

incentives

Spring Summer 2005 edition



Fit for employment with the Esh Group

The Esh Group is the largest indigenous construction business based in the North East of England, employing over 700 people, with a turnover in excess of £70million. Formed in 1999 following the merger of a number of like-minded companies based in and around the village of Esh Winning, Co. Durham, a strong local identity combined with their reputation for quality work and friendly professional service ensures their ranking amongst the top 100 companies in the region.

With a long history of recruiting from the local Deerness Valley, inevitably many employees are ex-pupils of Deerness Valley Comprehensive School and to continue this tradition the group launched 'Fit for Employment' in 2003 aiming to give pupils an opportunity to gain knowledge and first hand experience of the construction industry, leading to Apprenticeships within the Esh Group.

In response to ever increasing health and safety regulations in the construction industry the group established a specialist training division, NECT to deliver safety training, specific activity training and formal qualifications to their own staff and numerous clients throughout the region. Every year 100 pupils join a one-week off site training programme at NECT, leading to the selection of 50 who complete a further weeks training, ultimately resulting in 20-30 who can apply for 20 Apprenticeships within the group annually.

With an increasing number of Apprentices working in various administrative roles throughout the group, ITEC North East have been selected to deliver Foundation Apprenticeships in Business Administration to 14 candidates. Judith Barrett, ITEC Assessor, is introducing the candidates to 'eNVQ' a secure internet system which facilitates easy communication between learners, managers, assessors and verifiers. 'eNVQ' gives learners access to their portfolios via the internet 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, allowing them to submit evidence, view their portfolio, receive feedback from their Assessor



'Staff from The Esh Group & ITEC N.E.'

as well as request guidance and support from their Assessor between visits. Judith welcomes the chance to work with her candidates on this new initiative and is eagerly awaiting online evidence arriving on her desktop.

Julie Lumsden, Training Co-ordinator for Lumsden & Carroll a civil engineering and building company, part of the Esh Group comments, " 'Fit for Employment' enables many school leavers to go straight into a profession of their choice with the guidance and training they require to become valuable members of staff. I chat with the learners to see how they are progressing and if they have any problems and we also have team meetings where we organise events to raise monies for various charities with the last event raising money to buy presents for children who were staying in the 'Tree Tops' ward at Dryburn Hospital."

See inside for more success stories and see how you could train for a new career...competition winner on rear page and much more....

Pupils take first steps in Young Apprenticeships

Kingsmeadow School, in Gateshead are supporting a group of 15 pupils through a very exciting pilot for Young Apprenticeships which will involve only 1,000 pupils nationwide.

A Young Apprenticeship is a new two year course which has been developed so that able and well-motivated pupils can gain valuable experience of real work, with opportunities for social development, contact with new people and different learning environments, whilst also organising their time and getting to grips with life in the workplace.

Pupils continue to study the core National Curriculum subjects, but also pursue nationally recognised vocational qualifications related to Business Administration. A GNVQ in Business is being delivered at school, while Access Training and ITEC North East will deliver Administration NVQ's, the Certificate in Administration, and Key Skills in IT. Training is delivered through a mixture of training centre based lessons, practical training and work placements with local employers.

Everyone involved is highly motivated and committed to the success of the course, with pupils willing to work over and above their standard school day. It is hoped that the Young Apprenticeship course will be an excellent starting block for pupils who wish to develop their careers, through either the academic or vocational route.

Kingsmeadow School are hoping to offer the Young Apprenticeship course to another group of pupils in September 2005.

£460,000 for Employers with the EDGE on Practical Learning

New practical learning charity Edge has launched a nationwide search for employers who provide the very best practical training for young people. Edge will reward £460,000 in cash prizes to employers across the nation who can demonstrate how they offer excellent work-related learning opportunities for 14-25 year olds.

The Edge Employer Awards are open to all employers in England, large and small, public, private and voluntary. A condition of entry is that the prize winnings must be re-invested back into work-related learning for 14-25 year olds, such as apprenticeships or work placements.

Garry Hawkes, Edge Chair, calls for companies to enter the awards, saying: "Many excellent employers believe in providing great work experience and training for young people and we intend to reward the very best. Edge is dedicated to championing practical learning and no matter what size your organisation, no matter what sector, we want to hear how you encourage and support younger people to learn in practical, hands-on ways."

Deadline for entries is Friday 1 July. For further information on how to enter go to www.edgeawards.co.uk, call 0800 980 3343, or email info@edgeawards.co.uk

Back with attitude



The relationship between a Head Prefect, their school, its teachers and fellow pupils however special, inevitably ends as school days end. Fortunately this was not the case for Sacha Buckley who is thrilled to be employed as Attendance/Pastoral Officer at her old school, Hurworth Maths and Computing College, near Darlington.

As Head Prefect, Sacha contributed an enormous amount of time and effort into her studies and duties, gaining excellent GCSE results whilst earning tremendous trust and respect. In 2003 Sacha enrolled at 6th Form College as a route to university, but within months realised she needed the challenge of actually being out in a working environment. An NVQ in Administration gave the opportunity to assess her capabilities and the confidence to apply for a job normally suited to someone considerably older than her 18 years. Since September 2004, Sacha has developed an exceptional relationship with both staff and pupils in a unique role considering the current Year 11's remember her as a pupil, whilst younger pupils readily relate to her.

With extensive responsibilities, Sacha's days fly by as she updates systems, produces reports and documents, always having time to speak with pupils, parents, staff and external agencies. The role of Head Prefect gave Sacha the opportunity to develop excellent communication skills and a positive attitude to meet numerous challenges, including a presentation to the Prime Minister, Tony Blair.

Sacha's job perfectly ties in with her Apprenticeship and in the future she wishes to re-consider university, all options will be available to her, plus a more than impressive C.V.

Dean's dynamic at Dene Community School

Dean Lawrence left ITEC North East's Newton Aycliffe training centre in 2000, successfully completing a Modern Apprenticeship Level 3 in Use and Support of Information Technology + Key Skills having previously achieved his Level 2 NVQ in Using Information Technology.

Dean, an ex-pupil of Tudhoe Grange School in Spennymoor, joined ITEC having completed school work experience at a local computer shop which confirmed his interest and aptitude in the world of PC's. Subsequent ITEC placements at Spennymoor School and Tudhoe Grange School gave Dean the opportunity to build on his existing skills whilst gaining more advanced vocational skills and an ability to shoulder responsibility and develop his character.

Dean easily settled into a school environment and continued to study for further qualifications, which to date include completing a CISCO training course: CCNA (Certified Network Assistant): CCIA (Cisco Certified Instructor): HNC in Information Technology an HND, finally working towards the completion of a BSc in July 2005.

Dean is employed by Dene Community School in Peterlee as IT Network Manager, a role that carries a massive workload and huge responsibilities for 60 teaching staff: 20 non-teaching staff: 750 pupils: 300 PC's: 70 laptops: 30 interactive white boards and 10 file servers. IT development and support are also part of Dean's remit which he deems to be "pro-active and supportive" customising IT to education and the curriculum, developing on-line revision facilities and overall system security. Strong links are also being built with local primary schools and the community, encouraging PC awareness and opportunity.

David Baker, ITEC's Managing Director comments, "Dean's commitment to lifelong learning and development is very impressive and perhaps a testament to ITEC's role in helping him move from school and onto the first rungs of his career ladder. Choosing the vocational route through Apprenticeships and Advanced Apprenticeships has given Dean the opportunity to attain the very highest levels of qualifications, plus a very impressive CV of skills and experience in a relatively short period of time."



'Dean with Mr Alan Fuller, Head Teacher.'

Skills for Life

Skills for Life, a multi agency strategy committed to improving literacy and numeracy for all adults of working age was launched in 2001 by Tony Blair. Currently 7 million adults in England cannot read and write at the level expected of an 11-year-old, including around half a million or more who struggle with English because it is not their first language. Improved adult literacy and numeracy creates realistic employment opportunities, makes training more accessible and increases involvement in the community.

Courses delivered at the University of Teesside have been attended by ITEC staff who are looking forward to receiving their qualifications at presentation ceremonies held during the year. Administration assessors Judith Barrett, Aycliffe and Mike Bond, Middlesbrough completed their Level 4 Subject Specialist in Literacy and Numeracy respectively. Dawn Ryan, Centre Manager at Middlesbrough and Mike Bond completed training to support Post 16 learners with a specific difficulty in the workplace – dyslexia. June Little, administration assessor at Aycliffe completed her Level 2 Literacy and Numeracy.

Steve Wright, Operations Manager comments, "It is ITEC's aim to set out a strategy to ensure all of our learners receive appropriate, quality, literacy and numeracy support during their period of training. We are committed to the introduction and sustained improvement of skills for life, training and learning for all staff and learners. Our staff are now able to deliver dyslexic adult screening tests (D.A.S.T) during initial assessment"

Craig Taylor, a learner at our Middlesbrough training centre, completed the D.A.S.T. during his initial assessment revealing him to be at risk of being dyslexic. Craig did not complete his last year at school so left without any qualifications. Since joining ITEC he has completed his CLAIT course and is looking forward to receiving his first certificate. "I am receiving help with my basic skills in maths and english and I feel I am improving each day thanks to the staff at ITEC." Craig's numeracy skills have improved from 'very low' to 'entry level 3' and he will start work to develop his literacy very soon.



Framework completions

1st November 2004 – 31st March 2005

Congratulations to the following learners who have successfully completed Apprenticeship Frameworks.

Administration – Advanced Apprenticeship

Michelle Bowden – View Womens Wear
Christopher Shawn Clark – Formedecon Ltd
Joanne Elizabeth Hambley – Bulkhaul Ltd
Katie Jennings – Andrew Craig
Amy Leonard – Wellstream Ltd
Satvinder Kaur Matharu – NBS
Marie McCrone – Watson Burton LLP
Nathan Robin Young – Brulines Ltd

Customer Service – Advanced Apprenticeship

Emma Louise Chaplin – Carpetline Direct
Clair Pearson – Eldon Associates
Heather Elizabeth Wright – Durham & Tees Audit Consortium

Administration – Apprenticeship

Jemma Leigh Baldock – Meadows Road Construction Ltd
Tiffany Bell – Beecham Peacock
Adam Beswick – Stiller Group
Michelle Laura Darby – UK Insurance Net
Kirsty Edwards – Eldon Associates
Lindsey Susan Etherington – DISC
Stephanie Golden – Odyssey Systems
Julia Marie Haigh – HSBC
Stephen Paul Hayes – ITEC NE Ltd
Stephanie Hogarth – Autocarriers Ltd
Jurgens Joubert – AALCO
Richard Michael Kendrew – Greenham Trading Ltd
Lisa King – Highfield Care
Jody Kay Lannigan – O'Rourke Swainston & McCarthy
Amanda Jane Laverick – CJ Garland & Co
Tammy Mann – Cousins & Co
Marie Anne McFarthing – Archers Solicitors
Marie McGuire – DLI Seals
Louise Race – ITEC NE Ltd
Ashleigh Raine – Peartree Projects
Kayleigh Scott – Beecham Peacock
Anneliese Stonehouse – Polar Windows
Melanie Storey – Watson Burton LLP
Michelle Margaret Smith – Ashwood Communications
Nikki Tompkins – Darlington LEA
Emma Wilson – CJ Garland & Co
Donna Marie Woodhead – TR Fastenings (Europe)

Communication Technologies (Infrastructure)

Ross Taylor – KBR

Customer Service – Apprenticeship

Gemma Bolam – NBS
Anjum Mohammed Mughal – Unite
Lisa Robson – Freeman Johnson Solicitors

Installing & Supporting IT Systems – Apprenticeship

Michael John Campbell – HBS
Philip James Clerkin – Whitworth School
Nicola Marie French – St Davids RCA School
Andrew John Hall – HBS
Christopher Dale Hayward – Tees & NE Yorkshire NHS Trust
Peter John Heaney – Acklam Grange School
Craig Maddison – SCS
Christopher McCann – Vantis Walker Accountants
Simon David Mecheri – ITEC NE Ltd
Richard Mark Naylor – Geo Allinson Transport Ltd
Christopher David Thomas – HBS
Stephen James White – Ellayess/Kvaerner
James Williams – PCS Ltd

Using IT

Nathan Duddridge – RTC Property Maintenance Ltd

Sale of Residential Property

Ashley Anne Carr – Marilyn McKale
Samantha McIntosh – Keith Pattinson Ltd

Find Frostie

Our Christmas Incentives featured a 'Frostie the Snowman' competition which has been won by Gavin Jones, HR & Payroll Officer at Bulmers Logistics, Middlesbrough. Gavin has completed NVQ's himself and welcomes learners in the workplace gaining practical, vocational skills and qualifications to give real employment opportunities. Congratulations Gavin.



Middlesbrough centre relocation

All business relocations cause excitement and no doubt their fair share of headaches along the way. However staff at our Middlesbrough training centre have endured the headaches and are now happily settled in spacious new accommodation in Pullman House, Zetland Road.

Dawn Ryan, Training Centre Manager is delighted with the facilities now available for her staff and learners in this prime town centre location. "It is a pleasure to welcome all our learners and guests into the centre which is a particularly bright and open space with excellent training facilities." Dawn and her staff look forward to greeting learners, employers and guests – both old and new. Dawn and her staff which includes Mike Bond, assessor in Administration and Mike Thompson, assessor in ICT, working alongside a relatively new recruitment team, Simon Smith and Zoe Wilson who are forming a formidable partnership working with local employers, schools and learners to secure excellent Apprenticeship opportunities for ITEC learners in the Tees Valley area.

All visitors can be assured of a warm welcome, if however, you should feel the need of an official invite to the new premises, then mark Thursday 7th July 2005 into your diary and join us for an 'Open Day' to meet with Dawn and her team, and find out how an Apprenticeship with ITEC North East could be just the right move for you.



contacts

ITEC North East Ltd
Head Office & Aycliffe Centre
Technology Court
Bradbury Road
Aycliffe Industrial Park
Newton Aycliffe
Co. Durham
DL5 6DA

01325 320052

ITEC North East Ltd
Gateshead Centre
Kingfisher House
Kingsway North
Team Valley
Gateshead
Tyne & Wear
NE11 0JQ

0191 491 3316

ITEC North East Ltd
Middlesbrough Centre
2nd Floor
Pullman Centre
5 Zetland Road
Middlesbrough
TS1 1EH

01642 232550