



## **You're hired! Students prove they have what it takes to be a success at Next Top Boss awards**

Havering Sixth Form College has certainly got some talented teenagers to be proud of.

A fantastic 13 students from the College won awards in the Thurrock's Next Top Boss competition – an exciting business challenge contest similar to TV show The Apprentice.

HSFC students Christina King, Marie Carmen Thompson, Zara Ramsay, Dorothy Jackson and Silvija Jurgsaityte made up Team Benzai which won the Brand Academy – Best Brand award.

Seun Debiyi was awarded first prize in the Leadership category and Christina King came second in the Outstanding Performance category.

Tom Buzer was part of Team New Vinyl which included students from several colleges. They won two prizes - the Destination Thurrock Award and the Down to Business Award.

Adesola Ibraheem, Tevin Kittoe, Seun Debiyi, Richard Junior Oki, Cass James, Raphael Ako-Mensah and Cleevan Baron made up Team SIK and came second in the Down to Business Award.

The Next Top Boss initiative ran through Havering, Thurrock, Essex and parts of East London and was aimed at putting young people in touch with businesses and helping them to develop the skills they need to get a firm foothold on the ladder – leading to a high-flying career.

Around 60 students from Havering Sixth Form College signed up for the competition when the Next Top Boss roadshow visited the College in May 2010.

The competition involved the students taking part in challenges similar to those set on the BBC's The Apprentice. Each student was part of a team and competed in four tasks which required get-up-and-go, enthusiasm and a real interest in business. Judges were looking for problem solvers, ideas people and team players and awarded points for success.

The winners were revealed at an Awards Ceremony, attended by hundreds of young people and VIPs. Gold paralympian Danny Crates presented the awards to the winners from the 75 nominees – who have all been given the chance to apply for apprenticeships and work experience at top organisations in the area.

Prizes for the winners also included laptops, iPads, Blackberrys and vouchers from Lakeside and Best Buy.

Next Top Boss was created and organised by Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation (TTGDC) with co-funding from Thurrock Council and support from over 30 local businesses and organisations. It also received backing from Lord Alan Sugar.

TTGDC Chairman Will McKee said: "The awards showcased the range of home-grown talent that we have. The participants showed initiative, originality, teamwork and dedication – key attributes both in business and in life."