iPad win for Bicton College degree student

Bicton College Foundation Degree student, Nathan Bibey from Ottery St Mary, is now the proud owner of a new iPad after winning a Plymouth University competition. He was presented with the prize by Deputy Principal Jane Townsend this week.

Nathan was entered into a special draw after completing the National Student Survey for final year undergraduates. Of the 6660 students from the University and its Partner Colleges, including Bicton College, just four names were pulled out of the hat to win high tech prizes.

Nathan was delighted with his win and stressed the importance of students taking time to share their views via the survey: ‘The survey took less than 10 minutes,’ he said, ‘but the information gathered is used to further enhance degree level studies at Bicton College and Plymouth University.’

Over the past two years Nathan has been studying a Foundation Degree in Environmental Education - Foundation degrees are equivalent to the first two years of an honours degree programme and combine academic studies with vocational learning. ‘A Foundation Degree is a great way of equipping yourself to go further,’ said Nathan, ‘whether in work or in study.”

He added, ‘The approach taken at Bicton is ideal for those who, like me, have been out of formal education for some time. The transition from work to study is smoothly managed by the staff and the open door policy means that help and support is always on hand.’

Bicton College offers a range of Foundations Degrees validated by Plymouth University in subjects such as Agriculture, Animal Care, Horticulture, Equine Studies and Outdoor Adventure, which can be studied both full and part-time. Programmes are relevant to the completion of A levels, needing to certify existing knowledge and skills, and for changing career direction.
The College offers an excellent learning environment with specialist teaching resources and dedicated facilities for University level students. Nathan commented, ‘The beautiful surroundings and real-world learning environments at Bicton provide the backdrop for an inspiring and relatively stress-free programme of study - so different from a city campus.’

Nathan now plans to progress on to Plymouth University to ‘top up’ to a full honours degree, and thereafter to train as a teacher. Programme Manager, Catherine Taylor, said: ‘Nathan has been an excellent student and proof that University education can be undertaken at any time and will open doors to exciting new career opportunities. Nathan is a great environmental educator and we would be delighted to have someone of his calibre on our teaching team here at Bicton.’

Anyone interested in following in Nathan’s footsteps to study a university-level programme at Bicton can view the on-line prospectus at www.bicton.ac.uk, or contact Catherine Taylor for more information: cltaylor@bicton.ac.uk

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