

The newsletter of...

Learning and Employment

Spring - Summer 2009



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Whiteboard training

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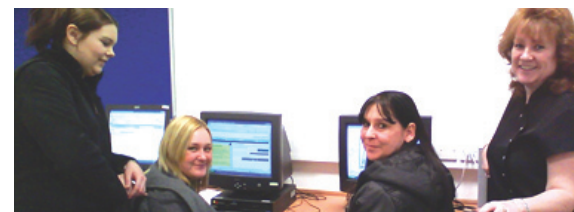
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Dads and kids

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On course to qualify

Centre's successful learners

The Learning and Employment programme for parents and carers at Shakerley Community Centre in Tyldesley is a resounding success.

The scheme helps parents and carers of under fives into training and employment, through one-to-one advice and practical support. The opportunities on offer - training and education, valuable work experience, secure employment - has led to over 100 people attending the Centre in just nine months.

Tutor Julie Baxendale, whose hard work and commitment - acknowledged in an independent report - has been integral to the project's success, says: "Our approach is informal, the atmosphere is friendly - and fun is a big factor too."

Mother of five, Sandra Ridings, has reached Level 2 in English and is progressing rapidly in the world of IT. She says: "Everyone is a



team here and they are so encouraging. I am getting the education and skills I need to get a real job."

Pauline Dann, who has a young child, is now stepping up her IT skills, working towards customer care qualifications and has accepted a work placement at the community centre's café. She's already achieved passes in English and Maths and says: "It's brilliant here - there are people who I know and my daughter stays in the crèche while I am learning. I am laughing and I am happy. I can now get a job and give my daughter a better life."

* **Pictured (L-R) are Pauline Dann, Julie Baxendale and Sandra Ridings.**

Sam's success story

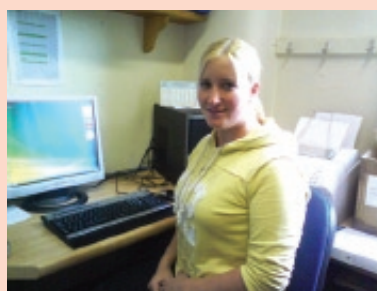
Sam Miller decided to learn about computers and gain qualifications to help with her future employability.

She enrolled at Tyldesley Community Education Centre on the Teaching Assistant Level 1 and the Introduction to Computers courses. After completing the 10 week computer course she was advised to take the ECDL course, to gain a Level 2 IT qualification. By studying with Learndirect at home and in the Centre, Sam completed the 7 modules in less than 2 months.

She says: "From starting with no real career prospect, I now have nationally recognised IT and literacy qualifications and I am working towards a numeracy qualification. The friendly environment at the Centre has

encouraged me to continue with my education."

Sam's confidence and enthusiasm has grown immensely and she can now build a future for her and her son. She has built up friendly relationships with Centre staff and is thankful for all their support. Sam is now attending business workshops with Bolton Business Venture and is putting together a business plan for running a sandwich shop/café. If she secures her chosen property it will then be all systems go!



Getting fit for work



Lowton High School has completed an innovative project designed to help unemployed people return to work.

The school accessed funding, via the Learning and Employment Service, to design a training programme for adults wishing to qualify as gym instructors and re-enter the job market. The programme started with introductory workshops provided by exceptional tutors from Sports Coach UK (the lead organisation in the development of coaching).

The workshops covered first aid, the fundamentals of movement, developing power and speed, motivation and mental toughness. Many of the tutors had been national coaches working with elite performers such as Paula Radcliffe and Steve Ovett.

Thirteen students have begun their OCR Level 2 Exercise Instructor course. To qualify, each student has to understand human anatomy and physiology as well as developing the skills necessary to deliver safe and effective exercise routines. After 6 weeks they took their theory and practical assessments. Director of Community at the school, Stephen Toole, said: "I am delighted that ten of our students have passed the theory and practical assessments and are now on the way to becoming gym instructors."

The final stage will be completed when the ten successful students are given a mock interview with the Wigan Leisure and Culture Trust. The event will provide invaluable practice before they take the next step into employment.