

## News Release

### **'UK Masonry Skills Challenge'**

Apprentices at the Met are keeping their fingers crossed after taking part in the regional heats of a UK stonemasonry competition.

Students Stephen Craig, 19, and Thomas Power, 20, took part in the UK Masonry Skills Challenge, organised by the Stone Federation and held in Glasgow Metropolitan College on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

Competing against students from Edinburgh's Telford College and Elgin College, the tough 11-hour competition will decide who goes on to the final in Wales later this year.

Both Stephen and Thomas impressed judges with the sharpness and attention to detail in their cut and dressed stone blocks.

Competitors faced the challenge of creating their own zinc templates before carving specific shapes into the stone block within the allotted time.

John Halpin, Head of Building Trades, praised the students and said: "This is an extremely demanding physical and mental contest because the guys are on their feet for a long time and one mistake could cost them.

"Each competitor uses a range of traditional hand tools to carve a shape that was only revealed on the morning of the event. They didn't know what it was going to be so that added to the challenge.

"The two judges from England will be scoring on accuracy, appearance and speed. Hopefully we'll have their decisions soon"

Stonemasonry lecturer Mark Cameron added: "Stephen and Tommy were picked after impressing the Building Trades team throughout the year. This is their first competition and we're all hoping they will go all the way to the final – it would be a great achievement for the students and the college"

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**Notes to Editor:**

- Glasgow Metropolitan College formed by the merger of Glasgow College of Food Technology and Glasgow College of Building & Printing, was officially launched on 7th February 2005.
- The college is a leading provider of high quality education within the food, hospitality, tourism, construction and creative industries offering full time and part time certificated and non certificated courses.
- The college is Glasgow's largest, home to over 20,000 students and 530 members of staff
- For further information on the college please visit [www.glasgowmet.ac.uk](http://www.glasgowmet.ac.uk)