



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Olympic Training at Stow College

A group of students at Stow College have crossed the finish line to become Scotland's first graduates of the 'Bridging the Gap' programme.

'Bridging The Gap' is a programme introduced to fill the stewarding shortage for the 2012 Olympics Games in London, as well as provide young people with a new qualification that will lead them to employment elsewhere. Stow College is the only college in Scotland to provide stewarding training for the 2012 Olympic Games. The first 25 students have completed the course and will receive a BTEC Level 2 qualification in 'Understanding Stewarding at Spectator Events'. All students who complete the course are guaranteed a job interview with a British Security Industry Association (BSIA) registered security company.

Melissa-Jayne Okoh (22) from Ghana, a student on the course, added: "This is a great course that has given me an extra qualification that will allow me to work at some spectacular events. With the Olympics in London, the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and regular events at the SECC and festivals such as T in the Park, the opportunities are endless. I would recommend this course to anyone who is looking for extra income or a career change."

Archie Dickson, Lecturer at Stow College, commented: "Bridging the Gap gives Stow College students the opportunity to gain an extra qualification which will lead to job opportunities within the stewarding and events industries. The first team of students really embraced the fast-paced and challenging nature of the course and we look forward to welcoming the next team."

The delivery of the classes took the form of lectures and seminars, as well as visits from Strathclyde Police and trips to venues such as the SECC. This allowed the students to understand the role and relationships between stewards and the police, while also provide an insight into crowd control.

Places are still available on the next Bridging the Gap programmes, scheduled to run from July 5 – 9th and then August 9 – 14th. For additional information on the course, or to enrol, contact Jacqueline Blair at Stow College on 0844 249 8585 or email jblair@stow.ac.uk.

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For more information, contact:

Ross Henderson, Halogen Communications, (T) 0131 202 0120 (F) 0131 225 3757 (E)
ross@halogencom.com