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## **CRC STUDENTS TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE FOR FIRST INTERNAL COMPETITION DAY**

**4 March 2010**

**A charity Tug of War for the Haiti earthquake appeal, an X Factor competition judged by former G4 star Ben Thapa and a crane lifting challenge were all on the timetable at Cambridge Regional College this week.**



Principal Rick Dearing and Vice Principal Chris Lang join in the Tug of War

Hundreds of students took part in the College's first internal Competition Day, on Wednesday, 3 March, with engineering students competing against each other in a Pit Stop Challenge, bricklayers and carpenters doing a trade swap and would-be electricians competing against the clock.

A Dodgeball competition, organised by the College's Sports Academy, and open to all, also took place, as well as plumbing, motor vehicle and construction challenges.

The day was planned to showcase and celebrate the skills of the students who study at the College, one of the largest in the eastern region.

Associate Principal Barrie Wicklen, one of the organisers of the Competition Day, said he hoped the event would encourage more students to enter national competitions.

“This is our first internal Competition Day and students and staff have been coming up with their own ideas for taking part,” he said. “We wanted to show what an immense range of skills and talents there are within Cambridge Regional College. We had cross-college activities going on all day, so students from all the Academies had a chance to view the events and discover more about each other’s work.”

Students at the College have a successful record of competing in regional and national competitions, and the internal Competition Day may have unearthed some future stars.

“Some of the day’s winners were of an extremely high standard and we will encourage them to go on to enter national competitions,” said Barrie.

Opera star Ben Thapa, who was brought up in Cambridge and shot to fame when G4 were runners-up in the first X Factor, said the standard of students taking part in ‘CRC Factor’ was very high. The winner of the contest was Performing Arts student Palesa Hyde, who won a day’s free studio recording.

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**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

For more information, please contact Lynn O’Shea, PR & Events Co-ordinator, on 01223 418773 or email [loshea@camre.ac.uk](mailto:loshea@camre.ac.uk)

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

Cambridge Regional College is the second largest provider of full-time education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the Eastern Region. The College has around 3,500 full-time and

around 6,000 part-time students. Students come in from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk.

Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes. The College offers the largest and most comprehensive range of vocational courses in Cambridgeshire, and has one of the largest Train to Gain contracts in the Eastern Region.