

Welcome to the New Academic Year



Dear learners,

I am delighted that you have chosen to take a course with the Adult Education Service. The range of courses available continues to increase and change according to what you ask for. Although there are now many more opportunities to learn skills to improve access to employment and higher education, the Service continues to offer tried and tested courses for personal development, health and well-being.

We are also able to offer you greater choice about where and when to learn through our partnerships with local community organisations. Look out for community Open Days at The Dove Centre (Pendeford), Eastfield Community Centre, Blakenhall Community & Healthy Living Centre and Hanover House throughout October and at the beginning of November.

In addition, the Service will be offering many more events throughout the year. Already learners have taken part in the European Day of Languages at Bantock House, Birmingham's Artsfest and the Access to HE Art & Design Exhibition at the Civic Centre supported by the Mayor, Cllr. Bert Turner, and our Cabinet Member, Cllr. Phil Page.

All members of staff will be willing to guide you on your learning journey to achieve success whether you are attending one of our sites in the City centre or one in the community. Best wishes for a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Christine Parsons (Head of Service)

Mayor meets students carving out a new career path

The Mayor of Wolverhampton, Cllr. Bert Turner, met some of the adult students who are looking to carve out a new career for themselves.

The Mayor, along with the Cabinet Member for the Service, Cllr. Phil Page, attended the first in a series of information and enrolment days at Wolverhampton City Council's Adult Education Service and got to try his hand at a spot of wood carving – one of more than 600 courses and activities on offer this year.

Other courses available this year include Access and Foundation Studies covering maths, English, computing, Access to Higher Education and family learning, and Creative Studies such as art, crafts, upholstery, jewellery, ceramics, interior design, web design, belly dancing, floristry, food hygiene and health and safety.

A wide range of Language Studies courses are on offer, including British Sign Language, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Punjabi, Polish, Greek, Welsh and Mandarin and there are Professional Studies such as teaching qualifications, mentoring, health and social care, retail, bookkeeping and business administration.

The Adult Education Service also runs apprenticeships in Health & Social Care and Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools. A pre-apprenticeship programme is planned for adults who are currently unemployed or who need help getting on the first rung of the apprenticeship ladder.

So if you would like to improve on an existing skill, learn something new or further your career opportunities, contact us now for further information. Call Learning Services on 01902 551655 or visit our website on www.aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk



Staff and Students get involved in Birmingham's Artsfest

'I Camera' is a silent photo-performance using a pinhole camera dress to transform the body into a camera to reveal and record what is unperceived by the human eye, performed by Ann Walker as part of 'Artsfest' in Birmingham.

Ann said, "I am not interested in using a camera to perfect the world: rather I love the process of pinhole photography, which is expressive of the imperceptible passage of time, making visible that which is invisible to the ordinary eye. For myself it captures a sense of the mystical in the ordinary.



Ann Walker : Performance Artist and Photographer
Tutor: Access to Higher Education (Art and Design)

For this photo-performance I became a camera through utilizing a camera dress where photosensitive paper was attached to the surface of my body. This process was meditative as I sat or stood silently during the long exposure times and went through an order of simple actions. Working in this way enabled me to combine inner and outer landscapes where I became one with the work rather than being separated. When we use a conventional camera the camera separates us from the subject. Through becoming the camera I removed this separation and in turn blurred the boundaries between self and other. By other I mean anything that is exterior to us, rivers, mountains, people, dwellings etc.

Alongside working as an artist, I am a tutor on the 'Access to HE Art & Design Course' at Adult Education Services, Wolverhampton, teaching photography and printmaking. I love to see the students blossom as they progress through the course. Two such students, Josie Wallbank who has just successfully completed an MA in Fine Art and Ray Jackson who works as an Art Technical Instructor at Penn Hospital, volunteered to help me with this project. I am indebted to their enthusiasm, energy and generosity. Ray also made the aperture and shutter for the camera dress which was a very challenging task. My thanks also go to Sue Chand who teaches Textiles on the Access to HE course for a fantastic job in making the blackout undergarment/dress. Without Ray, Josie, and Sue's help, this project would not have been possible."

Up and coming artists showcase their talents at the Civic Centre



Visitors to Wolverhampton's Civic Centre can enjoy a display of work by up and coming artists.

The exhibition of work by students on the Access to Higher Education Diploma in Art and Design course was opened by the Mayor.

It includes work by Janette Adamson, Sereena Bryant, Claire Buckerfield, Suzanne Lavender, Lauren Madden, Alex McNutt, Debbie Shelley and Andreas Singh.

The exhibition was formerly on display at the Adult Education Service's Old Hall Street building, and proved so popular that it has transferred to the Civic Centre, where it will be on show until Friday October 14, 2011. Sian Fletcher, the Adult Education Service's Programme Manager for Creative Studies, said, "This exciting exhibition of original art and design is the culmination of the learners' work this year, and we are delighted to be able to bring it to a wider audience by showcasing the work of the students at the Civic Centre. The Access to Higher Education Diploma is ideal for people thinking of a career in art and design and who want to go to university to study the arts – in total around 84% of learners who completed the course this year are planning to go on to study a degree at university."

Cllr. Phil Page, Wolverhampton City Council's Cabinet Member for Schools, Skills and Learning, added, "The talent that has been displayed by our art and design students is fantastic and this exhibition showcases some of their best work over the last year – it is well worth a visit."

Teaching English Course Opens New Horizons

A group of young adults who all achieved a prestigious English teaching qualification with Wolverhampton Adult Education Service for the first time this year are poised to reap the fruits of their success. Two of the students left to teach in Budapest at the end of August while others have secured teaching positions in Italy and further afield in China.

The CELTA teacher training course, which ran for the first time in 2010 – 2011, prepares students to teach English in countries all over the world. Paul Taylor was delighted with his result: *“As a student with no practical teaching experience I found it a challenge but the hard work of the tutors and teamwork with the other students helped me to pass all the different elements of the course. All of the sessions were interesting and helpful. I was daunted by the teaching practice at first but the course helped me to improve as the sessions went on. One of the most satisfying elements of the course was putting theory from the input sessions and tutorials into practice, teaching in the classroom. An immensely enjoyable and rewarding experience!”*



European Day of Languages for all the family



People all over Europe marked the wide variety of languages spoken across the continent in a special European Language celebration day.

As part of this year's European Day of Languages activities, Wolverhampton's Adult Education Service staged a free event of its own.

It hosted a fun celebration of languages at Bantock House on 23 September 2011, giving people information and advice on getting started in a new language or refreshing their rusty skills. There was also

advice about how parents and grandparents can learn alongside their children.

A free taster in British Sign Language and a fun languages quiz with a book voucher prize was up for grabs for the winner.

Judith Heywood, Adult Education Service Programme Manager for Languages, said: “European Day of Languages aims to get people learning new languages and we hope that the event has inspired hundreds of local people. We offer a wide range of language classes to adult learners, including French, German, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Punjabi, Polish, Greek, Welsh and Mandarin as well as British Sign Language, and this was a great chance for people to find out what's available and what they can expect to get out of learning a new language.”



Black History MONTH

Come and learn how to make a Fascinator



Chances are, you've seen people wearing fascinators. These hair accessories, usually clips or pins with feathers, flowers, or lace, are everywhere these days, gracing the heads of celebrities, brides, and girls who love a little vintage flair on Saturday nights. Although

they're cool and trendy now, they've actually been around since at least the 18th century, when large feathered and beaded hair accessories were the height of fashion. Funnily enough, a "fascinator" initially meant a lacy, fancy head covering for ladies to wear with their evening clothes.

During mid **October** Bethume Mathews, Creative Studies Hat Making tutor, will be demonstrating the creative and skilled craft of making Fascinators and will be offering you the chance to have a go!

Free event Mid October

Venue: Foyer reception area

Dates and times will be posted on the Service website as soon as they are available

Visit: www.aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk

A Tribute to Jeff Kennedy

Some learners and staff will remember Jeff Kennedy who taught Pottery at the Adult Education Service for many years. He was well liked both for his warm personality and for his creative ability with clay and inspired many learners to develop their skills in this area. Jeff retired from the Service in 2004 as Deputy Head of Service and, in his retirement, continued his passion for amateur dramatics.



Sadly, Jeff became seriously ill in the summer and passed away suddenly on 8th September 2011 at the age of 72. He is missed by all who knew him and worked with him.

Foyer Café



Janet King, Assistant Manager, presented The Right Worshipful The Mayor of Wolverhampton, Cllr. Bert Turner, and Cllr. Phil Page with a selection of home made café special cakes when they visited the Service for the first day of the September Enrolment.

Janet invited the Mayor to open the 'Children in Need'

charity event that will start Monday 14 November.

Janet said, "This year we plan to cycle, row and walk to the Swiss Alps without leaving the Café on a variety of fitness equipment. We organise lots of charity events throughout the year, starting this academic year with a Quiz / curry and buffet night on the 14 October. It's only £4.50 and that includes the quiz and food. It's great fun and for a good cause!"

Daily Specials

Breakfast

8 Items + hot drink

£4.00

5 Items + hot drink

£2.75

Hot meals

start at

£1.25

A wide selection of sandwiches and snacks are also available.

Opening Times

Monday - Thursday

9.00am - 3.45pm

Friday 9.00am - 1.15pm



Manager Linda Page and Assistant Manager Janet King

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