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Fish apprentice scheme frying high at Belfast Met

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Belfast Metropolitan College has acknowledged the importance of the city's first fish frying apprenticeship scheme as part of the Year of Food and Drink's 'Seas, Rivers and Loughs' month. Supported by the industry training association, Seafish the programme is being run in conjunction with John Dory's award winning fish and chip shops.

The fish frying apprenticeships recognise the skill of employees whilst adding a valuable qualification framework to this thriving local industry.

Belfast Met tutor Ben Polley, said the college was 'thrilled' to be delivering the scheme along with the local fish and chip business and the industry training body.

"Belfast Met in partnership with John Dory's award winning fish and chip shops is thrilled to be able to deliver Belfast's first fish frying apprenticeships. Supported by Seafish, our Fish Frying Apprenticeship Scheme was launched in October 2015 and apprentices are currently working towards a FDQ level 2 Diploma in Fish and Shellfish Industry Skills.

"The qualification involves gaining practical skills in John Dory's shops across the city. We are hoping they graduate from Belfast Met with great skills in seafood preparation, excellent fish frying knowledge and the ability to provide exemplary levels of customer service."

With Belfast Met celebrating its 110th year Ben added that the college could look back and see that trades and skills are very much embedded in our local heritage.

"From shipbuilding and textiles and now fish frying, the College's heritage and legacy is something we plan to highlight this year through various events including the launch of our brand new Linen Lounge restaurant which will be opened to the public in the Titanic Quarter campus this October."

As well as fish frying and traditional subjects, Belfast Met's Apprenticeship Programme provides training in a range of other areas such as accountancy, IT, or civil engineering. For more information visit belfastmet.ac.uk

CAPTION: *Belfast Met Tutor Ben Polley with some of his fish frying apprentices*