AlumniNewsletter



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worldskillsukalumni.org.uk



The 43 members of Team UK that will take on the world at WorldSkills London 2011 have been named. **Page 3**»



Team UK 2011 announced

The 43 members of Team UK that will take on the world's most highly skilled students, apprentices and employees at WorldSkills London 2011 were named on 29 June by Skills Minister John Hayes and Simon Waugh, Executive Chair of the National Apprenticeship Service, during the National Apprenticeship Awards. By Harry Smith

he UK will compete in 37 skills at the Competition, ranging from Mobile Robotics, Electrical Installations and Graphic Design to Cooking, Hairdressing and Landscape Gardening.

WorldSkills London 2011, which takes place at ExCeL from 5-8 October 2011, will be the world's largest international skills competition with young people from across the globe competing to be the 'best of the best'. At the competition, 1000 competitors from over 50 countries / regions will compete in 46 skill areas over four exciting days. The event will also offer the expected 150,000 visitors impartial advice and guidance on careers and apprenticeships.

Skills Minister John Hayes said: "Those representing the UK at WorldSkills will play a hugely important role in bringing the value of vocational skills and practical learning to national attention. I offer my warm support and congratulations to every member of the team.

"To support the ambitions of young people everywhere in our country, we have created a record number of apprenticeships, and we are building the best skills training system we've ever had."

The day following the announcement, Thursday 30 June, Team UK attended a special reception event at Buckingham Palace, joined by their Training Managers and employers, which was hosted by HRH The Duke of York to celebrate the achievements of Team UK's ahead of WorldSkills London 2011 (5 – 8 October at ExCeL London).

HRH The Duke of York speaking at the event, said: "It is a pleasure to welcome you here today to Buckingham Palace and I would like to say congratulations on your achievements and I wish you every success in the competition later this year."

Jan Hodges, CEO Edge said: "As premier supporters of Squad and Team UK, Edge is proud to support some of the most talented young people in the UK today. Just as importantly, WorldSkills will inspire other young people to follow in their footsteps. With the WorldSkills competition taking place on home ground, it is an even greater chance for the UK to showcase some of the incredible vocational skills based talent we have to offer.

In the current economic climate, it is more vital than ever that we have the resources and training to inspire all young people to succeed in life, whatever path they choose. We must look to create an education system that allows all to shine, by bringing vocational training into the spotlight as a quality route to a respected profession. WorldSkills London 2011 will be an opportunity to remind ourselves that there are many paths to success, bringing together evidence of the vast scope of vocational training for today and future generations to come. On behalf of Edge, I would like to wish everyone the very best of luck at WorldSkills London 2011."

For profiles of all 43 Team UK members visit www.worldskillsteamuk.org

Leading up to and throughout the WorldSkills London 2011 Competition in October, we want to promote Team UK and document their progress to as many people as possible.

If you use Twitter then please follow @wskillsteamuk and re-tweet Team UK tweets to your followers and for maximum impact don't forget to use the hashtag #WorldSkillsTeamUK

If you use Facebook please become a fan of the official Team UK Facebook page 'WorldSkills Squad and Team UK' to post messages of support to the team. Please also encourage your Facebook friends to become fans as well to really raise awareness and support for Team UK.

Alumni activity Spring 2011

'Who's been whe

30 March 2011

The Guardian roundtable: Time to trade up

Adam Peirson (Team UK 2003) took part in a roundtable debate hosted by The Guardian newspaper, discussing the vocational education and suggesting how and why young people and employers should be encouraged to consider the benefits and importance of vocational skills and careers. Participants were asked if skills competitions could be the answer and if WorldSkills London 2011 could help, serving as the catalyst for change. Huge thanks to Adam who inspired participants, sharing his story and experience of WorldSkills and the benefits he discovered.

01 May 2011

'Health checks at Just Car Clinics'

Dan Cain (Team UK 2009) spoke in a feature for Motor Industry Magazine about his training at Just Car Clinics and their commitment to apprenticeships. He also discusses his industry's growth during these tough economic times.

12 May 2011

Silver Medal at Malvern Show

Keith Chapman (Team UK 2007), Will Gadd (Team UK 2009) and members of Squad UK for WorldSkills London 2011, who all helped create a garden for the Malvern Spring Gardening Show, had their achievements celebrated by the judges, securing a prestigious Sliver Flora Medal for their work.

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) judges provided the team with very positive and encouraging feedback, complimenting the design, mapping, planting scheme and overall aesthetic appearance of the garden.

The Show garden, entitled "WorldSkills London 2011 - Team UK" was designed by Harry Turner, Landscape Gardening Training Askham Bryan College, to showcase world class talent. The design concept aimed to provide visitors with a welcome and tranquil retreat from the hustle and bustle of daily life.

13 May 2011

'Vocational heroes limber up for the 'Skills Olympics"

Linzi Weare, Adam Smith and Richard Sagar (Team UK 2009) were all featured in the Times Education Supplement. The article looked at how the National Apprenticeship Service is hoping to do the same for Further Education's world-beaters as UK Sport did for the nation's sporting fortunes.

16 May 2011

The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) National Awards Ceremony

Will Torrent (Team UK 2007) offered winners and their guests at the NIACE National Awards Ceremony the chance to 'Have a Go' at making marzipan snails. John Hayes MP, Minister of State for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning, confessed his love of marzipan and jumped at the chance to try his hand at creating the mollusc.

Huge thanks to Will for helping WorldSkills London 2011 with their target of providing one million opportunities for people to Have a Go!

23 May 2011

Helping Britain become an international leader in vocational education

A busy month for *Will Torrent (Team UK 2007)* also saw him join Theo Paphitis, Vince Cable and John Hayes for an event at Lancaster House which aimed to encourage British businesses to help the UK become an intermetional loss doubted by the UK become and the second s

also given the opportunity to 'Have a Go' at a variety of new skills including the popular 'pitstop challenge' with WorldSkills London 2011 sponsors Honda and Snap-on.

The two Adams clean up at 2011 Acorn Awards

Adam Smith (Team UK 2009) and Adam Pierson (Team UK 2003) both picked up a coveted Acorn Award at the prestigious annual Ceremony which was held at Cosworth Park in Ascot. The Acorn Awards, which celebrated their silver anniversary this year, recognise the hospitality industry's brightest young stars – congratulations Adam and Adam!

24 May 2011

RHS Young Florist of the Year

Congratulations to Joe Massie (Team UK 2009), who was crowned RHS Young Florist of the Year for the third year running. Joe's success was announced at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show where his award winning work – a jockey's jacket made from silk and orchids – was on display. Following the announcement Joe was interviewed live on air by the 'BBC One at Chelsea' television programme, where he told viewers how pleased and honoured he was to have won.

01 June 2011

'Taking on the world'

Sue Simpson, Beauty Therapy Training Manager/Expert told readers of Professional Beauty magazine about how WorldSkills is helping to boost Beauty Therapy as a skill and the head start it gives competitors like *Charlotte Burford (Team UK 2009)* and *Jenna Bailey (Team UK 1999)*.

'How to win at WorldSkills'

Gary Tuddenham (Team UK 2007), Gold Medallist in Cabinet Marking at WorldSkills

re doing what...'

Master Builder magazine as the countdown for WorldSkills London 2011 continues.

22 June 2011

VQ Day 2011

Mark Nevin (Team UK 2009), Marc Pate (Squad UK 2009), Sadie Jones (Squad UK 2011) and Chris Berridge (Team UK 2011) joined Edge for its annual national celebration of vocational education. The Alumni along with students and tutors from North Warwickshire & Hinckley College hosted three Have a Go areas in Stonemasonry, Painting & Decorating and Floristry creating 600 opportunities to Have a Go. A fantastic contribution to the WorldSkills London 2011 One Million Have a Go Opportunities target – a big thank you to everyone involved.

01 July 2011

Craft Guild Awards 2011

Congratulations to Alistair Birt (Team UK 2009) who was the runner up in the 'Young Chef of the Year' category at this year's Craft Guild Awards. Alistair's skills have been described as exemplary and he is now said to be one of chocolatier and patissier William Curley's most trusted members of staff.

13 June 2011

'Sweet sensations'

Will Torrent (Team UK 2007) confectionery skills secured him a double page spread in Hello magazine in which he talks about his experience at WorldSkills Shizuoka 2007 and shows readers how to make his version of the classic dessert Black Forest Gateaux.

14-16 June 2011

Skills Interpretation at Team Selection

Luke Griffiths, Alistair Birt, Mel Adlam (Team UK 2009), Marc Pate (Squad UK 2009) and Will Torrent (Team UK 2007) all played their part at Team Selection. The Alumni members took on the role of skills interpreter and explained to visitors what was happening within the competition zones and how the competitors might be feeling, using their own journey as a reference point. Thank you to all of you that became skills interpreters for the week you did a great job and helped the visitors really get inside the skills.

06 July 2011

Tresham College

Phil Vandries (Team UK 2003) visited Tresham College to speak about his WorldSkills experience and how skills competitions could benefit their students – Thank you Phil.

07 July 2011

L'Oréal Professionnel celebrate being sponsors of WorldSkills London 2011

Linzi Weare (Team UK 2009) joined top hairdressing stylist Andrew Barton at his studio in Covent Garden to help members of the public Have a Go at Hairdressing. L'Oréal Professionnel organised the event to celebrate its sponsorship of WorldSkills London 2011 and to encourage members of the media and the general public to find out if they can cut it as a hairdresser and learn more about the skills involved. Thank you Linzi for helping us work towards reaching the One Million target.

There are many opportunities to share your experiences as a past competitor, and in doing so, inspire others to improve their skills. Examples of this may be talking to the media, speaking at an event, or providing case studies to promote practical vocational education and learning. Professional media and presentation training can be made available for all Alumni members who would like to sign up to be part of the engagement aspect of the programme.

Coming soon...

07 October 2011

The main event!

The culmination of 5 years hard work is almost upon us and everyone is gearing up for WorldSkills London 2011 which is but a couple of months away. An action packed programme of events has been planned to compliment the main event (the skills competitions) at ExCeL London from 5 – 8 October.

The pinnacle of this programme for me will be at the WorldSkills, UK Alumni Reception hosted by Edge on Friday 07 October at 17:30. This is definitely one for the diary as I imagine that there will be a great number of Alumni in London ; either working as volunteers or attending as visitors to the main event; I know many of you have already signed up to get involved.

Invitations to the Alumni reception will be sent out shortly but in the meantime don't forget to pencil in the date. Whether visiting the competition or helping out, all past competitors are welcome!

Katie Kyrousis (née Watson) (Team UK 2009)

Each year we will host specific events for Alumni members to re-connect and share their experiences. Some events will have a particular theme/discussion whilst others may be more general 'reunion' type events to bring people together. You will be sent an invitation for these at least once a year.

We are the People's Choice

WorldSkills London 2011 garden 'The Stockman's Retreat' is honoured at Hampton Court Palace Flower Show with two awards and a royal visit, reports **Will Gadd**

t was celebrations all round after the WorldSkills London 2011 garden at RHS Hampton Court Flower Show scooped the People's Choice Award. This fantastic achievement was announced on the final day of the Show following an online ballot which saw 14,000 members of the public casting votes throughout the week (5-10 July).

The People's Choice Award came in addition to the Silver Gilt Flora Medal which RHS Judges awarded the team at the opening of the Show. The garden also received the 'Royal seal of approval' following HRH The Duchess of Cornwall's visit to The Stockman's Retreat on Tuesday 5 July.

The three week build project was managed by Harry Turner, Team UK Landscape Gardening Training Manager, WorldSkills Expert and lecturer at Askam Bryan College. Designed by award winning garden designer Chris Beardshaw the garden demonstrates world class standards in all aspects of planting and hard landscaping. The garden was built by a team of over 20 people including the recently selected members of Team UK and Alumni members Keith Chapman (Team UK 2007), Sam Fairgrieve (Team UK 2009) and me (Team UK 2009).

Harry Turner said: "Creating a Show Garden at the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show has been the perfect test of the challenges that will be faced by Team UK at WorldSkills London 2011. Not only has it been a superb training event, but it is also an opportunity to show the UK as a whole, visitors and viewers, just why the skills of our young people deserve the highest respect.

"I am very proud of our medal and of the People's Choice Award and would like to thank everyone that has been involved in creating this garden."

Simon Abbott and James Cuffey the latest young landscapers to represent the UK at WorldSkills have been training hard for over a year and Chris Beardshaw has being working closely with them on their planting skills helping them to become more confident in their use of plants. Chris is part of the Landscape Gardening Training Team supporting Team UK which is headed up by Harry and also includes Keith and myself.

Chris Beardshaw said, "It has been great to engage with the young competitors for WorldSkills London 2011 over the last year and to see their interest and skills in horticulture evolve. Education lies at the heart of many of the projects I choose to support so I was very keen to take the opportunity to help nurture these young people as future leaders in landscaping and horticulture. This show garden illustrates just how traditional landscaping skills can be sustained and integrated with new skills and techniques for the future". The garden also showcases a number of specially created stone sphere sculptures and intricate brickwork which were created by other members of Team UK and the WorldSkills, UK Alumni. A huge congratulation to everyone involved: Simon Abbott, Chris Beardshaw, Chris Berridge, John Billingham, Mike Burdett, Beck Burns, Kevin Calpin, Keith Chapman, James Cuffey, Kevin Diett, Sam Fairgrieve, Will Gadd, Philip Green, David Griffiths, Oliver King, Jody Lidgard, Toby Smeaton, Jason Stanley, Aaron Thompson, Denise Turner, Greg Turner, Harry Turner, David Wakerly and Luke Welstead.

My involvement with the Alumni and the Landscape Gardening Training Team has opened up these fantastic opportunities to me. Being part of shows like Hampton Court Palace Flower Show allows me to take ideas and things that I have learned back to my own company which I run with my brother Gadd Brothers Trees and Landscapes www.gaddbrotherstreesandlandscapes.co.uk

We'd like to receive your latest news about developments in your career and life to date. If you've recently got married, got a new job, been given an award or have some other news you'd like to share, please contact harry.smith@ ukskills.org.uk





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Brathay... so much more than the Pamper Pole, says **Pete Hubble** (Team UK Team Leader)

ost members of the WorldSkills, UK Alumni will have strong and lasting memories of their time spent at Brathay Hall while training as part of Team UK for WorldSkills.

The Brathay Pamper Pole (the 10 metre telegraph pole which many have leapt off with various degrees of style and panache) in particular, is an often-talked-about 'high point' of the Brathay training experience.

However, Brathay Trust's support of Team UK in recent years has grown beyond pre-competition team building exercises. Through its provision of team leaders and its inductions and performance development programme the Brathay Trust offers support throughout the competition, and competitor training, cycle. The Brathay Trust has also supported the UK's training managers and WorldSkills experts through its respected professional coaching programme.

WorldSkills London 2011 marks the 10th anniversary of the Brathay Trust's first involvement with training and development of UK competitors for WorldSkills. For the three Brathay Trust staff who have provided team leader support to Team UK, this coming October will be the culmination of a 12 month support programme. The development and maturity of the technical training programme has offered our team leaders a strong basis for their performance coaching, and their support and guidance programme during Squad and Team UK Selection 'pressure tests'. Over the last two WorldSkills cycles (Shizuoka 2007, Calgary 2009) Brathay has closely collaborated with UK Skills (now part of the National Apprenticeship Service) and its extensive network of trainers and experts to deliver an integrated programme in performance excellence. Each part of that network is as essential as the others, and the Brathay Trust is proud to be playing a full part.

This cycle's performance excellence training saw members of Squad UK for WorldSkills London 2011 learn the art of Samba Drumming, as a rehearsal for how to deal with the pressures of performance. An intensive three days of coaching, technical and NLP (Neuro-Linguistic Programming) training at Brathay Hall fully prepared the 80+ members of Squad UK to take a samba dance performance extraordinaire into a local high school.

After taking to the stage to perform in front of the whole school the Squad spent some time with Year Nine pupils discussing with them how they came to choose their vocational skills and apprenticeship career routes and showed how the same route could be equally positive for them.

The entire Brathay Trust team, including those who have worked alongside competitors throughout the process and those who have supported from the back room, share a common goal – to ensure that Team UK will be the best that they can be, when and where it matters...WorldSkills London 2011.

So now, as we enter the final weeks of preparation ahead of WorldSkills London 2011

(5 – 8 October at ExCeL London), on behalf of the Brathay Trust team I should like to extend our positive thoughts and best wishes to every Team UK competitor and WorldSkills training manager and expert, with whom it has been a pleasure to travel this far.. As a proud partner of Team UK, Brathay Trust wishes all the competitors, and their UK training managers/ WorldSkills experts, an enjoyable, exhilarating and successful Competition.

Brathay Trust has been a supporter and provider of apprentice learning and development for sixty-five years. Working with apprentices, employers and technical training providers Brathay works to support young employees make positive choices in their careers and lives.

Our wider vision is of a society where all children and young people are able to fulfil their potential.

Since 1946 Brathay Trust has inspired young people to become successful, confident and responsible citizens who make positive contributions to society.

Influenced by research, evaluation and the opinions of young people our integrated community and residential programmes ensure young people flourish and have the resilience to overcome the challenges of their day-to-day lives.

For more information visit www.brathay.org.uk

The search continues...

With WorldSkills London 2011 less than three months away, now is the perfect time to re-connect with your past team mates, says **Alex Bellini (Team UK 2005, Cabinet Making).**

'm sure, like me, you share many fond memories of your experiences at WorldSkills and are interested to hear about how life has changed for your former teammates since your competition took place. WorldSkills London 2011 provides the perfect opportunity for a catch up with your former teammates and possibly even some of the international WorldSkills friends you made whilst competing. To make the most of the opportunity, a special Alumni reception is planned for the evening of Friday 07 October to help get evening together – so if you can only make it for the day to the main event, make sure it is the Friday.

The Alumni has come along way since its launch four years ago but we are still only in contact with a quarter of the past competitors that have represented the UK at WorldSkills. Can you help us find the other 580 individuals that have slipped off radar? If you are still in touch with a former teammate or know someone that also competed at WorldSkills who isn't making the most of their Alumni membership, please put them in touch with Harry Smith or pass their details onto one of the below list of Alumni Activists:

Katie Watson	Team UK 2009
Luke Griffiths	Team UK 2009
Keith Chapman	Team UK 2007
Alex Bellini	Team UK 2005
Adam Pierson	Team UK 2003
Richard Talman	Team UK 2001
Jenna Bailey	Team UK 1999

To contact an Alumni Activist or to join the group if your year's Team UK isn't yet

represented, please get in touch with Harry Smith, WorldSkills, UK Coordinator on 020 7429 2859 or harry.smith@ukskills.org.uk

It would be fantastic to see as many of the former Team UK members as possible at WorldSkills London 2011 this October, cheering on our current team at what will be the biggest and best WorldSkills competition ever. I hope to see you all there supporting Team UK and at the Alumni reception.

Do you use Facebook? Join the 'WorldSkills, UK Alumni' Group to re-connect with your former WorldSkills teammates. If you have a Facebook account simply search for the 'WorldSkills, UK Alumni' group and click 'request to join'. Please help us to widen the network by encouraging as many of your former teammates to join the group!

WorldSkills London 2011 update Summer 2011

The greatest skills Competition, careers and jobs event on the planet. WorldSkills London 2011 Be part of it!

5–8 October 2011 ExCeL London worldskillslondon2011.com



Showcasing skills that shape our world



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Become an Ambassador at WorldSkills

Do you want to be a Skills Ambassador at WorldSkills London 2011? Asks Julia Bowditch

ith just two and a half months before the UK hosts the largest ever skills event of its kind, volunteers who will help make the event as successful as possible are being recruited to a variety of roles.

Among the allocated roles which range from meeting Competitors at the airports to taking VIPs around the event, a unique 'Ambassadorial' role has been designed for WorldSkills, UK Alumni members wishing to be involved in the event.

As a previous Competitor at a WorldSkills Competition, Alumni members are ideally placed to provide advice and information about what happens on the Competition stands and in doing so enhance the experience for visitors. The role includes:

- Introducing visitors to the skill
- Explain the Competition and what is happening
- Encouraging visitors to use the Education Experience materials provided to aid their engagement with the competition and skill
 Encouraging visitors to ask questions
- Responding to questions asked by visitors

In return for your expertise WorldSkills London 2011 is offering to pay for your travel, subsistence and accommodation over the four days of the Competition and you will also be provided with specific event training for your role.

There are a limited number of these packages available for Alumni members and they will be distributed on a first-come-firstserved basis so if you are interested please contact the Volunteer Team on volunteer@worldskillslondon2011.com as soon as possible, as places are running out.

I AM... WorldSkills London 2011's creative theme is unveiled

WorldSkills London 2011 has developed an exciting new creative theme which will wrap around all the pre-Competition marketing and be on display at the event itself.

The theme has been designed with a visitor to WorldSkills London 2011 at its heart. It focuses on bringing out the aspirations and self-expression of those visiting the Competition as well as helping to explain and put into context, all that is happening at the event.

The I AM... theme is currently being worked up on all marketing materials, and downloadable assets will soon be available for WorldSkills International Member Countries/ Regions to use in their own marketing of the Competition. Watch out for more information on these materials.

100,000+ visitors registered so far

Tickets to WorldSkills London 2011 are fast running out with over 100,000 people already registered to attend the four day event taking place at ExCeL London from 5–8 October 2011.

There is still good availability for the weekday afternoons between 3 and 5pm and on the Saturday and employers and students are being encouraged to book tickets for these slots to ensure maximum enjoyment of the event.

As well as seeing the Competitors in action, visitors will also be able to Have a Go at the skills on display and see outstanding Showcase work from colleges across the UK.

WorldSkills London 2011 will be the greatest skills Competition, careers and jobs event on the planet. Don't miss out. Be part of it! www.worldskillslondon2011.com/visit

Edge update Summer 2011



VQ Day 2011 sets the agenda for the future of vocational learning. By **Susan Higgins**

Since its launch in 2008, VQ Day has quickly become a significant date in the education calendar, offering a chance to celebrate the achievements of vocational learners across the UK.

VQ Day 2011 on Wednesday 22 June was a great success with hundreds of colleges, schools, employers and training providers involved. Up and down the country learners were recognised and commended through award ceremonies, open days, student competitions and skills showcases.

Celebrations took place across England, Wales and Northern Ireland with events held at Westminster Kingsway College in London, The National Museum in Cardiff and Parliament Buildings in Belfast.

The London event attracted highly respected names from the worlds of education, business and the government including David Blunkett, Gordon Marsden, Robert Halfon and Lord Knight. Secretaries of state joined the events in London, Cardiff and Belfast, with John Hayes, Minster of State for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning giving a speech, championing the creation of a vocational pathway that is as robust, progressive and seductive as that of academic courses. Furthermore, nearly 40 MPs signed an Early Day Motion pledging their support to VQs.

Recognising that VQs have never been more important to the economy, the day began with an employer roundtable debate, chaired by Lord Baker. The theme: how VQs can be embedded into British business. Panellists from City & Guilds, Westminster Kingsway College, Babcock International Group and McDonalds shared their thoughts before passing over to attendees to consider employer commitment to vocational learning. Following the debate several top UK employers, including Cisco and Whitbread, signed a commitment to support vocational learning in their local communities in the next 12 months.

Other highlights in London included performances from the Gable Hall School choir and a barbershop quartet from Blackpool Sixth Form College. Exhibits and demonstrations came courtesy of Skills to Shine, WorldSkills London 2011, who hosted an interactive Have a Go zone enabling guests to try their hand at painting and decorating, stonemasonry and floristry skills and AoC Beacon Award winners Coleg Morgannwg, who impressed with a demo of their costume construction course.

The afternoon provided the platform to welcome and applaud the regional VQ Learners of the Year. Competition this year was of an exceptional standard, but the judges agreed on one winner for England. The accolade went to 28 year old Mark Farrell from East Manchester who used his Level 3 Logistics qualification to help save his employer a sizable £500,000. Across the nations, Ronson Slater (Joinery Apprentice) won the title in Scotland, Clare Jameson, (Apprentice in Railway Engineering) in Northern Ireland and Wales had two winners, Luke Thomas (NVQ1, NVQ2 Catering) and Melissa Jenkins (BTEC National Diploma Photography, BA (Hons) Photography).

VQ Day 2011 was the biggest celebration to date, and as vocational education continues to climb up the political agenda, 2012 is sure to be even more momentous.

For more information visit www.vqday.org.uk or www.edge.co.uk

Follow us on twitter @vqday Become fans on Facebook VQ Day. You can also check out the event photos on Flickr and the event video on YouTube



There are many paths to success