

Acknowledgements

Chris Mason, Techniquet

Sponsors:

Enterprising Merthyr

Equinox Communications

Heads of the Valleys Innovation Programme

Supported by:

Welsh Assembly Government

Project Team:

Julian Newberry, Coleg Gwent

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Lesley Cottrell, The College Ystrad Mynach

Elin McCallum, Welsh Assembly Government

Sharon Phillips, Merthyr Tydfil CBC

Wendy Locke, Virtual Assistance

Phil Burkhard, HOVIP

Judges:

Steve Evans, Chairman, Rhymney Brewery

Nick Hewer

Chris Kelsey, Business in Wales Editor, Media Wales

Eryl Jones, MD, Equinox Communications

Businesses:

Aberfanturning (gift pens for judges), Alison Richards Ceramics (trophy), Anytime Films,

CIOTEK Ltd. (training), Helen Murdoch Marketing Ltd. (training)

Penderyn Distillery (site visit), Rhymney Brewery (site visit)

Rose-Innes Designs (site visit)

Big Pitch Challenge



Thursday 25th November 2010
5pm to 9:30pm
Techniquet



Welcome

We live in challenging times when it is vital to give our young people the skills and opportunities to flourish. What better way to achieve this than by igniting their passion and ability to learn in the furnace of the real world?

The seeds for tonight were sown a year ago when Merthyr Tydfil College students were invited to present their recommendations on how to market the Welsh International Climbing Centre. As John O'Shea (Dean of Merthyr Tydfil College and FE Collaboration) said:

"The initiative provided an excellent real life opportunity for learners to develop entrepreneurial skills. The Trustees and Parc Taf Bargoed now have a wealth of ideas."

The event also created a positive press which was a stepping stone to attracting a major investor to Wales to run what is now the Rock UK Summit Centre.

This year we have involved all FE Colleges in the Valleys with the focus on the planned visitor centre for Rhymney Brewery which will be relocating to Blaenavon in March 2011. I am sure that you will join me in applauding all the learners who are participating - they are all to be congratulated. Finally, thank you to Techniquest and to everyone who has made tonight happen. *Lights! Cameras! Action!*

Phil Burkhard
Heads of the Valleys Innovation Programme

Programme

5:00pm	Arrival / Registration
5:50pm	Welcome Address
6:00pm	Student Presentations
8:00pm	Buffet / Techniquest Display / Judging
8:45pm	Awards Ceremony
9:00pm	Q&A Session - Nick Hewer (guest judge)

