

JUST THE JOB

BY **RACHEL STRETTON**

A 'UNIQUE' project to help students develop workplace skills is to be rolled out across the county following success in Weymouth.

The Centre of Excellence at Budmouth College is to be used as a template for similar schemes in north and east Dorset and director of business and enterprise Marcel Ciantar hopes the idea will eventually be used on a national scale.

The centre, which opened in March last year, aims to bridge the gap between school and work by teaching students, or members, how to be employable.

Mr Ciantar said: "I am very proud and excited that the centre has been such a success story.

"When we set this up last year it was completely new, completely unique, and now I have been asked to help set up other centres in Shaftesbury, and at another location in east Dorset."

The Centre of Excellence for Industrial Liaison (CEIL) now has more than 100 students aged between 16 and 19 who volunteer their time to take part in various projects to bring employers and young people together.

The project has expanded from 30 youngsters who were involved when it first began.

Mr Ciantar added: "I'm very proud of what our students have achieved, and now that we have been up and running for some time we are seeing some of them go on to university or the workplace and use the skills that they have learned here.

"It's also fantastic that this is something that began in Weymouth and we want the whole country to see that this is something that can bring about cultural change and enable young people to go into work and be able to hit the ground running."

Practical experience and challenging one's weaknesses are key parts of the centre, Mr Ciantar added.

Harry Hintze, 17, is organising a design and technology

SPECIAL PROJECT:
Ellen Buckland,
Rowan Hedley, Harry
Hintze, Amelia Attree,
Matthew Cornick and
Amy Blake
Pictures: GRAHAM
HUNT/HG10367



PROUD: Director of business and enterprise Marcel Ciantar

evening as part of his work with the scheme.

He said: "One of the areas I was told to improve is my time management, as I tend to leave things until the last minute.

"This project has a lot of deadlines."

Other schemes allow the students to gain first-hand experience in finding out what employers look for.

Amelia Attree, 18, sat on an interview panel to choose a

personal assistant for the CEIL.

She said: "We interviewed six applicants and it really helped me to understand what it's like to be sat on the other side of the table.

"It's not just about qualifications – we had to find someone with a personality who would really click with the other students."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Guns and cards seized in search

NORTH DORSET: Two firearms and a number of bank cards were seized when police executed a warrant.

Two men and one woman were in the property on Noake Road, Sherborne, at 7am on Friday when police began their search.

No arrests were made and the firearms will be examined to find out if they are illegal.

Unwanted cats from Christmas

DORCHESTER: An animal rescue centre has been flooded with unwanted cats following the Christmas.

Staff at the RSPCA Taylor's Rehoming Centre say that they continue to have a large number of animals at the centre.

Call 01305 259672 for more details.

Fuel oil stolen in series of thefts

WEST DORSET: Thieves stole oil from a fuel tank at a property in Melplash, police said. It is the latest in a series of thefts from rural properties and machinery.

Witnesses are asked to call the police on 101.

Waste tips close for clean-up


RESIDENTS in Weymouth and Portland are reminded that household recycling centres in the borough are closing for separate periods for annual maintenance and cleaning.

The Weymouth site on Preston Beach Road will be closed for three days from today and will reopen as usual at 9am on Friday.

The Portland site on Easton Lane will be out of action for three days from Tuesday, January 29.

Other centres in Dorset, operated by W&S Recycling on behalf of the Dorset Waste Partnership, will also be affected over the next few months including Dorchester, which will be closed from February 26-28.

For further information about these works or general inquiries about household recycling centres contact the Dorset Waste Partnership on 01305 221040.



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