



### **Why not leaf through our latest newsletter!**

Autumn is now well and truly upon us with trees putting on their annual beauty show before the bleakness of the winter months.

The mixture of clear bright days with the rich hues of the leaves encourages the more active amongst us to go out on 'bracing walks' making the most of the season.

However, once the leaves drop the prospect of venturing forth becomes less appealing and indoor entertainment becomes more attractive.

Why not use this time to exercise the brain, reviewing your future development and drafting a personalised plan for achieving identified targets. You may even decide to hire a 'personal trainer' to help you work towards these objectives. For those that relate to your career, maybe we could provide such support and help you gain a nationally recognised qualification.

If **you want** to take up a consultation about your **options**, call **Sandra** on 0151 203 0205



### **From little seeds.....**

Well at least maybe let us plant one in your mind.

Let us help you realise your management potential.

Currently we are recruiting to an open programme for an Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) level 5 certificate in management. This will run for 23 sessions, on one day a week from 1 pm to 7pm at a venue in Liverpool city centre.

Completion of which gives you the chance to move on to gain a degree in Business and Enterprise. Just think in under 18 months you could gain a management qualification and a BA degree

### **Halton Borough Council (HBC) Health and Community Directorate**

Two groups have undertaken a joint qualification over the past year; all completers have achieved an ILM level 5 certificate in management and an NVQ at either level 4 or 5 in management.

At a time of massive upheaval across the authority this level of achievement bears witness to their commitment to the course and the organisation.

Alongside these candidates, we have also been busy supporting a number of the directorate's personnel in completing NVQs in health and social care and leadership & management in the care sector.

### **Corporate training**

In September last year, we were asked to launch a new professional development programme for HBC senior managers, to help them meet the demands being placed upon them in the current economic climate.

A ILM level 7 award in executive management was identified as the best option, with an extra unit on team working in strategic partnerships selected to enhance the benefit to the authority.

The culmination of the programme involved a group based project using action learning principles to facilitate its completion, with the recommendations of the group being presented to directors from across the authority.

*Congratulations to you all from  
the Learning Curve team*

### **Did you know that as of March 2010 you now have the right to Time off for training ?**

Employees in organisations with 250 or more employees will have the right to request time off to undertake study or training.

Employees who have been employed for at least 26 weeks will have the right to request unpaid time off work to undertake study or training to improve their effectiveness at work and, the performance of their employer's business.

Employers will be obliged to consider seriously requests that they receive, but will be able to refuse a request where there is a good business reason for doing so. The procedure mirrors the current procedure for requesting flexible working.



### More reasons to celebrate

Suzanne Dyer of Christies Hospital not only gained her level 4 NVQ in Management but heard she had gained a new post within the NHS the following day.



### Oh the times they are a changing....

Just like the seasons, there are big changes happening in the world of vocational education with the introduction of the Qualification and Credit Framework (QCF) and more flexible qualifications, which replaces the National Qualifications Framework (NQF)

The QCF is a new framework for creating and accrediting qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Giving a wider range of learners the opportunity to get the qualifications they need, in a way that suits them. QCF qualifications are designed with the help of employers so learners can be assured that they're gaining skills that employers are looking for.

The QCF:

- Recognises smaller steps of learning and enables learners to build up qualifications bit by bit
- Helps learners achieve skills and qualifications that meet industry needs
- Enables work-based training to be nationally recognised
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In essence the new system allows learners to gather 'credit points' for each unit of learning they complete successfully.

The framework now extends to 8 levels to include higher education qualifications. This means the qualifications up to level 3 will be the same value as previously on the NQF, however some of those that were graded at level 4 before now appear at level 5, similarly the NQF level 5 has now moved to level 7. More information about the changes can be found on the following websites:

<http://www.qcda.gov.uk/qualifications/60.aspx>  
<http://cityandquilds.com/qcf.html>

### We make it a first for English BABE's

The Learning Curve has become the North West 'hub' for Edinburgh Napier University.  
The Business School has developed a truly innovative and cost effective 'BA in Business and Enterprise' or BABE as it has become better known!  
Getting a cohort started in September meant that we have the first official English based BABE's to undertake this unique programme



The English BABE's at their induction in Edinburgh. The group are flanked on the left by John Parker and the right by Susan Laing who are jointly responsible for the delivery of the degree. You may have noticed two interlopers - Ray and Liz who went along to provide a welcoming link between the Learning Curve and the University

### So how do I become a BABE?

The BA in Business and Enterprise (BABE) is a new departure for further and higher education; it provides an opportunity for learners who have completed a range of vocational qualifications to 'top up' on them to undertake the third year of the degree.

What else makes it stand out is that the course only requires the equivalent of one day per month out of the workplace over the year, and there is no requirement to complete an exam or dissertation, as assessment is through work based activities and case studies.

This is a truly flexible way of gaining a BA in just one year and all for a fee of just £3000 !



### Routes to a degree

There are two main routes you could follow:

#### One

Using existing qualifications either an NVQ level 4 (pre Oct 2010) or equivalent to move straight into the final year of the degree.

#### Two

Join our level 5 VRQ certificate in management programme in January 2011 or get going on an NVQ equivalent with a view to complete in time for the next intake.

**Call Sandra 0151 203 0205 for further detail**



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