

CLaSS visit for Denham

Date of issue 22 August 2007
Publication number LSC-PR-LOR-070016
Embargo until 09.30 on 22 August 2007

The new Secretary of State for the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS), John Denham will visit learners and staff at an adult skills centre this morning in Waltham Forest.

The London Borough of Waltham Forest's Community Learning and Skills Service (CLaSS) provides work-based learning and Apprenticeships, a wide range of accredited and non-accredited courses and vocational training, family learning and a sizeable Skills for Life programme for over 11,000 young people and adults across Waltham Forest. The Service is committed to raising skill levels and developing a culture of lifelong learning in Waltham Forest, and is largely funded by the London Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who are responsible for funding learning and skills across the capital.

Over the past four years, CLaSS, has improved overall success rates for its Apprenticeship programmes by almost 30 per cent*. CLaSS is also part of the Public Sector Apprenticeship Pilot, offering Apprenticeships in either Business Administration or Health Care for up to 15 learners.

Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, John Denham said:

"The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has the unique responsibility of strengthening the UK's economic performance and transforming the ambitions and life chances of millions of people. We need a world-class skills base if we are to succeed in today's competitive global markets".

"Further education is a key player in meeting this challenge. No other part of our national education system has its range, capacity or potential. The Waltham Forest Community Learning and Skills Service (CLaSS) helps people take those important first steps towards learning and training to gain valuable skills employers want. It is a great service for the Waltham Forest community and I congratulate CLaSS and its hard-working staff and students".

Waltham Forest's Cabinet Member for Leisure, Arts and Culture, Cllr Geraldine Reardon said:

"Improving the skill level of Waltham Forest's community is of vital importance to the economic and general well-being of the whole borough. One of Waltham Forest Council's aims is to ensure that, through CLaSS, our residents are given every opportunity to realise their potential and achieve their ambitions, providing the foundation for Waltham Forest's growing prosperity."

Sarah Carrick, the LSC's Partnership Director for London North said:

"CLaSS provides young people on their Apprenticeships programme with the opportunity to gain crucial skills and qualifications on the job. The LSC funds Apprenticeships for over 8,000 young people across London in a variety of sectors and we are currently extending the number of Apprenticeships available for adults in London".

Programme: Visit will take place between 09.30 – 11.00am

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If you would like to attend, please email: tania.cutting@walthamforest.gov.uk or call 020 8496 4726

ENDS

Notes to Editors

LSC

The Learning and Skills Council 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.

Apprenticeships Success Rates

- *CLaSS had an overall Apprenticeship Success Rate of 46 per cent in 2003/04. This rose to 60 per cent in 2005/06 and is expected to rise to 75 per cent in 2006/07

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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