

## **FURTHER EDUCATION MEANS BETTER PAY AND IMPROVED JOB PROSPECTS**

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Further education leads to better job prospects, higher pay and the skills necessary for employment, according to research recently carried out by the Learning and Skills Council in London.

The main aim of the Learner Tracker survey was to follow students after they had completed their studies in order to examine the impact further education had had on their lives.

Key findings show that:

- the course helped two thirds of those previously unemployed, or working for a new employer, to get their current job
- the course helped three quarters of those who had since been promoted to achieve their promotion
- almost half the participants say their pay had increased as a result of taking the course
- the vast majority feel their employment prospects improved and almost all believe they have learnt skills useful for current or future employment

LSC London Regional Director, David Hughes said, "The results confirm what's long been believed: namely that FE study really does open doors to better job prospects, higher productivity in the workplace and progression to even higher skills."

Findings also show that continuing in education motivates learners to achieve higher qualifications. While a third of first Full Level 2 students in the survey have continued on to a higher level course, forty per cent who completed a Level 3 qualification have moved on to Higher Education, with eighty per cent having continued on a training programme.

Other key benefits identified by the study, included an improvement in literacy, numeracy and vocational skills. The majority of those surveyed felt an increase in confidence as a result of the course and experienced an improvement in their team working, communication and social skills.

The research involved telephone interviews with 1,400 learners aged 19-50, from six FE Colleges across London (Southwark; City and Islington; Croydon; Ealing, Hammersmith and West London; Lewisham; and College of North East London). All the interviewees had completed full Level 2 or 3 qualifications during the 2005/2006 academic year.

A copy of the full report is available on [www.lsc.gov.uk](http://www.lsc.gov.uk).

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***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.

NVQ level 2 is equivalent to 5 GCSEs A\*-C. NVQ level 3 is equivalent of 4AS / 2 A-levels.