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Elizabeth College trio Problematic win schools' Battle of the Bands contest

Elizabeth College band Problematic were named the winners of Saturday's schools Battle of the Bands contest, sponsored by JT. The trio had spent months of preparation and competed in two earlier heats against bands from the Grammar School, St Sampson's and Les Beaucamps high schools, La Mare de Carteret, Ladies' College and their own school. The band will get to play on the JT stage at Jersey Live this September.

Tamara O'Brien, JT's deputy managing director, congratulated Problematic on their win.

'We're really looking forward to welcoming them to Jersey in September for a money-can't-buy experience at Jersey Live as part of their prize.

'Encouraging Guernsey's young musicians is an important part of our commitment to support live music events and nurture new talent across the Channel Islands and we are really proud to get involved at this grass-roots level by supporting music in schools. 'Battle of the Bands' represents the first music event of 2016 backed by JT and has kick-started what

promises to be a great year of live music and music events which we have committed to staging for islanders.'

Organiser Wayne Mahy, who is the director of Thirst Music School, said the contest – the first time Thirst has held the event – offers students from all of the island's senior schools the opportunity to get creative with music and for the finalists to go head-to-head on stage in front of a live audience.

'This kind of experience helps them develop confidence and essential performance skills. It's really important to hold events like this to encourage musical ability and the format of this competition means that this age group can really express themselves through their performances.'

Wayne said the event could be repeated next year. 'I think we would be foolish not to as it's been a real success. A lot of the bands that played have only been around a few months and got together especially for the event.

'Seeing and helping bands form and grow in the schools has been such a joy to watch.'



Winners of Saturday's Battle of the Bands contest at Beau Sejour, Problematic, with Wayne Mahy, right, from Thirst Music School, organisers of the contest. (Picture courtesy of Langlois Photography)