

Edinburgh Colleges Festival attracts thousands

✘ *Colleges Come Together To Showcase Best of the Fest*

Over 4,000 people attended a series of events, designed to showcase student talent and success, as part of Edinburgh's biggest student-led festival.

The Edinburgh Colleges Festival has brought together the collective student talent present at Edinburgh's Telford College, Jewel & Esk College and Stevenson College Edinburgh ahead of the proposed merger of all three establishments, set to take place later this year.

Proving they can work together to offer the very best in student focused further education across a variety of sectors, the event featured the work and performances of over 1,000 students from all three colleges.

Showcasing sporting, arts and design, music, performing arts and hospitality achievements among others, the festival programme featured an impressive 43 events, over a six week period.

Brian Lister, Interim Principal for Edinburgh College, said: "This year's festival has been a huge success, not only in terms of its size and scale, but the fact that it demonstrates the potential of the Edinburgh College, for offering one of the biggest and best further education facilities.

"The merger of the three colleges has the interest of the students at its heart and so it made sense that we brought together the collective talent of the combined student body for the Festival.

"I attended several of the events myself and it was a great

pleasure to see the hard work and talent of all the students involved. There are definitely a few future stars out there and we wish every single student the very best of luck in their future careers.

“We look forward to building upon the success of this year’s event in years to come and not only make next year’s event even bigger and better, but ensure that the positive and collective hard work of all three colleges is taken forward under the Edinburgh College brand.”

Feedback about the festival from an online survey was extremely positive and revealed that 100% of people would like to see an Edinburgh Colleges Festival in 2013 – 34% of these being members of the local communities surrounding the colleges.

Highlights of the festival included a Celebration of Achievement event at Jewel & Esk College, which recognised and celebrated the talent of its FE students, as well as the ‘Exposed’ photography exhibition, featuring work from Stevenson’s final year photography students which was attended by over 300 people.

A final highlight was the Gala Launch dinner hosted by hospitality and catering students at Edinburgh’s Telford College with music and performances by students from across the three colleges. The event was also attended by Mike Russell, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning.

The new Edinburgh College will be formed later this year when Edinburgh’s Telford College, Jewel & Esk College and Stevenson College Edinburgh merge. The merger will bring together around 35,000 students across four main campuses, helping strengthen and grow the further education offering across Edinburgh and the Lothians.