



British junior karate champion wins first English gold

British junior karate champion and CONEL student Brandon Wilkins has won his first English title.

The 17-year-old fighter won gold in the junior under 68Kg category in the 16 to 17 age group of the English Karate Federation National Championships at Leicester Arena in April.

Brandon secured victory in his last year as a junior fighter. He will compete at senior level when he turns 18.

He said: "I am very happy and proud to become English champion. It's my first time I have won this competition and it's good to win it in my last year.

"Every time I have competed in this competition before I have finished second or third, so it was nice to finally win it."

"I trained well and made sure I was focused, fit and well prepared. I felt confident going into the fight and beat my opponent quite easily."

Brandon achieved a gold medal in the junior British Karate Federation 4 Nations Championships in 2017 and believes the win will spur him on to retaining his title in May.

The annual tournament includes fighters from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

"I won the British championship last year and looking to defend my title," said Brandon, who is studying for a Sport 90 Credit Diploma Level 3.

"With the other nations competing it will be tougher, but I'm looking forward to it. I look forward to every competition."



Brandon Wilkins has won gold in the English Karate Federation National Championships.

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Students to join the election debate on BBC Radio 5 live

Public Services students joined the political debate when they appeared on BBC Radio 5 live Breakfast in the run-up to the last general election.

The group featured on the news programme hosted by Nicky Campbell following an interview with reporter Lesley Ashmall at the College's Enfield Centre.

During the recording, the students were asked if they were going to vote and what they thought of the Prime Minister and the major political parties.

They also commented on political issues including Brexit, policing, education and health, and discussed how to get young people more interested in politics.

Mushtaq Atifi, 19, said: "Politicians don't think the way we think. We need politicians who are nearer our age and a prime minister who is younger, like in Canada."

Vanessa Cassama Gomes Da Silva, 18, agreed, adding: "She [Theresa May] is appealing to older people. This election will give her the chance to encourage young people to vote."



Students' service at opener to box

Students delivered a knockout performance when they gave their support at the curtain-raiser for Europe's largest amateur boxing tournament.

The group, who were all studying Public Services, provided voluntary help at the Pan London Public Services Youth Day at Alexandra Palace in June.

The event also marked the first day of the Haringey Box Cup, which has been in the past has featured world champions Anthony Joshua, Nicola Adams and Chris Eubank.

Each year around 2,000 students from schools and colleges across London attend the event run by Haringey Police Community Boxing Club, where they can find out more about public services careers and sports activities.

There was also the opportunity for visitors to have a go at boxing.

Students worked with Haringey Police and staff at Alexandra Palace to plan the event and then helped manage visitors and provide catering.





Chloe packs a punch at martial arts tournament



Jonathan Ellis-Beattie, 21, said: "I was a bit nervous as it was the first time I'd done anything like this and I didn't want to make any mistakes.

"We were responsible for all the visitors coming in and wanted to provide a good service, so there was quite a bit of pressure on us, but it all went well."

Hasret Keles, 20, added: "I've found the course really interesting. It's not just the learning but the knowledge and educational experiences like this that really get you ready for the outside world."

Golden girl Chloe wins third British Karate Championship



Karate champion Chloe Lydon has won her third successive gold in the British Karate Federation 4 Nations Championships.

Black belt Chloe, 17, who trains at our Martial Arts Academy, took the title at Ponds Forge International Arena in Sheffield in May.

The annual tournament includes fighters from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Chloe said: "My opponent was a very good fighter. It was a very technical fight and quite tight between us.

"She held out for quite a while, but then she made a mistake and I saw an opening and capitalised on it to win."

Chloe's win follows her gaining a third successive gold in the English Karate Federation National Championships, and another gold in the French International Open Championships earlier this year.

She is also a double silver medallist in the British International Open Championships.

Chloe began karate lessons when she was 10 and started competing at 13.

Chloe is coached at the Martial Arts Academy, run in partnership with the English Karate Federation, by World Karate Champion Jordan Thomas.

Jordan said: "Chloe has a hard working attitude, she's always on time and never misses a session.

"For her to achieve what she has at such a young age is incredible. I am very proud of her and she clearly has a big future in the sport."



Football Academy star secures scholarship with Bolton Wanderers

A talented footballer from our Football Academy has won a scholarship with Bolton Wanderers.

Ruben Junior, 17, who played youth football for European giants Benfica in his native Portugal before moving to the UK in 2015, joined the Trotters in June.

Bolton secured automatic promotion and an immediate return to the Championship last season after a 3-0 win at home to Peterborough United in April.

"I feel very happy. It's like winning the jackpot," said Ruben, who previously won a trial with Leyton Orient, the official partner of our Football Academy.

"It's a big step and the opportunity I've been waiting for. I just want to continue to work hard so I can improve and hopefully I can get to train with the first team".

Ruben's favourite English team is Liverpool, with Philippe Coutinho and Roberto Firmino among his heroes for the Reds.

He's also an admirer of Cristiano Ronaldo and Mario Ballotelli.

Jonathan Silman, Head of School for Sport, said: "Ruben is an extremely talented footballer who has a very bright future ahead of him".

"Throughout his time at the Academy he has been professional and committed to improving his game."

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Young basketball stars in a spin after winning first League Championship

The College's Basketball Academy team were crowned league champions for the first time in May.

The team, known as the Warriors, won the Association of Colleges Sport Basketball East Men's League with a 59-55 win away to Peterborough Regional College's side the Pumas in their final game of the season.

Alex Malesi, 19, who was one of the top scorers for the Warriors in the match, said: "It feels incredible to be league champions.

"We put in a lot of training and effort and I felt we deserved it. We managed to shut the noise of the Peterborough crowd out of our heads, and maintain our concentration and got the win."

"The coaching at the College has been great in helping us to get in shape and improve our game. There's everything you need to be the best basketball player you can be."

The Basketball Academy, which is run in partnership with the London School of Basketball, was launched in 2014 and is coached by former England and GB international and ex-London Lions' assistant coach Jay Williams.

Jay said: "This is a massive achievement. The whole team worked really hard all season. Hopefully this is the first of many championship wins for the Academy."

