to support local businesses and to raise money for local charity, Care 4 Christmas.

Whilst, Catering students from Canterbury College, created over 40 care parcels filled with festive treats including shortbread, Christmas cakes, gingerbread people and mince pies for less fortunate locals.

These fantastic activities were in addition to the Group's 'Christmas Gift Appeal' with Christ The King Sixth Forms, which saw more than 3,000 gifts donated, and £5,395 raised for charities supporting young people in East Kent and South London.

BROADSTAIRS STUDENTS SHARED STACKS OF HOLIDAY SPIRIT



Sport and Leisure students from EKC Group's Broadstairs College brought sports stacking to isolated and elderly residents in Thanet with their pioneering 'Community Speed Stack Christmas' project.

The flagship initiative, funded by Techno Timber Construction and Thanet District Council's Active Thanet, aimed to boost holiday spirits whilst improving the hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills of vulnerable residents via fun speed stacking activities.

Speed stacking, also known as cup stacking or sport stacking, has gained in popularity in recent years, and involves stacking nine or 12 specially designed cups in pre-determined sequences as fast as possible.

Speaking ahead of the competition, Programme Director for Sport and Leisure at the College, Sam Perkins, commented: "My students are always passionate about going above and beyond to support the local community.

"We have worked with Thanet District Council in the past on projects to support those suffering from isolation. However, isolation has been felt on a much larger scale this year due to the impact of measures put in place

to stem the rate of coronavirus transmission. It was important for us to once again work together and devise a way we can help in these challenging times.

"I am so proud of my students who not only wanted to support those affected but extend their remit to care homes and social clubs. A massive thank you must also go to Techno Timber Construction who purchased all the sport stack cups."

