PRESS RELEASE

Cooking up a storm with Thanet's young chefs

16th March 2011

Young people from across Thanet joined together for an exciting event

Fifteen pupils from Thanet schools spent the last few weeks honing their culinary skills before coming together at the first ever Thanet Schools Recipe Competition, held at Thanet College on Monday evening. The 5 to 16 year olds had been selected as finalists from the many entries submitted to the competition, organised by Thanet Earth and the Broadstairs Food Festival.

Each had created their own original recipe using at least one of the delicious Thanet Earth products – tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers. The shortlisting and judging was undertaken by some of Thanet's most renowned chefs and representatives from event sponsors Tesco and Thanet Earth.

The College staff and students couldn't have been more welcoming to the contestants, making them feel at ease in the imposing setting of the College training kitchens and restaurant. The students were on hand to help the pupils with their cutting and with the catering ovens, and to assist them in their quest.

Across all three age groups the judges found the same challenge – how to judge a winner from such strong performances. They had watched the entrants prepare their dishes and chatted to them as they made and presented their meals. After much deliberation, they made their choice and the delighted winners were presented with their prizes.

Every finalist received a commemorative apron and a recipe book to inspire them further with their cooking.

In addition to a hamper of Thanet Earth produce, the winners also took away a prize for their school. The Infant and Junior winners won a Tesco schools Plough to Plate programme, and the Senior winner took away £250 to spend on cooking equipment for their school from Tesco.

Hearty congratulations to all who took part on the fantastic achievement of making it to the competition final. Thank you to the schools for embracing the idea and for their enthusiastic participation, and to our 'local celebrity chef' judges who gave of their time so willingly! Please note the number of organisations and businesses that have contributed to this competition, and between them helped ensure its success.

Finalists:

INFANTS	JUNIORS	SENIORS
Katie Landi (Minster Primary School)	Mia Hillyard (Palm Bay Primary School)	April Stevens (King Ethelbert School)
Martha Mumby (Minster Primary School)	Georgina Graham (Minster Primary School)	Nicola Roberts (Dane Court Grammar School)
Lucy Candler (Bromstone Primary School)	Niamh O'Shea (Minster Primary School)	Chloe Miller (Laleham Gap School)
Grace Maskell (St Gregory's Catholic Primary School)	Molly Hughes (St Joseph's Catholic Primary School)	Eady Timms (Dane Court
Imogen Freemantle (St Gregory's Catholic Primary School)		
Sacha Rhoades (St Gregory's Catholic Primary School)		
Edith Dodson (St Gregory's Catholic Primary School)		

WINNERS:
Lucy Candler – Roasted Greek Vegetables
Niamh O'Shea – Meatball Stuffed Tomato
Nicola Roberts – Tomato, Cucumber & Mango Salmon

Sponsors & Partners

Tesco (and particularly the Tesco Extra store in Broadstairs)
Broadstairs Food Festival
Thanet Earth Marketing Ltd
Kent County Council (Extended Services)
Thanet College

Judges

Anthony Gardenier (Chef, Eddie Gilberts)
Toby Leigh (Chef, Age & Sons)
Nick McKenzie (Chef, The Ambrette)
Steve Deeble (Tesco – Technical Manager for Salads)
Robert James (Thanet Earth Marketing, Technical Manager)

PHOTOGRAPHS:

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Information for editors:

Thanet Earth is a state-of-the-art greenhouse development in Kent. When completed the site will feature seven enormous greenhouses, producing tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers. So far, three of the greenhouses have been constructed and are fully operational alongside an on-site packhouse. The crops are sold to the UK's supermarkets.

Thanet Earth is a joint venture, owned jointly by the Fresca Group of companies and three specialist grower companies.

For information about the business, its background and operations, see www.thanetearth.com

Download photographs from the competition :–
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