

# Employers NEWSLETTER



North Lindsey College

March 2006

www.northlindsey.ac.uk

Edition 1

## WELCOME

**Welcome to our first Employers Newsletter for 2006!** Included in this edition are just a few of the exciting events and success stories for the last term at the College. We hope you find it interesting and informative. If you have any questions or comments to make, please contact Customer Services on 01724 294030.

## SPRING & SUMMER TERM DATES FOR 2006

**Spring Term**  
4 January 2006 - 7 April 2006

**Half Term**  
13 February 2006 - 17 February 2006

**Summer Term**  
24th April 2006 to 23 June 2006

**Half Term**  
29 May 2006 - 2 June 2006



Childcare Students.

## PROGRESS REPORTS

**Progress reports for part-time learners, and those on work-based learning programmes, are completed twice per year in November 2005 and June 2006. Copies are shared with participating employers. Should you have any comments on these reports, please contact the relevant course tutor and/or Curriculum Area Manager in the School.**

We also distribute an **Employer's Survey** in which we ask for your views. We hope that you will complete this and return it to us, in the freepost envelope provided, as we value your comments.

## LOCAL COLLEGE OPEN TO ALL

**The Annual Open Evening proved a real success, yet again, with visitors enjoying the opportunity to visit all areas of the college, see classrooms, enjoy displays of students work, meet staff and experience a taste of life at North Lindsey.**

The Mayor of North Lincolnshire, Councillor William Eckhardt had the honour of opening the event, along with the Principal of the College, Dr Roger Bennett.

Staff, Governors and students were on hand to show visitors around. Wayne Dewick, Head of Learners Services commented "This occasion gives learners an opportunity to see what is on offer at the college, in terms of the wide range of excellent courses and the facilities which support these. There is also the chance to ask any questions of guidance staff, tutors and current learners. This year's event has been no exception and we have been delighted with the response and feedback we have obtained."

Visitors were able to enjoy a rolling programme of acting and dancing performances in the main hall. Enjoy a comprehensive Motor Vehicle display that included Virgin Yamaha Super Bikes, a 125 Road Racing Machine, a TJS Formula One car from the 80's and much, much more.

The Images Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy salons demonstrated a wide range of techniques including a "have a go" manicure session. With areas such as Hospitality and Tourism putting on "Food Tasting" in their catering facilities.

The Principal added "The amount of work put in by staff and students is incredible and a credit to them all, this is a great opportunity for the general public to come along and see what North Lindsey College is all about and we hope that all who visited enjoyed the occasion. The primary objective is to ensure that all

visitors get the relevant information, advice and guidance and I feel that that was achieved."

The College has had very positive feedback, one visitor to Health and Social Care commented, "Everything was great, lots of people to help us and it was a very informative evening."



Brickwork Students.



Principal Dr Roger Bennett with the Mayor and Mayoress of North Lincolnshire Council, Cllr William Eckhardt and Mrs Jennie Eckhardt.

# AWARDS CEREMONIES

Every year we hold award ceremonies for learners completing their course. Included in this newsletter is information from the ceremony for achievers at Levels 3 and 4 which was held on 1 December 2005. An event for those completing courses at this level will be held at a similar time again.

Learners completing their course at Level 1 or 2 this summer will be invited to attend their award ceremony. These will be held in the **Main Hall at 6pm**, as follows:

**Tuesday 27 June 2006** – for learners in the Schools of Applied Learning & Community Education and Engineering

**Wednesday 28 June 2006** – for learners in the Schools of Health, Beauty & Care and Arts, Business & Leisure

**We hope to see as many of you as possible at these events!!**



Viv Thorpe presents Stephen Roberts with the Jack Tighe Shield.



"It's his fault - he did it."

# COLLEGE'S AWARDS CEREMONY - A GREAT SUCCESS!

We held our fourth annual Level 3 & 4 Awards Ceremony recently to recognise the successes of learners who studied at this level across the full range of curriculum areas.

In a packed hall that included friends, family, plus staff and special guests, the ceremony proved a real success and was an opportunity for all present to recognise the learner's achievements.

A wide range of level 3 and 4 courses from across the whole college were represented, including Construction, Engineering, Sports, Art & Design, Computer Studies, Administration, Child Care and more.

Since completing their courses, a large number of the students have since progressed to universities across the UK, studying Degrees and HNDs in their specialist fields, and many travelled back to Scunthorpe especially for the ceremony.

Guest of honour Viv Thorpe, Head of Service - Adult Education, presented the certificates and special awards to the successful students. Viv was accompanied on the stage by Dr. Roger Bennett, the College Principal, Nigel Dransfield - Chair of the North Lindsey College Corporation, and other members of the college management team.

In addition to the certificates that each learner received from the various exam boards for passing their courses, the college presented a number of special awards. These included five Outstanding Achievement awards, twelve Best Learner awards, plus the Golden Jubilee award which is given each year to the student who has demonstrated the very highest levels of dedication and commitment, and who has been an inspiration to others. This year it was

awarded to Daniel Charnock for outstanding achievement in the area of Construction.

Each award winner received a shield or trophy, a gift voucher and a special certificate of recognition from the college.

Dr. Roger Bennett, North Lindsey College Principal, commented, "The event was a tremendous success and was a real celebration of achievement. Over one hundred learners received awards on the day and it was a truly excellent occasion. We have now had four events of this nature and it has now become part of the college calendar. Further education successes should be celebrated and North Lindsey College will play its part in full."



Daniel Charnock, Golden Jubilee winner and Ged Lindsay, Construction Course Tutor.

## moodle

### What's Moodle?

North Lindsey College has recently launched its new Virtual Learning Environment, known as "Moodle".

Moodle promises to give each learner more flexibility in how they access support materials, activities and resources relating to their course.

For example:

- Learners can log in from home, work, or from a PC in College, and access a secure online course area. Inside their course area, they can see and download handouts from their classes, including Word documents, PowerPoint presentations, PDF files or any other file that the tutor wishes to share. They can then go through them again in their own time to gain a better understanding of the subject.
- Learners can watch video clips selected from an exclusive BBC video archive, or work through the interactive online learning objects that are available through Moodle.
- They can take part in secure live chat sessions with their tutor and/or peers, inside or outside

of normal College hours, post messages to discussion forums for their tutors and/or peers to read and respond to, complete interactive lessons and quizzes with instant feedback on their progress; they can even submit their latest assignment online. They can take a look at the various websites that their tutor thinks will help them get to grips with a particular topic.

- They can access the online Student Association area to see what events are coming up, or to check what discounts they can claim in the shops at the weekend...
- They can drop into the online Learning Resources area to access study resources, useful hyperlinks and other resources.
- On their home page they can also see clear reminders issued by their tutors about homework, assignment hand-in dates, and room or timetable changes.

The staff training programme is ongoing, and the aim is that by the end of this academic year, at least 50 tutors will be using Moodle with their groups.

# UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS BUCK THE TREND & ARE UP AGAIN!

There is growing evidence that nationally applications for university places for this year have fallen by up to 13% at some institutions, providing the first signs that top-up fees are deterring some potential students.

At North Lindsey College however applications to university will be 50% higher than this time last year, with a total of over 150 applications - this is half of all our level three learners.

This is thanks to the continuing support available to learners and the success of students on vocational courses at the college.

Traditionally it has been considered that A levels are the only direct route into university, however this is not the case and the vocational courses offered at North Lindsey College are a truly viable alternative for youngsters in our region.

Vocational courses such as BTEC National Diplomas are equivalent to three A Levels, and are widely accepted by universities.

Rachel Davey came to North Lindsey College on a Foundation course in childcare, then progressed to the level 2 Certificate and last year completed her level 3 Diploma in Childcare, Education and Counselling. Having applied to the University of Lincoln Rachel is now enjoying university life, based here at North Lindsey College and is looking forward to a rewarding career in the future. Cara Marsden also started at North Lindsey on the Certificate in Childcare and Education, progressed to the Diploma and is also studying for the BA (Hons) Degree in Social Sciences.

## CAN YOU HELP?

We are continually looking for suitable work experience placements for our full-time learners to get a taste of working life.

If you feel you can help by offering a work placement opportunity please contact Customer Services, on 01724 294030 in the first instance. Experience in using computers/information technology would be particularly appreciated.

# WORK BASED LEARNERS AND LEARNERS ON WORK PLACEMENTS

## The Management of Learners Health & Safety

For many years North Lindsey College has enjoyed close working relationships with many local businesses particularly in relation to the training of work-based learners and providing work placement opportunities for learners.

At any one time the college may have in excess of 1000 learners working away from college in a work based environment. Such time is an essential element of a learners training and the help and support offered by placement providers is both invaluable and very much appreciated.

Employers have a 'duty of care' under **The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974** to protect, 'so far as is reasonably practicable', the health, safety and welfare of its employees. **The Health and Safety (Training for Employment) Regulations 1990** lend to learners on placement the status of being an employee of the placement provider for the period of the placement and as such the employer gives them the same 'duty of care' status.

The college in turn has a 'duty of care' to ensure the learners are in a Health and Safe environment and using guidance from the Learning and Skills Council we have written and adopted the **Health and Safety Management of Work Based Learners and Work Placement Learners Policy**. The policy applies to all learners on courses that are funded by government grants whether they are Work-Based or on Work Placement where that placement is part of their course of study.

It is in place to ensure that the Learning and Skills Councils concept of the safe learner is striven for at all times.

## Work Based Learners

The college and employers of Work Based Learners work very closely together and the first stage of the partnership begins when tutors/organisers visit the company premises. The tutors are usually industry professionals and are often accompanied by the college Health and Safety Officer - together with the employer they complete the College Health and Safety Policy questionnaire and usually tour the premises.

Where required the college staff offer help and assistance to help meet their legal obligations in relation to Health and Safety.

Information, free booklets and leaflets produced by the Health and Safety Executive are provided as required and if there are any 'industry specific' issues identified then every effort is made to help resolve them. These visits have proved to be very successful and welcomed in many varied occupations.

There are regular visits by the Course Tutors and Organisers for the duration of the learners training and close contact is maintained with the host company.

Some of the many occupations that the college work with range from Electrical/Mechanical Engineers to Leisure, Travel and Tourism

## Work Placements

The same procedure is used for learners whose courses require them to have Work Placement experience - these are arranged by the college and sometimes by the learners themselves. The same policy and questionnaires apply and these should all be completed before the placements begin.

Some of the placement opportunities offered to our students range from Hotels - both at home and abroad to Child Care in Schools and Nurseries.

If you have any questions about the Health and Safety management of learners in the work place or are interested in offering a work place opportunity, please contact:

Tel: **01724 295200** (College Advice Centre)  
**01724 294066** (Health and Safety Office)  
email: **h&s@northlindsey.ac.uk**



Emma Blackshaw, Beauty Therapy student, taking a booking at Hayley's Beauty Spa, Scunthorpe - Salon owner Hayley Richardson looks on.



Michael Hurdwell, Motor Vehicle Repair student, at Mel Hudson Garage, Scunthorpe.



Gemma Langton, 1st Year National Diploma in Travel & Tourism student, on reception at the Royal Hotel, Scunthorpe.



Amy McPhee, 1st Year National Diploma in Travel & Tourism student, at Thomsons Travel Agents, Scunthorpe.

# EXAMINATIONS INFORMATION

**If your employee/trainee sits examinations whilst at College, the following information will be useful for employers.**

## The Exams Team

The exams team are situated in the general office. The examinations officer (Emma Marshall) can be contacted on 01724 294004 and the examinations assistants on 01724 294113 for further information and guidance.

The information board outside the General Office gives details on exam dates and times, information about access arrangements, tips for learners and exam regulations. Learners can also look on the intranet for this information by going to student services / the examinations team.

## No Mobile Phones

"Possession of unauthorised items is an infringement of the regulations and could result in disqualification from the current examination. Candidates are advised that mobile phones in particular should not be in their possession whether or not switched on".

This is a regulation enforced by the JQC which is a regulatory body for the awarding bodies. It means that if a learner is sitting an examination they can not bring a mobile phone into the examination room even if it is switched off and left in their bag. We advise all learners to leave mobile phones at home on the day of their examination. If a learner does bring a mobile phone into an examination room they will be disqualified from the exam and in some cases will not be allowed to re-take the exam.

## Proof of Identification for Exams

All candidates are required to produce proof of ID before the start of every exam. If a candidate fails to produce satisfactory identification they will be refused entry to the exam. Examples of satisfactory ID are: ID card, passport, driving licence or credit/debit card.

## Access Arrangements

Learners who have been referred to and assessed by Study Support and/or are attending Study Support for additional tutorials may require access arrangements for written examinations in order to perform on equal terms with their peers. Examples of this could be use of a reader, writer, interpreter, computer or provision of extra time. Final date for the submission of requests for access arrangements for the May/June exams is Tuesday 7 February 2006.

## Regulations for Exams

There are clear regulations for exams. More details are available from the exams team.



**North Lindsey College**

For more information on any of these stories, please contact **North Lindsey College**, Kingsway, Scunthorpe, N. Lincs DN17 1AJ  
**Tel: (01724) 281111** Fax: (01724) 294020  
**www.northlindsey.ac.uk** info@northlindsey.ac.uk

# REGION MOTORING AHEAD WITH HI-TEC DEVELOPMENTS

**The Humber region is to benefit from outstanding facilities for the Motor Vehicle industry and hundreds of individuals and businesses will benefit.**

North Lindsey College, located in Scunthorpe, recently opened a NEW Auto Diagnostic Centre.

This centre is the culmination of years of investment and now ensures that the Humber region is second to none in terms of resources and facilities.

The Auto Diagnostic Centre is also part of the Centre of Vocational Excellence (CoVE) awarded to a partnership of the Humber region's key providers of education and training for the automotive industry and industry representatives.

The main objective of the Auto Diagnostic Centre, and achieving the CoVE status, is to ensure that the community within the Humber region benefit from facilities and services second to none, to raise achievement and increase accessibility to these cutting edge resources.

The Centre was opened by Mark Haysom the Chief Executive, Learning and Skills Council who commented "During my visit to this college I have been very impressed by the facilities available to learners in North Lincolnshire - this hi-tec Auto Diagnostic centre will bring together the world of business and the world of education. I would very much like to congratulate the College on this fantastic facility and wish it every success in the future."

Representatives from local, regional and national agencies were present at the opening.

Dr Roger Bennett, Principal at North Lindsey College commented "This centre is the culmination of an incredible level of commitment, hard work and investment - we are very proud of the achievements of the CoVE steering group and its partners and of course the staff at North Lindsey. We

are looking forward to a future where we can lead the way in autotronic technology."

The CoVE is supported by North Lindsey College as the lead partner, in conjunction with Grimsby Institute of Further and Higher Education, Hull College, East Riding College, Learning and Skills Council, North Humber Motor Group Training Association and the IMI -Institute of the Motor Industry,

With investment of over £500K across the CoVE partnership over the next two years, the centres will continue to grow and develop. It aims to offer online e-learning materials and courses, to enable learners to experience and utilise the services, to increase links with Higher Education in the sector and offer career progression within the industry to wider groups.

The centre offers bespoke courses that meet ever changing retraining needs for the existing motor industry technicians. These programmes can be on a flexible basis thereby meeting individual companies requirements. These can range from the basic electrical & electronic testing to the highest level of fault diagnosis.

The motor vehicle facilities at North Lindsey College have already been nationally recognised this year, having received the IMI National Centre of the Year award. This recognises the standards achieved within the industry and puts the Humber region at the forefront of motor vehicle technology and innovation.

A wide range of motor vehicle courses are available at the College, at all levels - from NVQ's, and will in the future include Foundation Degrees and level 4 qualifications. These are aimed at the 16 - 19 sector and adult learners whilst encompassing the requirements of the motor industry and how best to train its employees in this increasingly technological industry.



Principal Dr Roger Bennett and Mark Haysom, Chief Executive, Learning and Skills Council.