

UNIVERSITY of DERBY

Press release

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Note: A photo of Derventio eXcel swimmer and 2008 Paralympic Games competitor David Ellis is available from the Press Office on request.

Swimmers Splash Out On New Website With Students' Help

A club training future swimming stars is being helped to make a bigger splash by the next wave of website experts at the University of Derby.

A team of students on the University's BSc (Hons) Internet Computing degree course designed a new website for the Derventio eXcel Swim Squad, as a first year project. The squad trains the county's best young swimmers – including some seen as possible competitors in the London 2012 Olympics.

Club member David Ellis, 22, of Heanor, Derbyshire, is one of Team GB's swimmers in the 2008 Paralympic Games, currently taking place in Beijing, China.

Derventio was so impressed with the University students' work last year they've now asked them to turn the design into a final website. The team, led by students Peter Fritchley and Marie Coyne, will now complete the site and Peter will maintain it in the future – all for free.

The new look website will replace the squad's existing one this September – in the same month that David is competing at world level.

Derventio eXcel hope that – with the interest in swimming success at the Paralympics and the medals won by British swimmers at the Beijing Olympics – a higher profile, new look website now is more likely to catch the eye of young swimmers, who could prove to be future British competitors. It will also provide a better showcase for potential sponsors and supporters.

Wayne Rippin, Programme leader for the BSc (Hons) Internet Computing course, said the new website would be much more accessible. It has been updated to conform to the latest web standards, enabling easier use by all users including those with disabilities, and giving access from a greater range of devices, such as mobile phones.

He said: "It's important to realise that these were only first year students, but they have carried out this work to a professional standard. It will be a great example of their work that they can demonstrate to future employers."

Alan Wisdish, whose daughter swims with Derventio eXcel, worked with the University on the website project.

He added: "The swimming season runs from September to August, so this is an ideal time for us to launch a new website. Our new updated website will enable us to work even better with students and with the community."

For more information about the University of Derby's BSc (Hons) Internet Computing degree course see website www.derby.ac.uk/internet-computing-bsc-hons.

Derventio eXcel's website can be found at www.derventioexcel.org.uk . It will be updated with its new look later this month.