

Helen France, Director of Apprenticeships at the LSC said: “The LSC believes this programme will help apprentices and vocational learners 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.”

Dr. Paul Pettigrew, the LSC Skills Director in the South West responsible for the Programme added: “We would encourage learning providers with talented apprentices in the relevant competition areas to encourage their learners to take part in the expert classes at the various venues in the region. We would also like employers to encourage their talented young employees to take part. More details can be found at www.fcte-events.com.”

There are currently 240,000 apprentices working in more than 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 while they continue to work.

The *From Competence to Excellence* programme is a stepping stone for participants, helping them move their skills levels from ‘good’ to ‘great’. With the UK WorldSkills event on the horizon, some of them may even become future entrants to the UK WorldSkills Event in London in October 2011.

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Notes to Editors

From Competence to Excellence classes in the South West:

Provider	Class	Date of class	Entry criteria	World skills area
Bridgwater College	Measure twice, cut once	02/02/2009	Carpentry Workshop, Bridgwater College	Engineering
City College Plymouth	Preparing for and undertaking Flux-Cored Welding techniques	03/02/2009	City College Plymouth Welding Facility	Engineering
Bournemouth and Poole College	Arc welding techniques for competition	06/02/2009	North Road site, Bournemouth and Poole College	Engineering
Bournemouth and Poole College	Geometry in Roofing	06/02/2009	The Fulcrum Centre, Bournemouth and Poole College	Built Environment
Cornwall College	Autobody repair - competence to excellence	w/c 16/02/09	Camborne Skills Centre	Engineering
Cornwall College	Car Painting - Competence to Excellence	w/c 16/02/09	Camborne Skills Centre	Engineering
Cornwall College	Plumbing - advanced pipework installation	w/c 16/02/09	Saltash Construction Centre	Built Environment
Weston College	Multi-application Web Design	17/02/2009	Weston College, Knightstone Centre	IT and Business Administration
Weston College	Moving towards Excellence in Joinery	17/02/2009	Weston College, Multi skill Centre	Built Environment
Weston College	Creative Thinking in Graphic Design	17/02/2009	Weston College, University Campus	Cultural and Creative Arts
Weston College	Design and Presentation for the Competition Floor	17/02/2009	Weston College	Personal Social and Hospitality
Weston College	Developing Culinary Creativity for Competition	17/02/2009	Weston College, Training Kitchens and Restaurant, Knightstone Campus	Personal Social and Hospitality
Cornwall College	Beauty Therapy Makeover	21/02/2009	Cornwall College, St. Austell	Personal Social and Hospitality
Cornwall College	Banqueting and function skills	21/02/2009	Cornwall College, St. Austell	Personal Social and Hospitality
City College Plymouth	World Class culinary arts seminar in Chocolate	25/02/2009	City College Plymouth	Personal Social and Hospitality

Somerset College	Advanced brickwork to a world class standard	28/02/2009	Somerset College of Art and Technology	Built Environment
Somerset College	Decorative Skills	28/02/2009	Somerset College of Art and Technology	Built Environment

About From Competence to Excellence

Funded by the LSC, managed by Deloitte MCS Ltd. and delivered by a range of vocational learning providers and expert tutors, this project exposes young skilled vocational learners and Apprentices to the difference between adequacy and excellence in a range of skills that will form part of the WorldSkills Competition to be held in London in 2011. The LSC is supporting WorldSkills UK, the organisation which champions vocational skills through competitions and awards, by helping to build capacity and demand for skills competitions across vocational education.

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LSC

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for planning and funding high-quality vocational 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 by 2010, young people and adults in England have the knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. Established in 2001, we work nationally, regionally and locally from a network of offices across the country. For more information visit:

<http://www.lsc.gov.uk/westofengland>