

# The Kent and Medway Newsletter

## For Professionals in Adult Learning



1 February 2012 edition

### GCSE results 'dip during World Cup summers'



The NLT states: Many students who take GCSEs during international football tournaments get worse results than they would in a football-free summer. A new study suggests on average results drop a quarter of a grade in each exam during such events with boys from poorer homes hit the hardest. Could the upcoming Olympics have a similar impact?

### One in eight primary schools fall short of literacy targets

One in eight primary schools have failed to reach the government target of 60% of pupils reading, writing and mastering basic arithmetic by the age of 11. Over a thousand schools are being singled out for failing to make enough progress and threatened with a takeover by a neighbouring school or academy sponsor.

### The Kent Big Society Loan Fund

The Kent Big Society Loan Fund is now open for new and existing social enterprises in Kent. The scheme is funded by Kent County Council (KCC) and managed in partnership with the Kent Community Foundation (KCF).

£3m will be donated over three years, with the first £1m allocated to KCF to provide loans from January 2012. KCC will top up the fund by £1m each year until 2014.

For further information including details on how to apply please go to [http://www.kentcf.org.uk/loan\\_funding.html](http://www.kentcf.org.uk/loan_funding.html)

Closing date for the first round: 15 February 2012

Please send your adverts for events, vacancies, courses and editorial articles before the last week of the month for inclusion in the next edition of the monthly e-newsletter to:  
Melanie Gibson-Barton at the Kent and Medway Newsletter.  
e-mail: [skillsforlifenewsletter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:skillsforlifenewsletter@yahoo.co.uk)





## **ITeC Courses**

### **ITQ Level 1 computing courses**

Covering the effective use of the email and internet, creating professional letters and Excel spreadsheets

Next two courses commence 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012 with further dates throughout the year

### **ITQ Level 2 computing courses**

Builds on our level 1 course and covers word processing, Excel spreadsheets and slideshows on PowerPoint

Next courses commence 9<sup>th</sup> January and 20<sup>th</sup> February 2012 with further dates throughout the year

\*\* ITQ Level 1 & 2 courses are **free** if you are in receipt of JSA, ESA, Income Support, Housing or Council Tax Benefit \*\*

<b>Tuesday evening computing courses</b>	-	How to make the most of your Computer
Excel for beginners	only £15.00 -	7 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2012
Photo Manipulation	only £15.00 -	21 <sup>st</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2012
PowerPoint for Beginners	only £ 7.50 -	6 <sup>th</sup> March 2012

\*\* Book all 9 courses at a discounted rate of only £60.00 \*\*

### **G4G gaming courses** - The fusion of learning and gaming

If your aged 16 – 19 and born on or after 01/09/92 and not in employment, education or training, this course integrates online gaming with the opportunity to gain qualifications in I.T., Maths or English and Employability

Next courses commence 4<sup>th</sup> January and 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012 with further dates throughout the year

### **Train to Gain** - Maths & English courses

If you are employed, self employed or a volunteer, this is an opportunity to gain Adult Literacy or Adult Numeracy qualification (equivalent to GCSE English or Maths)

Every Tuesday evening with immediate starts available

**To find out more, please contact:**

**East Kent ITeC Ltd, 99 Victoria Road, Margate, Kent, CT9 1RD  
01843 233433, [marketing@ekitec.co.uk](mailto:marketing@ekitec.co.uk), [www.ekitec.co.uk](http://www.ekitec.co.uk)**

## Rehabilitation Worker Qualification

Foundation Degree in Health and Social Care (Visual Impairment Rehabilitation)

Kent Association for the Blind & Canterbury Christ Church University are recruiting students for the 2-Year Foundation Degree, commencing September 2012. This Foundation Degree programme is a level 5 qualification and would benefit those working or volunteering in a Health and Social Care Setting with people who are sight impaired. The course is designed to fit in and around the workplace and is studied over two days per week for three 10 week terms. There are 12 modules focusing on Low Vision, Orientation and Mobility, Rehabilitation skills and Health and Social Care.

The cost per year is £5,580. Those students applying for a student loan will need to submit their application forms by the middle of March 2012.

For further information, contact Avril Chapman, Foundation Degree Manager on 01622 691357 or [avril.chapman@kab.org.uk](mailto:avril.chapman@kab.org.uk)

**Do you want your child to succeed at school?**

**Does your child need help with maths and English?**

**Do you want your child to grow in confidence and achieve?**

**See last pages of the Newsletter for the full page advert about**

**Canterbury First Class Learning**

## LSIS leadership and management conference 2012

29th February 2012

10:00 - 16:00

Registration Deadline: 24th February 2012

Location:

One Drummond Gate, Victoria, London, SW1V 2QQ

The 2012 leadership and management conference will be taking place on 29th February. The conference will focus on first line and middle managers as future leaders in the FE and skills sector. The day will consist of a combination of keynote speakers and practical workshops. The key themes are:

Understanding the policy context

Next generation leadership

Skills development

More details will be made available nearer the time.

Who Should Attend: The target audience for the 2012 conference is first line and middle managers from across the FE and skills sector.

For further information, please contact: [peter.arnold@lsis.org.uk](mailto:peter.arnold@lsis.org.uk)



## **Computing for Complete Beginners & Beyond**

Learn at your own pace with friendly helpers to  
Use Keyboard, Mouse, PC, Email, Internet, Word Processing, Public Services Online, Job Search etc

An informal course with 5 sessions of 2 hours with helpful staff, tea & biscuits

Discounted fees £15 or £30; or Full Fee: £60

Personal payments - low weekly cost by arrangement

Centre Annual Membership Fee:  
£10 / £15 / £ 20 subject to benefits / income

### **OCR ITQ Levels 1 and 2**

- \* Word Processing
- \* Spreadsheets & Graphs
- \* Slideshow Presentations
- \* Databases
- \* Emails

### **OCR ITQ Level 1**

- \* Desktop Publishing
- \* Internet

Units taught on a rolling programme

Level 2 – Discounted Fee £60 or £110; or Full Fee: £250 per unit

Level 1 – Discounted Fee £50 or £100; or Full Fee: £200 per unit

Personal payments - low weekly cost by arrangement

or Free subject to 'UTURN' fund criteria      Please enquire

Helpful, qualified IT Tutor

Enquire for details

Qualifications recognised by employers

### **Computer Skills & Job Advice Centre**

Located upstairs in  
St Martin's Church Hall, Northumberland Road, ME15 7LP  
Centre Manager: Linda Williams  
Phone: 01622 752751  
(under Beacon Church management)

Email: [linda@csc.thebeaconchurch.org](mailto:linda@csc.thebeaconchurch.org)

Website: [www.thebeaconchurch.org](http://www.thebeaconchurch.org) - Click ABOUT US, then COMPUTER SKILLS & JOB ADVICE

Free or low cost by arrangement please enquire

**NEW YEAR, NEW START, NEW SKILLS, NEW LIFE**

## Programmes for Employment



Are you looking to re-skill or up-skill?  
Are you at risk of redundancy or in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance/Employment and Support Allowance?

We can help!

New Skills, New Lives is K College's initiative to train individuals to become more employable. The College has recently merged, enhancing our offer of courses, allowing us to provide a range of programmes, from our five campuses in Ashford, Dover, Folkestone, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells. We also deliver programmes in outreach centres across Kent.

K College can help you with a package of FREE support.

This training is focused to prepare you for real employment opportunities within the local labour market. To be eligible, you must:

- be aged 18+
- be living within the Kent and Medway region
- be in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance /Employment and Support Allowance or
- be at risk of redundancy

For more information on how we can help you enhance your employment opportunities.

Contact us online at:

[www.kcollege.ac.uk/about-us/partner-projects](http://www.kcollege.ac.uk/about-us/partner-projects)

Via email at: [projectdelivery@kcollege.ac.uk](mailto:projectdelivery@kcollege.ac.uk)

Or telephone: Deborah Simister Project Co-ordinator (Unemployed) 01732 374089

Jane Silve Project Officer (Redundancy) 01732 370050

Why choose New Skills, New Lives at K College?

- Pre-start interview to source training that is right for you.
- The College is able to offer a wide range of training opportunities, both to improve on current skills and for those looking to enhance their career prospects.
- Professional and supportive environments with access to expert training from K College and other training providers across Kent.
- Knowledge of local employment market and future training opportunities.
- Access to K Recruit, a dedicated recruitment service at K College.
- Apprenticeship opportunities are available throughout Kent.

Employability and Sector Specific Training

- Comprehensive and supportive training to provide essential skills for employment, from searching and applying for a job to preparing and undertaking an interview. You will be able to create a personalised CV and gain an accredited qualification in Work Skills.
- The Sector Specific training available ranges from courses in: Care, Hospitality, Retail, IT and many more.
- Progression onto K Recruit and access to apprenticeship opportunities.

Basic Skills Qualifications

- Excellent opportunity to gain an accredited Level 1 or 2 qualification in Numeracy and Literacy leading to employability and CV writing skills.
- Progression onto full-time and part-time courses, with apprenticeship opportunities.

For more information on how we can help you re-train for a brighter future, contact us online at: [www.kcollege.ac.uk/about-us/partner-projects](http://www.kcollege.ac.uk/about-us/partner-projects)

## OpenLearn



The Open University's open educational resource Open Learn has won the ICT Initiative of the Year Award at the Times Higher Leadership & Management Awards. Visitors get access to free bite-sized units (5%) taken from full-length OU modules which they can study when and where they want. Now relaunched it contains nearly twice as much content freely available worldwide as the old site. For further information: [www.open.ac.uk](http://www.open.ac.uk)

## Understanding Sensory Impairment courses

Courses are available at Level 2 delivered as a credit-based unit worth 3 credits each.

These courses are suitable for those who want to learn about hearing, visual and dual sensory impairments and how people with these impairments, cope with daily living. These courses are practical and experiential, using simulation and role play and have been specifically designed for front line staff, educators, health and social care workers, students, volunteers, guide communicators or anyone with an interest in sensory impairment.

The cost includes course materials, OCN registration certificate and a portfolio of evidence pack.

### Forthcoming dates:

**Understanding Deafblindness – 3rd February 2012**

**Understanding Hearing Impairment – 22nd February 2012**

**Understanding Visual Impairment – 17th February 2012; and 27th April 2012**

**Special price: £99.00**

**OCN DB – 9 May 2012**

**OCN HI – 23rd May 2012**

For further information please contact Anita Morrison, Training Administrator:

Anita Morrison, Training Administrator, Kent Association for the Blind, 72 College Road, Maidstone, ME15 6SJ, 01622 691357 [anita.morrison@kab.org.uk](mailto:anita.morrison@kab.org.uk) [www.kab.org.uk](http://www.kab.org.uk)

## Offer of books

Ray Avenell of Blythswood Care writes: we often get a surplus of good books suitable for literacy work (children and adults) which we pass on at very low cost (paperbacks 3 for £1, hardbacks 50p or £!) – please let us know if we can help in this way – Ray Avenell Blythswood Care, Strood 01634 291411, [www.blythswood.org](http://www.blythswood.org)

## Time to Celebrate

World Heritage Day • Wednesday 18th April 2012  
Celebrating James Cook's Discovery of Australia • Thursday 19th April 1770  
World Space Day • Sunday 6th May 2012  
Europe Day • Wednesday 9th May

Green Eggs can work with your setting to celebrate upcoming international days and weeks and provide exciting creative activities for any occasion and can tailor them to your requirements!

Call: 0845 200 4628

Email: [john.buckett@future-creative.org](mailto:john.buckett@future-creative.org)

[www.future-creative.org](http://www.future-creative.org)

## First Click

The BBC's First Click web site offers basic computer training to show that using computers and the internet is easier than you think. There are activities, video guides and printable pages on this website to help you get started and feel more confident.

[www.bbc.co.uk/firstclick](http://www.bbc.co.uk/firstclick)

## Community Learning Event

Stour Valley Arts Gallery, Elwick Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1NR

(by Debenhams) tel: 01233 664987

### 12-2pm on Wednesday 22 February 2012

The second of this year's Community Learning Events will be held at Stour Valley Arts Gallery in Ashford. Anyone involved in community learning is welcome to come along to this informal, friendly and useful networking event. Meet other community learning providers, showcase your own best practice and be up to date with current initiatives.

SVA is an award-winning arts and landscape organisation who offers educational workshops to schools, youth or community groups and further education colleges as well as commissioning artists to make work in response to the beautiful forest of King's Wood.

Please let us know if you would like to come. A sandwich and fruit lunch will be provided. Contact Vicki 01227 823662 or [V.J.Woolnough@kent.ac.uk](mailto:V.J.Woolnough@kent.ac.uk) to book your place or for more information

Lucy Rutter, Development Officer, Participation Unit, Partnership Development Office,  
The Registry, University of Kent, Canterbury, CT2 7NZ, [l.rutter@kent.ac.uk](mailto:l.rutter@kent.ac.uk), 01227 827090

## U Screen

Tony Dukes writes: UScreen is a cutting edge fully accessible website set up by Screen South which aims to provide young disabled people 14-25 yrs living in the South East the opportunity to learn, share and collaborate on film making with each other together with able bodied young people and professional mentors.

The site is made up of three specially created accessible film-making tools. It will be supported by online and live events, expert mentoring, workshops and film festivals, so young people can meet new friends and make contacts with film-makers and specialists across the region. We also hope that young film-makers will develop international contacts through online projects and exchanges.

UScreen is part of 'Accentuate' a transformational programme which seeks to change perceptions and offer opportunities to showcase the talents of deaf and disabled young people. It is funded by Legacy Trust UK, SEEDA, The North Seas Screen Partnership and Regional Cultural Agencies.

If you know of any young people who could benefit from this programme please get in touch with me and we can begin to explore the opportunities for free workshops and support.

Tony Duke [[wakkaman@rocketmail.com](mailto:wakkaman@rocketmail.com)]

Please send your adverts for events, courses, vacancies and editorial articles for inclusion in the next edition of the monthly e-newsletter to  
Melanie Gibson-Barton at the Kent and Medway Newsletter.  
e-mail: [skillsforlifenewsletter@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:skillsforlifenewsletter@yahoo.co.uk)

No responsibility is taken for the content of any advertisement or article sent for inclusion in this Newsletter

## Quick Reads

NIACE is calling on schools, colleges and businesses to hold Reading Breaks to encourage more people to fall in love with reading on World Book Day, Thursday 1 March 2012, following publication of 8 new Quick Reads from best-selling authors including Maeve Binchy, Alexander McCall Smith, James Caan and Tony Parsons.

To help make these Reading Breaks a success, comprehensive packs for schools and workplaces, complete with copies of the new titles (and a display stand for workplaces only), can be ordered online\*. The packs for schools will also include a selection of children's books. A range of free resources will also be available to download from this site in the run-up to the publication of the new Quick Reads on Thursday 2 February 2012.

\* <http://www.quickreads.org.uk/quick-reads-reading-breaks/reading-breaks>

## Serviced office facility and meeting/training room hire - Thanet

Thanet Community Development Trust (TCDT) are offering a fully serviced office facility, as well as meeting room hire at their friendly Hereson Family & Community Centre in Ramsgate, Kent. The light and spacious rooms can accommodate 1-10 workers/delegates.

Competitive rates for VCS colleagues. Refreshments and buffet lunches can also be catered for and back office facilities are available if required.

Quote 20VCS11 at the time of booking to benefit from a 20% discount. Further discounts are available for block bookings. Meeting rooms are also now available to hire at weekends.

Thanet Community Development Trust (TCDT) has more office space available to rent including an over shop office suite in the town centre of Ramsgate, and smaller offices at their LEAD Centre in St Peters, Broadstairs, ranging from 2 - 10 people.

All of the above properties are available at competitive prices, so please circulate to anyone who you think may benefit.

For more information or to arrange a viewing contact Natalie Glover at TCDT: 01843 855155 [natalie.glover@tcdt.org.uk](mailto:natalie.glover@tcdt.org.uk)

## Work Ready!

Do you know a young person who wants to get a job? If so KEY Training Services can help with their brand new Work Ready programme to be introduced in September.

Designed for 16 to 18 year olds not in education, employment or training, it will provide them with the skills needed to secure and retain a job.

Work Ready! a 6 to 18 week programme, will be available throughout Kent with frequent entry points (approximately every 7 weeks). There are opportunities to gain NONC Awards in Progression and to spend up to 6 weeks with an employer on a work taster.

Young people can progress from Work Ready! into employment, onto an Apprenticeship or a level 2 BTEC programme with KEY Training Services.

To find out more click onto [www.keytrainingservices.org.uk](http://www.keytrainingservices.org.uk) today or call:  
Jayne Duncan 07774 554205 (for Margate, Folkestone, Dover and Deal)  
Mark Deveson 07795 151375 (for Swale, Ashford, Maidstone and Canterbury)  
Steve Elks 07917 639086 (for Medway, Gravesham, Dartford and Swanley)

or visit [keytrainingservices.org.uk](http://keytrainingservices.org.uk)



## Have you recently been made redundant, or are you at risk of redundancy?

Then Thanet College could have the help that you need in getting back into work.

If you are 19 or over and are either at risk of redundancy, or have been made redundant within the last three months, then their brand-new range of individually tailored programmes could be for you.

Their Skills Support for Redundancy programme is a completely free course run from a number of locations in Thanet, and gives candidates the opportunity to access fully funded training opportunities, including re-training and gaining important qualifications. Valuable advice on writing a fantastic CV is on offer, as well as essential interview tips and support when making job applications. All participants are also allocated a personal job broker, who aims to match each candidate with an employer, organise interviews and provide bespoke interview preparation.

The programmes are run from the Argyle Centre in Ramsgate, Margate's Mill House, the Golf Centre in Deal and Thanet College's main campus in Broadstairs. Attendance times depend on results of your initial assessment. Their goal is to help people find work within 13 weeks of completing training with local employers such as SAGA, Premier Inn and Wettons. Candidates have secured jobs across many industry sectors including Leisure and Tourism, Retail and Hospitality and Catering.

Thanet College has already helped 75 people into work, one of which is 23-year-old Christopher McKeen, who recently secured employment as a Customer Service Agent at SAGA after taking part in the course. Chris lost confidence after being made redundant in March, and was referred to the course by Jobcentre Plus. After receiving advice and guidance, as well as training in telephone and sales techniques, his confidence was boosted and he was successful in an interview with SAGA, starting work in July. "The support I gained from the College has been absolutely brilliant! I am really enjoying my new job and being able to support my family," he said.

Also available is Thanet College's programme Skills Support for the Unemployed, in partnership with Jobcentre Plus. For those struggling to find work, the programme helps them improve their job prospects, arranging training and providing access to jobs brokering. Thanet College can also support young people aged 18-24 with gaining apprenticeship opportunities, depending on eligibility criteria.

Debbie Davies, 46 took part in the programme after being unemployed for six months. She was directed into hospitality training, for which she achieved a certificate. Following this Debbie was successful at interview with Premier Inn, where she now works as a Housekeeper. "The support I received from Thanet College with returning to work has been amazing. You are brilliant at what you do and what you stand for. I can't say enough about the support you give and I always recommend you to other people," she said.

If you are interested in taking part, and seeing what Thanet College can do for you, contact the employability team at the Argyle Centre on 01843 590241, or at Mill Lane House on 01843 230876.

**Auto22** have been working alongside charity Catch22 to build a spectacular kit car. Young people from the charity, which helps them out of difficult situations and supporting them to make

positive changes in their lives, have been working with the technicians in Auto22 to build the car. The car will be raffled off early next year. There will be a limited number of tickets for sale so make sure you watch this space for more updates on the cars progress and raffle ticket sales date. All proceeds from the raffle will go to charity.

Auto22 is a new social enterprise in Gravesend, it is a car servicing and repair business from Catch22, a national charity working with young people and others who find themselves in seemingly impossible situations. As a social enterprise, Auto22 will be able to invest all profits in supporting young people in gaining work experience opportunities, work placements, apprenticeships and eventually getting their first job.

Auto22 offers servicing and repair on all makes of cars and light vans; MOTs, and tyre and exhaust replacements, they have already established an excellent reputation for high quality and value for money service with their customers. All work is carried out by professionally qualified and experienced technicians using the latest diagnostic equipment, and offer a free customer drop off and pick up service within the local area.

[www.auto22.co.uk](http://www.auto22.co.uk) [www.catch-22.org.uk](http://www.catch-22.org.uk)



## NIACE Courses

Here is the current list of NIACE public course dates.

Get Better at Teaching Maths - a one day course for apprenticeship and vocational tutors  
Thursday 2 February 2012, Leicester (Booking final places)

Developing resilience: supporting people with mental health difficulties access learning, skills and employment opportunities  
Tuesday 7 February 2012, Leicester (Booking final places)

Making More of Your Online Course: A 6 week online course  
Monday 20 February 2012 - Friday 30 March 2012 (Online)

Planning and delivering intergenerational Family Learning (Level 4)  
Wednesday 22 February 2012, Manchester

Engaging your learners using storytelling techniques - a one day workshop  
Thursday 23 February 2012, Birmingham

Mental Health First Aid: a 2 day course  
Tuesday 6 March 2012 to Wednesday 7 March 2012, Manchester

Evidencing Impact - establishing effective evaluation of Family Learning  
Wednesday 7 March 2012, London

Promoting positive mental health and wellbeing in the workplace  
Wednesday 14 March 2012, Leicester

Formative Assessment and Feedback: Teaching and Learning more effectively  
Tuesday 27 March 2012, London

Goal Setting and Action Planning with Individuals and Groups  
Thursday 29 March 2012, London

Call the NIACE Events Team, Tel: 0116 285 9661, Fax: 0116 285 9670, E-mail:  
[events@niace.org.uk](mailto:events@niace.org.uk)

## NIACE Publications

NIACE writes: We thought you'd be keen to know that we've just launched our catalogue update brochure for Autumn - Winter 2011/12. If you haven't received a printed copy, you can download a PDF version now to find out about our essential new, bestselling and forthcoming titles. You can also view the full list of titles on our website or download our full 2011 catalogue at: <http://www.niace.org.uk>

## Free careers advice in Kent and Medway

To find out how Next Step's expert careers advisers can help you call **0800 1954 700** to make an appointment. Remember it's a government funded service so it's free!

## **NIACE welcomes 'Building Engagement, Building Futures'**

NIACE welcomes the publication of the Government's new strategy to maximise the participation of 16 - 24 year olds in education, training and work - Building Engagement, Building Futures - and is particularly interested in the further details of the Youth Contract announced by the Deputy Prime Minister in November 2011.

NIACE Principal Policy and Advocacy Officer, Alastair Thomson, said:

"The Government's commitment is crucial and there are many important announcements here which will help younger adults participate in education, training and work. A lot is being expected of employers in terms of providing work experience and internships as well as apprenticeships. However, the £250m of public money to pilot giving them greater ownership of vocational training should be an incentive."

"We are also relieved that the Government has resisted the temptation to over-promote apprenticeships as a panacea to solve the problem of youth unemployment. They are right in saying that 'Apprenticeships are not an option for everyone' and instead reaffirm the value of other forms of work-based and work-related learning offered by colleges and other providers, including those from the private or voluntary and community sectors. NIACE believes the value of apprenticeships lies in improving skill-levels in order to boost productivity and competitiveness. Viewing them as a strand of welfare to work policy could place too great a strain on the brand."

"While these proposals are necessary they may not yet be sufficient. NIACE urges the Government not to neglect the needs of mature adults who also find themselves not in education, training or employment. Those people in their fifties, and beyond, need no less special support to re-enter employment, education or training."

NIACE is especially encouraged by the cross-departmental approach taken and by the way in which the challenge is conceptualised. Importantly, this recognises the distinctions between 'unemployed' and 'inactive' groups among the 18 - 24 cohort and the need for a different approach for the distinctive 16 - 17 group. However, NIACE is concerned about what maintenance support might be available to an unemployed person seeking to enter further education and about how eligibility for fee-remission will be determined. Similarly there is a lack of clarity about how part-time higher education interfaces with the new approach.

## **NIACE responds to interim UCAS figures**

The drop of 14.4% in UCAS applications for higher education since 2011, from those aged 25 and over, is more than double the average overall drop of 6.4%. These are findings from the latest application figures released by UCAS on Wednesday 4 January 2012, and are of concern to NIACE.

Alastair Thomson, Principal Policy and Advocacy Officer at NIACE, said:

"Although it is too early to make any final assessment of the application figures for 2012, the interim statistics show a worrying drop in participation among those aged 25 and over. Mature students are often trying to balance work and family commitments and are traditionally more risk averse, so recent changes to the fee structure are significant for this group."

"When the final figures are released later in January, NIACE will look carefully at the differences in the application rate of adults aged 25 and over, as this may highlight important lessons around the introduction of loans for further education at level 3 and above from 2013."

## Fair Train Event

Tom Watson, Fair Train writes: Fair Train, Skills – Third Sector and London Learning Consortium invite you to join us on the 8th February 2012 at a conference specially designed to respond to the opportunities presenting through the Youth Contract 2012.

We would be pleased if you can attend this conference and promote it to other colleagues across the third sector.

The aim of this conference is to provide the sector with real practical knowledge and information to improve access to funding for employers through new Government initiatives and the sector's own joint working in 2012.

This includes information on the wage incentives subsidies worth up to £2,275 each for employers who recruit 18 - 24 year olds through the Work Programme and employer incentive payments of £1500.

Top speakers and professionals from across the sector are set to present and discuss on the following:

- \* Find out how the new funding opportunities available through Youth Contract 2012 can be accessed by charities, social enterprises and other not-for-profit organisation
- \* Explore greater opportunities for collaboration across the sector
- \* Hear about the development of new products and ideas
- \* The place for apprenticeships in all this and the added value of the specific Third Sector Frameworks.

To reserve a space: <http://apprenticeshipweek8thfeb.eventbrite.com/>

Please note as we have a limited number of places available and expect high level demand, there will be a charge of £50 for cancellations and those who fail to turn up on the day.

Tom Watson, Business Administration Apprentice, Fair Train, Rathbone, 33 Parkside, Coventry, CV1 2NE T:02476 550736, M: 07587 771965, E: [tom.watson@rathboneuk.org](mailto:tom.watson@rathboneuk.org)



*Transforming Lives*

## Are Gove's 50 books a year right?

Last year the Secretary of State for Education announced that British children should read 50 books a year. This idea was met with scepticism by some authors and professionals who questioned the focus on quantity rather than quality engagement. In the NLT's new research paper, 'Is Four the Magic Number?' they use data from their survey of over 18,000 pupils to examine the evidence that reading four books a month instead of, say, one or ten, has an impact on children's reading levels and behaviours.

Putting aside the politics of this proposition, what is the evidence that reading four books a month instead of, say, one or ten has an impact on reading attainment and other reading variables? Using data from our first annual literacy survey of over 18,000 young people, this short paper explores the relationship between the number of books young people read in a month and other reading variables, such as reading enjoyment, attitudes towards reading, reading frequency and reading length as well as reading attainment.

Read the full report at: [http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/research/nlt\\_research/4205\\_is\\_four\\_the\\_magic\\_number\\_number\\_of\\_books\\_read\\_in\\_a\\_month\\_and\\_young\\_peoples\\_wider\\_reading\\_behaviour](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/research/nlt_research/4205_is_four_the_magic_number_number_of_books_read_in_a_month_and_young_peoples_wider_reading_behaviour)

## Health Improvement Training Solutions (HITS)

### Training Programme 2011/12

The training provided by the HITS team seeks to contribute to the development of the capabilities of the workforces that promotes health and wellbeing and addresses health inequalities.

We offer a diverse range of courses, by trainers who are highly skilled practitioners in their field and who use a wide variety of training methods and styles to make the courses as stimulating as possible and to enhance the learning experience.

We are a registered Royal Society of Public Health centre and our courses contribute to a range of occupational and national standards.

This year we are pleased to offer the internationally recognised Youth Mental Health First Aid and Brief Interventions in Alcohol as well as our most popular courses including: Understanding Health and Wellbeing and Improving Your Communication Skills.

We are also able to offer bespoke training packages tailored to the needs of your organisation or team.

For more information please visit our website [www.kenthits.nhs.uk](http://www.kenthits.nhs.uk) or contact us on [tpc@kentcht.nhs.uk](mailto:tpc@kentcht.nhs.uk) or 01233 667985.

Sarah Clarke, Training Programme Co-ordinator, Health Improvement Training Solutions

Health Improvement Training Solutions  
Kent Community Health NHS Trust

Trinity House  
110—120 Eureka Park  
Upper Pemberton  
Kennington  
Ashford  
Kent TN25 4AZ

Tel 01233 667885, E mail [tpc@kentcht.nhs.uk](mailto:tpc@kentcht.nhs.uk), Fax: 01233 667951  
External website: [www.kenthits.nhs.uk](http://www.kenthits.nhs.uk) KCHT staff, please visit our pages of Staff/Zone

## Ladder4learning

Ladder4learning provides a dedicated helpline and comprehensive website for all your training and development needs within the South West and South East regions.

What can ladder4learning now offer you and your organisation?

- A detailed database of relevant, current courses.
- Research carried out on your behalf by qualified advisors.
- Advice on how to choose the right course.
- Information on different methods of learning.
- The opportunity to join message boards for networking and information sharing.
- Free of charge downloadable tools and resources.
- Advice, support and information about training needs skills audits.
- Links to other useful and relevant sites.
- Staff attendance and display material at your workshops and events within the regions.
- Sign up to free alerts and up to date information and Newsletters.

Further information: [www.ladder4learning.org.uk](http://www.ladder4learning.org.uk)

## Free Learn Direct Course on Winning Public Sector Contracts

**Winning the Contract** provides an introduction to the public sector, explains the procurement process and offers practical advice to help you identify new business opportunities. This course has information on apprenticeships, forming a social enterprise and useful resources with helpful hints and tips on drafting and submitting bids. Read more at <http://www1.learndirect-business.com/business-courses/winning-the-contract/>

## Hold a Quick Reads Reading Break

NIACE is calling on workplaces, colleges and local community organisations across the country to hold Reading Breaks to encourage new and reluctant readers to develop a love of reading following the publication of 8 new Quick Reads in February 2012. The new Quick Reads authors for 2012 include Maeve Binchy, Alexander McCall Smith, James Caan and Tony Parsons.

Reading Break activity will kick-start on Tuesday 7 February 2012 to coincide with the launch of the new titles, and NIACE is encouraging organisations to hold activity through to World Book Day on Thursday 1 March 2012 and beyond. This will coincide with February's 'Fall in Love with Reading' campaign, co-ordinated by Freud communications.

Because parents who are confident readers have such a positive impact on their children's literacy levels, we are also working in partnership with World Book Day to encourage schools and other family learning organisations to hold a Family Reading Break as part of their World Book Day activities, on Thursday 1 March 2012 when new books for children will be published.

On World Book Day 2011 hundreds of schools held Family Reading Breaks where parents and carers joined their children in finding out more about books and how they could help each other explore and enjoy the world of reading together. NIACE is hoping that even more schools and workplaces will get involved to help reluctant readers discover a passion for books in 2012.

### Eastchurch POA Union Learning Centre

Eastchurch Learning Centre offers a diverse range of accredited and non-accredited training to a range of community members within Kent. We are based on the Isle of Sheppey, and have a warm and inviting approach to learning.

Many courses are free— though where we do charge a fee we are always competitive when compared with other providers. Some courses/schemes we are currently running are:

- Adult Numeracy and Literacy programmes
- ECDL Essentials/ ECDL Extra
- British Sign Language Level 1
- Deaf Awareness Level 1
- NSPCC Child Protection Awareness
- NSPCC Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults
- 6 Book Challenge

Please contact us if you are interested in any of the courses mentioned, or would like more information.

Address: Eastchurch Learning Centre, HMP Standford Hill, Eastchurch, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 4AA Tel: 01795 880040

Email: Gareth.williams@poalearning.org.uk or Beverley.nolker@poalearning.org.uk

## LearnInvicta Ltd courses — new year start dates

LearnInvicta Ltd has courses starting throughout the year as we are not tied to academic term. We have PTLLS, CTLLS and DTLLS courses starting shortly for those seeking to launch a teaching career and new TAQA Assessor (formerly the A1) and the TAQA Internal Quality Assurance (formerly the V1) for those assessing candidates undertaking other nationally recognised vocational qualifications e.g. an NVQ. A one day workshop allows existing holders of the A1 and the V1 to update their Qualification. There's even a new qualification for Lead Internal Verifiers. Just ask for details.

**TAQA Assessor (formerly the A1)** – wait list being built – start date to be announced – location Ashford or Chatham outskirts – eligibility is access to at least 2 candidates undertaking a nationally recognised vocational qualification.

**TAQA Internal Quality Assurance (formerly the V1)** – wait list being built – start date to be announced - location Ashford or Chatham outskirts – eligibility is access assessing staff teaching at least 2 candidates undertaking a nationally recognised vocational qualification.

**PTLLS Intensive** – wait list being built – location Ashford or Chatham outskirts – this is the latest version of course (now 12 point credit) to comply to the new standards for this qualification. No teaching experience required.

**PTLLS One Day a Week** – wait list being built – location Ashford or Chatham outskirts – latest version of course (now 12 point credit) to comply to the new standards for this qualification. No teaching experience required.

**DTLLS** – wait list being built - location Ashford or Chatham outskirts – eligibility requires access to 150 teaching hours during duration of 38 week course.

**BA Business & Enterprise degree with Edinburgh Napier University and K College - Achieve a degree in business enterprise in 12 months utilising your Level 5 management qualifications and experience - Call 0845 1303353 or e-mail [admin@learninvicta.co.uk](mailto:admin@learninvicta.co.uk) to hear more**

**NVQs in ITQ, Management Business and Administration, and Customer Services available**

Bespoke training available at your premises for groups of candidates — ring to discuss your requirements

**LearnInvicta is an Approved ELCAS provider.**

**A 10% discount on course prices is available for KATO members.**

What our candidates say:

- \* An excellent training provider.
- \* A joy to work with, will recommend to all as a first-rate training organization.
- \* an extremely knowledgeable, flexible and professional trainer.

**To book your place with LearnInvicta, telephone: 0845 1303353 or email [admin@learninvicta.co.uk](mailto:admin@learninvicta.co.uk)**

New course dates will be advertised on the website: **[www.learninvicta.co.uk](http://www.learninvicta.co.uk)**



# Dyslexia House Association



Medway and Mid-Kent Gateway to Literacy and Numeracy

## Dyslexia

### The Importance of Early Identification

By Dr Michael Thomson

An open meeting for teachers and parents

Especially relevant for Primary School SENCOs

Sir Joseph Williamson's Maths School Rochester

7.30pm Wednesday 29th February

Dr Thomson is an eminent Educational Psychologist who has written several books about dyslexia. His talk will cover:-

Dyslexia - phonological development and reading - a brief overview

Early Assessment - Assessment Process and Suggested Tests

Free for members and £3 for non members

If you would like to attend please ring 01622 717308 or e-mail us at [dyslexia.house@gmail.com](mailto:dyslexia.house@gmail.com) to book a place.

[www.medwaydys.org](http://www.medwaydys.org)

Attendance certificates for CPD provided

This is a fantastic opportunity to hear such an eminent speaker talk about such an important issue.

## AutoCAD 7579 Courses

### Target Audience

The courses are suitable for those employed in the design, management and maintenance of all types of construction but not exclusively.

Various levels of instruction are offered, starting with an introductory course and progressing to intermediate and more advanced courses.

The Level 2 course aims to equip candidates with the basic understanding and principles of 2D technical drawing.

The Level 3 course is intended to cover a wide range of 2D drawings and editing commands. The user will become familiar with the necessary techniques required to produce and edit drawings of medium complexity and prepare drawings for output to hard copy. It can be delivered within the context of a wide range of design and drawing specialisations.

Courses have been devised for Site Managers and Engineers as well as drawing office staff.

### Course Objective

The aim of the course is to equip the participants with knowledge and skills to exploit the power of AutoCAD within the Construction Industry.

### Course Outline

Standard courses are available which can be tailored to suit clients' requirements  
The courses can include topics such as:

- ▶ Creating new drawings, setting limits
- ▶ Drawing simple objects: line, circle, polygon, polyline
- ▶ Basic editing commands: copy, move, mirror, array
- ▶ The use of layers, blocks and attributes
- ▶ Dimensioning, hatching
- ▶ Stretching and scaling drawings
- ▶ User co-ordinate systems, external referencing, customising
- ▶ Paper and model space, printing
- ▶ File management

### COURSE INFORMATION

**Duration:** 18 evenings from 6.00pm – 8.30pm

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**Location:** Maidstone Campus

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**Fee:** Level 2 - £650 Level 3 - £750

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**Dates:** 6 February 2012

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## Level 3 Certificate For Inspection & Testing of Electrical Equipment 2377-12 (Portable Appliance Testing) – (City & Guilds)

The Electricity at Work Regulations imposes a duty on all employers to ensure that electrical equipment is suitable and safe for use. This course looks at why such equipment poses a particular risk and what steps can be taken to reduce the risk.

### Target Audience

People who are responsible for undertaking the visual inspection and electrical testing of portable appliances.

### Course Objectives

Candidates will be given an understanding of the subject, which will be continuously assessed.

Exams comprise (a) One C&G multiple choice test, (G.O.L.A.)

(b) A visual inspection and electrical test of a piece of equipment & recording of results.

A copy of the IEE Code of Practice for In-Service Inspection & Testing of Electrical Equipment is **essential** for the course.

### Course Outline

- Understanding of the need for portable appliance inspection and testing
- Potential hazards of using such equipment
- Risks associated with the use of portable appliances
- How inspection and test intervals are determined
- How to safely carry out formal visual inspections and electrical testing

The course is run over one day. Assessment is by a multiple choice examination which will take place one evening from 6.30pm to 7.45pm following the course.

**Date: 9 March 2012**

**Time: 9.00am to 5.00pm**

**Exam: 6.30pm 14 March 2012**

**Cost: £285.00**

# MidKent College Future Events

## February

- **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> Innovation & Creativity (Problem Solving)** The best way to gain a competitive edge for your business is to make sure you have people who are able to come up with creative and innovative new products, services or ways of doing things. This fun and interactive course will give you plenty of tools and techniques to take back to the workplace for fostering a culture of on-going creativity.  
Venue: MidKent College, Medway Campus, Gillingham. Cost: £150pp including refreshments and a hot lunch. Times: 09.30 – 16.30
- **Monday 6<sup>th</sup>- Friday 10<sup>th</sup>** join us in supporting 'Apprenticeship week'
- **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February to 9<sup>th</sup> March – City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate in Close Protection Operations** MidKent College is the first College in the South East to achieve accreditation to deliver this specialist course. The course prepares candidates for the challenging career of a bodyguard/close protection operative. Delivered over 15 days this course delivers 14 core sessions with a separate element for tactical communications and conflict management and enables successful candidates to apply for the Security Industry Authority (SIA) licence to work in the United Kingdom.  
Venue: MidKent College Riverside Vocational Centre, Rochester  
Cost: £1850.00 pp. – VAT is not charged
- **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> March – Institute of Leadership & Management – Level 3 Award in First Line Management** this course is specially designed to give practising or aspiring first line managers a solid foundation in their formal development as a manager. The programme is delivered one day per week for 5 weeks from 10am to 4pm  
Venue: MidKent College, Medway Campus, Gillingham. Cost: £560.00 pp – VAT is not charged
- **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Project Management** New project managers need to understand the techniques and approaches needed to lead a project, and learn how to build effective cross-functional project teams, manage internal and external stakeholders, and communicate progress to a wider community. Formal techniques for defining a project scope, gaining approval, defining resources, planning and monitoring tasks, and managing risk will help to ensure successful delivery of the project on time, within budget and to agreed quality standards  
Venue: MidKent College, Medway Campus, Gillingham. Cost: £150pp including refreshments and a hot lunch. Times: 09.30 – 16.30.
- **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Leadership Styles** There are different kinds of leaders and different approaches to take, some of which are more successful than others in achieving business objectives and maintaining good working relationships with colleagues and staff. If you want to be the kind of leader for whom people are motivated to work well you need to understand what kind of leadership they need  
Venue: MidKent College, Medway Campus, Gillingham. Cost: £150pp including refreshments and a hot lunch. Times: 09.30 – 16.30.

CALL OUR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT TEAM ON 01634 383132/383667 FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.midkent.ac.uk/employer-zone](http://www.midkent.ac.uk/employer-zone)

## MidKent College Future Events

- **Academy Launch** MidKent College will be opening our brand new Microsoft Academy offering the most advanced Microsoft IT courses for Professional, Technical and Desk Top support **Free event**

### March

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March IOSH Managing Safely** The IOSH Managing Safely course is for managers and supervisors who require a broad based knowledge of Health and Safety and Safe Systems of Work. This course is also suitable for those who do not wish to progress to the level of professional qualification, but would benefit from attending an accredited Health and Safety management course. Venue: MidKent College, Medway Campus, Gillingham. Cost: £425pp Times: 09.30 – 16.30.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March - Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July NEBOSH General Certificate** The NEBOSH General Certificate course is suitable for managers, supervisors and employee representatives with health and safety responsibilities. No previous health and safety knowledge is required but candidates should be able to write short reports. The NEBOSH National General Certificate is not a qualification for health & safety specialists, who should seek to obtain a professional qualification such as the NEBOSH National Diploma. The NEBOSH National General Certificate is a qualification designed to help those with health & safety responsibilities to discharge their organisational duties and functions more effectively. Venue: MidKent College, Medway Campus, Gillingham. Duration: One day a week for 14 weeks. Cost: £1,015pp Times: 09.00 – 17.00.

For further details on any of the above events please contact Claire Bridger either by email: [Claire.bridger@midkent.ac.uk](mailto:Claire.bridger@midkent.ac.uk) or telephone: 01634 383581 or call our Business Development Team on 01634 383132/383667



## North Kent CVS Partnership Courses February 2012

- **Time Management for Managers** – CVS NWK, Northfleet  
21<sup>st</sup> February 2012, 9.30am to 4.30pm
- **Assertiveness** – CVS Medway, Chatham  
22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012, 9.30am to 4.30pm
- **Communication Skills** – CVS Medway, Chatham  
23<sup>rd</sup> February 2012, 9.30am to 4.30pm
- **Community Development** – CVS Medway, Chatham  
28<sup>th</sup> February 2012, 9.30am to 4.30pm
- **Running Effective Meetings** – CVS NWK, Northfleet  
28<sup>th</sup> February 2012, 9.30am to 4.30pm
- **Building the Team** – CVS Medway, Chatham  
29<sup>th</sup> February 2012, 9.30am to 4.30pm

## March 2012

- **Report Writing** – CVS Medway, Chatham  
2<sup>nd</sup> March 2012, 9.30am to 12.30pm
- **Writing for Correspondence** – CVS Medway, Chatham  
2<sup>nd</sup> March 2012, 1.30pm to 4.30pm
- **Community Fundraising** – CVS NWK, Northfleet  
6<sup>th</sup> March 2012, 9.30am to 4.30pm
- **Accidental Fundraiser** – Swale CVS, Sittingbourne  
7<sup>th</sup> March 2012, 9.30am to 4pm
- **Minute Taking** – CVS NWK, Northfleet  
13<sup>th</sup> March 2012, 10am to 12.30pm
- **Level 2 Health and Safety** – CVS Medway, Chatham  
14<sup>th</sup> March 2012, 9.30am to 4.30pm
- **Linking Strategy to your Project** – Swale CVS, Sittingbourne  
14<sup>th</sup> March 2012, 9.30am to 12.30pm
- **Visual Impairment Awareness** – CVS Medway, Chatham  
16<sup>th</sup> March 2012, 9.30am to 1pm

Prices start from just £25 per course place.

For more information or to make a booking please contact Kirsten Lamshead on 01634 818036 or email [Kirsten@cvsmedway.org.uk](mailto:Kirsten@cvsmedway.org.uk)



I think it's fair to say that this year is going to be a challenging one for businesses, as we battle against the headwinds created by the current economic climate.

It is therefore critical to remain dynamic and competitive to weather the storm and to continue growing - a highly skilled and motivated workforce being the essential elements in making this happen.

To help support businesses at this time, the Government has available funding to cover the cost of training and developing your staff in the following business-critical areas:

Customer Service Skills  
Office Skills including IT  
Team Leading and Management

Go Train Limited is a highly successful Government funded training provider and as such we can deliver this training for your business with little or no direct cost to you.

If you would like more information on how your business can take advantage of this funding and for specific course information please contact me directly on the details below.

Wishing you a prosperous and successful 2012!

Steve Thacker  
01622 804840  
Steve.thacker@go-train.co.uk



# Canterbury First Class Learning

**Do you want your child to succeed at school?**

**Does your child need help with Maths and English?**

**Do you want your child to grow in confidence  
and achieve?**

**Call First Class Learning in Canterbury now on 01227 706030 for:**

**a structured yet flexible after-school programme,  
designed for children studying the UK National Curriculum  
using multi-sensory approaches  
to learn to read fluently, spell accurately, write confidently  
and improve their handwriting  
to support KS2, Kent Test and GCSE revision,  
problem solving and mental arithmetic exercises  
at our two centres in Canterbury**



**Call Wendy Wilton today on 01227 706030  
e-mail [Canterbury@firstclasslearning.co.uk](mailto:Canterbury@firstclasslearning.co.uk)  
[www.firstclasslearning.co.uk/canterbury](http://www.firstclasslearning.co.uk/canterbury)**

***Residents of St Dunstan's parish may be eligible for some funding***