

Kent Business Update

'Proud' Mary's work honoured

A dedicated employee from Nurse Plus Ashford is celebrating after winning an award at the South East British Care Awards.



After impressing judges with her knowledge and expertise of the care industry, Mary Harvey, pictured above, was presented with the Home Care Registered Manager Award, a victory which will see her progress to the British finals next spring.

She had previously picked up an award at the Annual Kent Care Awards in October.

She said: "I feel very honoured to have won but also very proud. There is a lot of negative press regarding health and social care so it is great to be part of a good news story."

Pamela Bruce, managing director of Nurse Plus which was established in 2005 and now has 49 branches across the UK, said: "It's an honour for Mary to have been awarded with both of these awards and for her hard work to be recognised."

■ For more information, visit www.nurseplusuk.com

Apprentice-style students given taste of big business

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Sixth formers got over their nerves to showcase their creative and business talent by pitching new product ideas to a panel of industry experts.

The Year 13 business studies students at the North School were visited by staff from Premier Foods and had to complete a series of tasks to demonstrate their skills, similar to that of contestants on *The Apprentice*.

As part of their BTEC level 3 work they had create a new soup flavour for the company, which makes Batchelors Cup a Soup and employs 330 workers at its site opposite the Julie Rose Stadium.

They also had to carry out market testing, design packaging and suggest ways to market their



Pupils at the North School pitched new product ideas to panel of industry experts
 Picture: Go4 Marketing and Public Relations

new products after workshops given by the company's innovation manager, Adrian Sillitoe.

Some of the new ideas they came up with included a roast dinner flavoured soup for the traditionalists and chocolate on a stick for those with a sweet tooth.

Among the students taking

part was Lauren Best, 18, who admitted that just like the television programme, pitching to the panel of experts had been a bit terrifying.

She said: "It was a really great experience. I loved the way we were able to take our learning outside the classroom and apply

it to a real business model. I've learned a lot."

Among the judges was Batchelors HR officer Raluca Birken, who said: "The first event we organised was a session designed to help pupils with their CVs and talk to them about improving their employability.

"That proved very successful, so we talked to the school's careers manager, Vernice Lamberton, about what else we could do.

"She suggested that the business studies department would like some input into their lessons, so our innovation team was invited."

The partnership between Premier Foods and the North School is part of a scheme set up by the Institute of Grocery Distribution (IGD), and Vernice Lamberton said she now hopes more business events will be organised for pupils.

Eye for detail is recognised

A William Harvey Hospital worker was praised for her role in providing ophthalmic care to patients at an awards ceremony.

Francesca Smith works as the eye clinic liaison officer at the hospital which is part of a team which was highly commended at the Bayer Ophthalmology Awards earlier this month.

The East Kent NHS Trust was also praised for the eye care it provides, and specialist nurse Sue Walker, from the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, was nominated for the Outstanding Ophthalmology Nurse Award.

Awards judge Prof Augusto Azuara-Blanco said there was a higher number of entries for this year's awards and praised all those who were nominated for their hard work in providing eye health care.



Francesca Smith
 Picture: East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust