COMPETITION WINNERS GET SET FOR LIFE

With dream placements at The Newcastle Falcons, Everton FC, Sportsbeat, Sugar Magazine, Trevor Sorbie, Red Bull Racing, The RSC, Sony BMG, MP Khalid Mahmood and Rick Stein

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Ten young people from across England are about to embark on a series of dream work placements after winning the coveted prizes in a competition held by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC).

The LSC teamed up with Everton Football Club, Newcastle Falcons Rugby Club, Trevor Sorbie, Sportsbeat, Sugar Magazine, The Royal Shakespeare Company, MP Khalid Mahmood, Sony BMG Records, Red Bull Racing and Rick Stein to offer young people aged between 16 and 18 the opportunity to experience working life.

The LSC set up the competition to win a week long work placement to raise awareness of the possibilities young people have – but only if they achieve at least five good GCSEs or the vocational equivalent, such as Level 2 diplomas in subjects like Childcare, Computing or Landscape Gardening. Young people are likely to add £141 a month to their starting salary by gaining relevant work experience along with these qualifications.

David Sharland, Executive Chef at Rick Stein said:

“Work experience with us in Padstow is so much more than learning about cooking and serving the best possible local fish and shellfish in our main Seafood
Restaurant. We also have a café, bistro and fish and chip takeaway not to mention hotel rooms, cookery school and food shops. We provide an exciting view of much that goes on in the world of hospitality."

Jessica Leech said of her win:

“This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to work for Rick Stein. I am looking forward to seeing what it is like working in the hospitality industry. It is a dream come true for me to work in Rick Stein’s kitchen. Work experience at one of the most successful chef’s restaurants will give me a great experience and a huge advantage in later life.”

Julia Dowd, Director of Young People’s Learning at the LSC, said:

“Work experience can be a great addition to a CV and a competition like this can show 16 – 18 year olds the options open to them. Whatever you do, the goal must be to ensure that if you haven’t got the minimum set of qualifications, you achieve them before you are 19, to make sure your options in life aren’t limited. Whatever happens, don’t find yourself under-qualified for your dream job.”

Phil Hope MP, Skills Minister for the Department of Education and Skills, said:

“By offering work experience to young people we will help create the skilled workforce of tomorrow. Work experience is essential in linking education and employment. It is critical that all young people are given work experience opportunities as this allows young people to make decisions about their learning and employment paths.”
“We need employers to be working increasingly closely with schools and colleges – by offering Apprenticeships, work based learning and work experience for those in learning.”

Competition winners:
Thomas Davies – winner of placement at Red Bull Racing
Laura Stanion – winner of placement at The Royal Shakespeare Company
Joshua Robbins – winner of placement at Sportsbeat
Rob Walsh – winner of placement at Sony BMG
Charlotte Furney – winner of placement at Sugar Magazine
Anton Bent – winner of placement with Khalid Mahmood, Labour MP Birmingham
Perry Barr
Sarah Clarke – winner of placement at Trevor Sorbie
Aaron Coote – winner of placement at Everton Football Club
Jessica Leech – winner of placement at Rick Stein
Toni-Anne Pullen – winner of placement at Newcastle Falcons Rugby Club

The Learning and Skills Council is urging all young people to log on to www.getsetforlife.org.uk to see what options are available to them, to assist in planning their future.

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Notes to editors:
LSC
The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for planning and funding high-quality vocational education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England’s young people and adults to world-class standards. Our vision is that by 2010, young people and adults in England have the knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. Established in 2001, we work nationally, regionally and locally from a network of offices across the country.

**Get Set For Life**
The Get Set for Life advice website from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) encourages young people to achieve the minimum set of qualifications they need to get on in life, get a better job and earn more money. For many, these qualifications will be five GCSEs at grades A*-C, but for others it may be a vocational qualification or an Apprenticeship. For more information, young people and parents can log onto [www.getsetforlife.org.uk](http://www.getsetforlife.org.uk).

1. 51 per cent of people without Level 2 qualifications are unemployed, compared to 25 per cent with Level 2 (based on sample of Males aged 16 to 64, females aged 16 to 59. Full-time employees only based upon respondents self assessment. Respondents who did not report an hourly wage or who reported hourly pay greater than £100 are excluded).

**Journalist for Sugar** – the winner will support the team by conducting research for reporters and articles. They will also help out with Vox Pops, reviews and product testing.

**A week with Everton FC** – the winner will be working within the community coaching scheme at the football club.

**Sport journalist for Sportsbeat** – the winner will help the team to conduct the necessary research to be used in writing the stories that Sportsbeat produce.

**Trevor Sorbie** – the winner will observe the workings of the salon and will have a buddy to show them the day-to-day routine of the salon. The Salon Manager will give an insight in to the company and Trevor Sorbie himself. Part of the time they will be working in the colour department and the rest of the week will be spent in the styling area.
Coaching the community with the Newcastle Falcons Rugby Club – the winner will join their community coaching scheme on a one week work placement. This will involve visiting local schools and coaching rugby skills with a community development coach, which would be invaluable experience for anybody wishing to work in sports science or teaching.

Khalid Mahmood, Labour MP Birmingham Perry Barr – the winner will spend a week in the offices of Khalid Mahmood seeing what the day-to-day life of a busy MP is like.

Sony BMG – the winner will be helping out in the communications department and will have the opportunity to accompany one of the labels top acts on a promotional tour.

Rick Stein’s restaurants, Seafood School and accommodation – the winner will be working behind the scenes, shadowing people in a range of job functions from preparing food for the lunch menu to front of house at St. Petroc’s Bistro.

Red Bull Formula 1 – the winner will spend a week seeing how the latest cutting edge F1 racing technology is developed in the Red Bull Racing technology division.

The Royal Shakespeare Company – the winner will get to experience work across several of the RSC’s departments and see what it is like to work for one of the world’s top acting groups.