

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ALG! GRANT HELPING 100 NORTHAMPTONSHIRE LEARNERS FULFILL THEIR POTENTIAL

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As the Adult Learning Grant today celebrates its one-year anniversary since the national roll-out in 2007, figures show that the scheme has soared to success over the past 12 months, providing financial support to 100 adult learners across Northamptonshire. Take-up in this first year of national roll-out has exceeded expectations and has proved just how popular the scheme is.

Further research by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has also revealed that adults make fantastic learners, with 77% of adults in LSC funded further education provisions being successful in their courses. This proves that although adults may face some of the biggest hurdles when it comes to going back to education, they make some of the best learners.

In fact, ALG, which offers adults up to £30 per week to go back to learning, was so successful when initially piloted across the UK in 2003-2006, that the national roll-out was brought forward a year.

Mark Silverman, Principal at Tresham Institute, said:

“The Adult Learning Grant opens the door to further education for so many people who have been unable to because of financial restrictions. I’d encourage anyone across Northamptonshire who has previously thought they couldn’t afford to learn to find out if they can access the grant.”

Liz Searle, Area Director for the Learning and Skills Council in Northamptonshire, said:

“Adult Learning Grants are having a great impact on the lives of adults across Northamptonshire, offering so many learners a helping hand in education. The grant can be used to help with anything from the cost of books and materials, through to childcare costs and really does give critical support to adults who might not otherwise have the opportunity to go back to learning.”

If you are thinking about going back to college it's time to start looking at your options. ALG could help you – to find out if you are eligible visit www.direct.gov.uk/alg or call 0800 121 8989 today.

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For more information please contact:

Helen Clarke at COI News and PR on 0115 971 2787

Notes to Editors:

This press release applies to England only.

Learning and Skills Council

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

ALG is available to low income adults in England aged 19 or over who are studying full time for their first full level 2 (5 GCSE's at grades A* to C or an NVQ2 or its equivalent) or a first full level 3 (2 A levels or an NVQ3 or its equivalent) qualification.

**ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE LEARNING AND SKILLS COUNCIL BY COI
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