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Press Release

KRYSTIAN TAKES TO THE SKIES TO CELEBRATE SUCCESS

A young man who left Poland to seek a better life in Cambridge took to the skies at RAF Wyton for the trip of a lifetime after winning a Prince's Trust competition.

Krystian Kaminski, who came to Britain unable to speak English and with nothing more than a desperate desire to start again, won the flight after being nominated by Cambridge Regional College for his hard work and motivation.



Krystian (right) prepares for take-off at RAF Wyton

During his trip, courtesy of the RAF University Air Squadron, he was treated to some aerobatics and even took over the controls of the two-seater plane.

Krystian, 22, was one of three winners of the competition to reward young people who had made the most effort and gained the most from the Prince's Trust Team Programme in 2009.

He said he was thrilled by the flight. "It was a very good experience – one that I will never forget."

Krystian enrolled on the Prince's Trust Team Programme at CRC last year, struggling to find work and unable to afford a language course. He heard about the Prince's Trust from homeless charity Winter Comfort, and worked day and night to improve his English and complete the 12-week programme.

Andrea Finbow, team leader of the Prince's Trust Team programme at CRC, said: "Krystian had a very hard life in Poland and came here to make a fresh start. He almost begged to do the course, because he had been turned down everywhere else.

"He had a limited knowledge of the English language but was determined to learn more each day in order to do the qualification. He became a good role model for others on the course as he was not afraid of hard work, getting stuck into all the tasks and activities with a positive attitude. He gained a City & Guilds qualification, and now works in a full-time job in a manufacturing plant in Suffolk."

Andrea said she was delighted that Krystian had won the competition. "It was such a fantastic opportunity for Krystian and it is lovely that his hard work and perseverance can be rewarded with an experience like this - something that he would never normally have the chance to do."

The Prince's Trust Team Programme is an action-packed course focused specifically on getting young people aged 16 -25 into employment or further training. It enables people to develop team-building, confidence, personal skills and skills for employment through project work in the community and personal development activities.

Cambridge Regional College runs three Prince's Trust Team Programmes a year, starting in September, January and May. Contact afinbow@camre.ac.uk for more information.

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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

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 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 Trains to Gain contracts in the Eastern Region.