

# The Sun Shines Down on Public Services Passing Out Parade

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Merrist Wood College's Public Services students recently held their annual Passing Out parade at the College. This year's parade commander was Level 2 student, Callum Mackenzie, who commanded 35 students in total. To prepare for the parade the students practised in the sunshine every day to ensure their marching was unified and impressive. Callum is the first Level 2 student to be chosen to command the parade, and was voted for by his fellow students.



The sun shone down as the students were inspected by guests invited in from the uniformed public services including Assistant Chief Constable for Surrey, Jeremy Burton, and Major Richard Lawn. Parents and guests watched proudly as students were awarded special awards for their achievements on their course. This year a third of the Level 3 Public Services students completed their course with the highest possible grade of triple Distinction Star.

There were a number of sporting awards given out, including Katherine Varley for 'Fastest 1.5 Mile Run (Female)' and 'Fastest Cross Country Run (Female)', Elliot King for 'Fastest 1.5 Mile Run (Male)' and 'Best Overall Fitness', and Luke Tweddle for 'Fastest Cross Country Run (Male)'. Other award winners included Valeria Torres Plaza for 'Most Improved Public Services Student', Peter Primasz for 'Top Level 2 Student', and Daniel Shaw for the 'Outstanding Personal Qualities' award.

As well as numerous sporting awards, Katherine Varley was also awarded 'Top Level 3 Student' and achieved Distinction Star in every unit of her course. Katherine commented, "The course has developed me as a person. I have grown in confidence, developed teamwork skills and made some amazing friends. Coming to Merrist Wood College was one of the best decisions I've ever made!"

Katherine's next step is to study Paramedic Science at the University of Surrey, whilst winner of the 'Outstanding Personal Qualities' award, Daniel Shaw, has successfully joined the Metropolitan Police as a full-time trained Special Constable. Daniel commented, "When I applied to join the Metropolitan Police the tutors were really supportive. They used their previous experiences to help explain some of the areas in great detail."

Public Services tutor, Iain Cherrington, opened the ceremony and said, "Standing here today are an exceptional bunch of young men and women. Some of them have been with us a year, and some of them have been with us for up to three years. Each and every one of them have faced their own challenges be that academic, fitness or personal. However through their determination, self-belief and your support, they are able to stand out in the sun with their heads held high, knowing they have achieved their full potential at Merrist Wood College."

Principal of the Guildford College Group, Jacki Hughes, closed the ceremony and gave a vote of thanks. She said, "I'd like to thank the parents and staff who have supported the students during their time at the College. They are so lucky to have an excellent team of people around them, who work so hard to help them succeed. I'd also like to thank the students for making me a very proud Principal."

The Public Services programmes at the College provide students with the necessary skills and knowledge required to pursue a career in the uniformed services, and enables them to experience visits to various places of interest and speakers throughout the year. This year's students have also raised over £2000 for local charity, Headway Surrey. They took part in a number of activities throughout the year including street collections, a gruelling 'Tough Mudder' obstacle course and skydive.

Places are still available on Public Services programmes starting in September 2018. For more information or to apply, visit the [Public Services subject area](#) page or call: 01483 88 40 40.