

Floristry student achieves a Medallion of Excellence at EuroSkills 2018

Posted on 03 October 2018

Merrist Wood College [Floristry](#) student, Elizabeth Newcombe, has returned from the EuroSkills final in Budapest having been awarded a Medallion of Excellence for her performance at the international skills competition.

Elizabeth joined Team UK in Budapest to compete against peers from 27 countries across Europe. Team UK won one Gold medal, three Bronze medals and seven Medallions of Excellence in total, placing them in ninth place.

Team UK competitors have gone through months of accelerated training and mentoring to reach the standard needed to compete with the best from across Europe, and Medallions of Excellence are awarded to competitors who have showcased an international standard of skills.



Elizabeth Newcombe with her Medallion of Excellence

Elizabeth was chosen as flag-bearer for Team UK at the competition's opening ceremony in Budapest on 25 September. She said "It [the flag] was a bit heavy but a brilliant experience" and continued, "It was a really proud moment especially because my parents were watching it live."

Over the next three days Floristry competitors were tasked with creating six floral arrangements including a hanging wreath inspired by a museum, a standing arrangement for a large foyer, a hand-tied bouquet, a bridal bouquet, a top-table arrangement and a "surprise" task.

When the competition ended, Elizabeth commented: "I'm really happy with all the hard work I have put in over the last six months, and the last three days especially."

Dr Neil Bentley, CEO of WorldSkills UK, described the results as fantastic. He added: "These brilliant young people – training and preparing them to be among the very best across Europe - are the UK's new generation of high flyers."

"Governments, employers and the education sector must embrace this success and use the energy and momentum generated here to inspire to help propel economic growth and productivity."

Associate Principal of Merrist Wood College, Richard Dewing said: "We are incredibly proud of Elizabeth and her achievements, which are a testament to her hard work and dedication to the skill."

