

A UNIQUE RECORD AT PORTSMOUTH

It promises to be a long time before the record set by Anna Wilby-Lopez will be broken. When she arrived for the Graduation Awards Ceremony at the School of Professionals Complementary to Dentistry in Portsmouth. Anna, with 19 colleagues, was graduating with BSc (Hons) in Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy, not only collecting three top awards for outstanding clinical performance and the highest marks in certain case presentations, but also thrilling the audience with the appearance of her son Edward at his first

dental event, having made his entrance into the world only 24 hours previously – a fact Meridian TV were quick to report on air!

The coveted British Dental Association Prize was awarded to Sarah Enderby for the highest academic achievement in all parts of the programme.

Innovations continue at Portsmouth University because in 2010, the DCP school will be linked to the new £9 million dental centre where final year students from

King's College London will undertake ten-week supervised clinical placements providing treatment for adults and children.



Left to right: Mike Wheeler, President of BSDHT; Dame Margaret Seward, Honorary Graduate of Portsmouth University; Sarah Enderby, Graduate; Anna Wilby-Lopez, Graduate; Sarah Hartridge, Clinical Director; Sara Holmes, Education Director

NEW SKILLS LEVELS IN ORTHODONTIC THERAPY REACHED



Left to right: Kirsty Richardson, Damian Bourke and Sara Calder

A Doncaster dental nurse has become one of the first in the UK to qualify as a specialist orthodontic therapist. Sara Calder, 44, from Arksey, who works at the Orthodontic Centre (OC) on Chequer Road, is one of ten graduates of the Yorkshire Orthodontic Therapy Course run by the Leeds Dental Institute. In addition, Kirsty Richardson, 25, from Bentley, who has trained hard since joining the Orthodontic Centre from school, will be one of the youngest orthodontic therapists in the UK when she qualifies from the same course next summer.

'I wanted for so long to become an orthodontic therapist, and now I am one of the first ten in the UK – it's an awesome achievement,' said Sara, who thrives on challenges and sees this as her biggest to date. As orthodontic therapists, Sara and Kirsty will do much of the work traditionally done by an orthodontist, including taking impressions, fitting orthodontic bands, and placing and removing brackets and wires. Orthodontic Centre founder Dr Damian Bourke is extremely proud of his protégées, commenting, 'When we started the Orthodontic Centre at the end of the nineties, I was confident that one day we would be employing therapists to play a key role in the dental team. We are really proud of Sara and Kirsty.'



Wendy Lee, left, one of the new graduates, putting her new skills into practice at the Bristol Dental Hospital.

BRISTOL PIONEERS CELEBRATE

All six students on Bristol Dental Hospital's first course for orthodontic therapists, launched in October last year, have qualified. The course involves a four-week programme taught by consultant orthodontists, plus a placement in which students treat patients supervised by a specialist orthodontist trainer.

Sarah Bain, head of DCP training, said: 'I'm delighted to see the first orthodontic therapists qualify. This will make a significant impact on the number of patients accessing orthodontic care.'