

PRESTON LEARNERS DEVELOP THEIR TASTE FOR EXCELLENCE

From Competence to Excellence gives apprentices and vocational learners the opportunity to develop their skills to world class levels.

Date of issue 21 January 2009
Publication number NWR - 454

Young people in Preston are getting a chance to learn from the experts thanks to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funded programme, 'From Competence to Excellence'. Following its success last year the 2009 programme will have 1,200 participants nationwide.

Preston College is running expert classes in areas such as Waxing, Body Massage and Barbering, with Myerscough College running expert classes in areas including Landscape Garden Design. These will give participants an insight into the latest technology and innovation in their specific field, and the opportunity to develop their skills beyond competence to a higher level of excellence.

The programme gives employers, colleges and training providers the chance to share best practice and contribute to a lasting skills legacy. Additionally its aim is to encourage more young people to take part in skills competitions, one of the most prestigious of which is UK WorldSkills, an international event to be held in London in 2011.

Helen France, Director of Apprenticeships at the LSC said: "The LSC believes that this programme will help apprentices and vocational learners to take their skills to world class levels. Understanding the difference between being competent and excellent is a crucial part of any learner's journey. Expert classes also allow trainers to develop better links with employers and really promote world class skills across a range of industries. The expert input that apprentices get in these classes will be a fantastic boost to their learning and demonstrate the real value of an Apprenticeship for their future."

There are currently 240,000 apprentices working in over 130,000 organisations in England alone, across 80 different sectors of industry. Apprenticeships are also increasingly being used as a pathway to university, often part time and with financial support from their employer whilst they continue to work.

- Ends -

Notes to Editors

About the Learning and Skills Council:

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. It is responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. It has a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Its 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. The LSC works nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

About From Competence to Excellence

Funded by the LSC and delivered by Deloitte MCS Ltd, this project is supporting WorldSkills UK competitions by helping to build capacity and demand for skills competitions across vocational, educational training.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

For more information contact

LSC website: www.lsc.gov.uk

All media enquiries please contact:

LSC

Luisa Pastore on 0161 261 0434, luisa.pastore@lsc.gov.uk

The Write Angle on 01772 250505

Hollie Roberts: hollie@writeanglepr.co.uk

Stephanie Lord: stephanie@writeanglepr.co.uk