

NEWS RELEASE, 14 MARCH 2014

London Met students win Prince's Trust challenge

Students from London Metropolitan University have been named the UK's top fundraisers in a competition run by The Prince's Trust.

The students took part in the Million Makers Challenge, which tasks university students and employees with raising £1million for the Trust – making a real difference to the lives of disadvantaged young people across the UK.

The London Met students raised £2,267, the highest amount in the country, and were named UK university winners at the Million Makers National Final in London's Leicester Square on Wednesday night.

Some of the students' approaches to the Million Makers Challenge can perhaps be described as a little cheeky. Music industry management student Nick Francis reckoned on standing out like a sore bum to raise money, and declared that he would have the name of the highest donor tattooed on his rear.

"To attract attention you need to do something that is really different, innovative and out there," Nick said. "I am definitely an opportunist and I like to say yes often. If I think something is interesting or fun, I'll just go for it, and that is what's led me to this situation!" Nick raised over £820 through the stunt. The winning bidder was his father, who donated £200 - outbidding his mother, much to Nick's relief.

The students also organised a major entertainment event which featured stand-up comedy and a fashion show to reach the impressive fundraising total. Speaking at the event, Rosi Mason, one of the student organisers, said: "Million Makers was a great project to be involved in and has provided us with some fantastic experience. I'm grateful to The Prince's Trust for giving us this opportunity, and to the staff at the University who have supported us and helped make this happen."

Nick added: "It feels incredible to win such a large scale event, we're very proud to have done so well. It's been amazing for everyone, and each of us can take away so much from the experience. I'm so glad to have helped a great cause too."

Sarah Church, Million Makers manager at The Prince's Trust, says: "We're delighted that the London Metropolitan University was able to raise more than £2,000 for our youth charity – more than any other university has raised to date.

"The Million Makers at the university are helping us to continue delivering vital programmes to support young people, as well as provide one to one mentoring that will boost their confidence to get them back into work, education and training."

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Notes to editors:

The London Met Team consisted of students Nick Francis, Rosi Mason and Kayla Petty and was supported by staff members Tahera Huda and Anup Mistry.

The Million Makers National Final took place at the Penthouse Club, Leicester Square, on 12 March 2014.

About London Metropolitan University

London Metropolitan University has a rich history with strong educational roots dating back to 1848.

The University as it is today was created in 2002 with the merging of London Guildhall University and the University of North London, the first merger between two universities in the UK. Its roots however, lie firmly in the nineteenth century with the establishment of the Metropolitan Evening Classes for Young Men, in 1848.

At London Metropolitan University we believe that everyone has the right to an accessible quality education. Our students enjoy the highest levels of support and our courses recently received top marks from the UK's Quality Assurance Agency. We are proud of the diversity & achievements of our students, alumni and staff.

Here at London Met we put our students at the centre of all we do. London Met is a great place to study, located in the heart of one of the world's most exciting cities. We stand out because we offer courses of quality, in a vibrant, socially diverse environment, which will help launch your career.

We are committed to helping our students build rewarding careers. Courses are designed and updated to be directly relevant to the current employment market.

London Met is as dynamic and multicultural as the city in which it is situated. Here you will meet and work with people from around the world, who will enrich your development and learning. Since our students come from a range of backgrounds, we have always made sure that the education we offer is accessible and flexible.

About The Prince's Trust

Youth charity The Prince's Trust helps disadvantaged young people to get their lives on track. It supports 13 to 30 year-olds who are unemployed and those struggling at school and at risk of exclusion. Many of the young people helped by The Prince's Trust are in or leaving care, facing issues such as homelessness or mental health problems, or they have been in trouble with the law. The Trust's programmes give vulnerable young people the practical and financial support needed to stabilise their lives, helping develop self-esteem and skills for work. Three in four young people supported by The Prince's Trust move into work, education or training. The Prince of Wales's charity has helped 750,000 young people since 1976 and supports over 100 more each day. Further information about The Prince's Trust is available at princes-trust.org.uk or on 0800 842 842.

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