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PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 9th October 2019

Local entrepreneur sponsors NKC students for a 3rd year running to head to Africa!

North Kent College are delighted to announce Mark Lindop, local entrepreneur, has pledged to sponsor 3 more students on the charity programme Build Blitz, due to the success of the project last year.

Back in 2018, 3 lucky students from North Kent College had a life changing experience in South Africa, courtesy of local entrepreneur Mark Lindop, who sponsored all three students on an amazing journey with Mellon Educate on "Build Blitz". After supporting the college students last year, he was keen to replicate this financial support for another 3 students in November 2019. The 3 lucky students from North Kent College are Francesca Fordham (Painting and Decorating Level 2 Apprentice) who is employed by the company Axis Europe and they have kindly donated £500 to help support this wonderful charity. Also joining on the trip in November is George Snowball (Site Carpenter and Joiner Level 2 Apprentice) and Kieran Hewitt (Site Carpenter and Joiner Level 3 Apprentice). Kieran Hewitt, commented, "I want to thank Mark Lindop for giving us this amazing opportunity. Its life changing and very inspiring. I am looking forward to helping the children in, and around Cape town that are living in dreadful conditions. No one should have to suffer the way they do".

Build Blitz is a fantastic project, where volunteers from all over the world travel to Africa to lend a helping hand, building better infrastructure in underdeveloped African communities. The purpose of the charity is to help people and improve educational resources within underprivileged communities in South Africa. Since 2002 the charity, in conjunction with the

South African government, and thanks to the enormous collective effort of 25,000 volunteers, has built houses for 125,000 homeless people in Africa's poorest townships.

Not only are the students from North Kent College grateful for this incredible opportunity, but they look forward to putting their knowledge and skills they have learnt from their studies into a real life scenario, where they will create a positive change for so many people. The students will also be able to build relationships with other like-minded volunteers who will also be participating in the project.

Karen Wyatt, Assistant Curriculum Manager (Construction Crafts), stated, "For the past 2 years the construction department have been very fortunate to have been sponsored by Mark Lindop and his generosity to support our learners going out to assist with these builds. I have been behind the scene organising and making sure everything is ready for our learners to go. This year I have been asked to represent the college and it will be an honour to work alongside Mark and our apprentices from carpentry and painting".

We are all extremely proud at the college that our students are getting involved with this amazing charity again this year and we look forward to the result of the build.

ENDS

Photo L to R: Karen Wyatt, Mark Lindop and Francesca Fordham.

For further information please contact Claire Shearwood-Burton [Clareshearwood-burton@northkent.ac.uk](mailto:Claireshearwood-burton@northkent.ac.uk) 01322 629582

North Kent College offer an extensive range of Further Education, Higher Education, Access to Higher Education, Apprenticeships, Part-time courses and Training for Businesses. We provide young people with the next step after their GCSEs as an alternative to A Levels and a route to University or a career. We also have opportunities for people who are looking at studying at an undergraduate level, or who want to change career path or up-skill for career progression.

OPEN DAYS – OCTOBER 15th – DARTFORD – 3pm – 7:30pm and 17th OCTOBER 2019 – GRAVESEND – 3pm – 7:30pm

Enquiries: 01322 629400

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