

Tomorrow's cooking talent can win day with top-rated chef

Young chefs are being offered the chance to learn their art with a former Michelin-starred chef.

Phil Thompson, who took over Thompson@D'arcys just over a year ago, was previously head chef at L'Auberge du Lac where he held a Michelin star for four years. Before that he worked in some of the most respected high end restaurants in London.

Phil will be providing a prize of cooking alongside him for one day to the overall winner of the Oaklands College Chef of the Year competition, open to members of years 9, 10 and 11 attending all the city's schools.

"I can't wait to see what the next generation of chefs have to offer as this is a really exciting time in the UK to be one. It will be interesting to see if classic cooking or more modern techniques will prevail.

"Because of this, I am always very happy to help out and encourage our young talent in the business. I started out from humble beginnings and worked my way up with the support of some great chefs over the years and as a result I am only too happy to support burgeoning new talent and give something back."

Students can enter into three categories: starter, main course or dessert. They must submit their recipe idea, ingredients and cooking method and then 10 entries per category will be shortlisted and invited



in to the college's cookery school to create their dish from scratch. The students will have three hours and will be judged on organisation, taste and presentation by judges including *Herts Ad* food writer Becky Alexander.

College hospitality and catering lecturer George Mercer said: "We are very pleased to have such a well respected and successful chef offering to help our young aspiring cooks to hone their skills in a fine dining environment. I am sure they will very much benefit from the experience and it will no doubt help their future careers."

The closing date for entries is January 30 and the final will be held on February .

After the results are announced, Phil will then arrange the date for the winner to come in and cook with him.

CMYK

