

# Congratulations and good luck!



Dear student,

We are fast approaching the end of this academic year and I hope you have enjoyed your time with us. For those of you taking exams, I wish you every success and hope this will lead to whatever goals you have set for yourselves,

whether it is moving on to higher learning, employment or a career move.

The 'Big Chat' learners' forum has again taken place and an analysis of the responses will be carried out which will form the basis of the questions for the 'Big Chat Lunch' event on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 12.00 noon. I hope you

can come along and share your views with us.

We submitted a number of nominations for Adult Learners' Week which again reflected the superb efforts you make which we believe deserve recognition and I would like to congratulate all those whom we nominated for their achievements.

Finally, although this is only my second introduction, sadly it is also my last as I will be moving onto pastures new at the end this academic year. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to wish you and the Adult Education Service the very best in the future.

**Paul Doherty**  
Head of Service

## OPEN DAY

### Saturday 21 June

10.00am - 2.00pm

Old Hall Street, WV1 3AU



Staff will be on hand throughout the event to discuss the full range of courses available. Courses are available in a variety of exciting areas, including Access to Higher Education, Book-keeping, Business and Administration, English, Maths, Arts and Crafts, Exercise and Performance, Floristry, Cookery, ICT, Modern Foreign Languages, British Sign Language, ESOL and Health and Safety courses. In addition, the Learning Services team will be available to offer impartial advice and guidance.

For more information and to see what we offer, visit the Service's website:

[www.aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk](http://www.aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk) or, for more personalised information and advice on a one to one basis, call or visit our Learning Development Centre, telephone 01902 551658.

The Foyer café will be open from 10.00am - 2.00pm for light refreshments and there will be a special Open Day menu. Buy a hot drink and we'll give you a free cupcake!

# Poppy Patrick wins Access Award

Each year the Awarding body Open College Network West Midlands Region (OCNWMR) invite Access to Higher Education co-ordinators to nominate Access students for their annual Learner Awards. These Awards are given to extraordinary individuals who are undertaking or have had inspirational Access to H.E. learning journeys, helping them to transform their lives.

This year OCNWMR received an increased number of nominations and have announced 14 Learner Award winners. Each winner will receive an award of £500 which will be presented to them at the OCNWMR Access to Higher Education Learner Awards ceremony on 11th June 2014. These awards are intended to help students meet the costs associated with their current Access course or future degree.

Wolverhampton Adult Education Service is delighted to announce that Poppy Patrick, who was nominated by Pam Goodall, course tutor for Nursing and Health Studies, has been announced as one of the 14 winning nominees.

When Poppy joined the Access to Higher Education course at Wolverhampton Adult Education Service she was a 23 year old mother of four children and had no formal qualifications. It was evident from the initial assessment results that she had potential. She began her part-time Access to Higher Education course in September 2012 and selected to pursue a career in nursing.

At first Poppy was quite apprehensive due to prior experiences in education, but soon became a



very positive and focused student. With dedication and hard work it did not take long for Poppy to show her true potential, with the majority of her achievements being at distinction level.

In October 2014, Poppy will begin her Nursing Degree at the University of Birmingham. Carol Branford, Assistant Manager - Access to Higher Education, said, "Each year a high number of Access learners achieve success with Wolverhampton Adult Education Service and progress to university. We are delighted to hear of Poppy's success. Her passion and commitment really has paid off!"

# Successful Performances!

Each year students from Wolverhampton Ault Education Service are encouraged to take part in the Dudley Festival of music and dance. The event aims to provide a friendly and relaxing environment where competitors can share their interests with others.

The Festival is for everyone, from the very young to the older person, to encourage a sense of achievement in his or her area of learning. An opportunity is given to perform in front of an audience and to appreciate the talents of others.

Adjudicators are chosen carefully to ensure they adjudicate in their own specialist areas. This enables everybody who enters to receive helpful and constructive advice from an experienced adjudicator.

This year students from Wolverhampton Adult Education Service's performance area won awards in a number of different disciplines. Tutor Sue Clark said, "The festival attracts people from all over the country, some very experienced competitors, some beginners. The Students have yet again excelled in all areas; they have worked very hard and deserve this recognition."



Audrey Boyce, pictured right, won the Kathleen Hawthorn memorial trophy for Verse Speaking and the Bernard Jackson memorial trophy for Sonnet Reading. Iilda Deer, pictured left, continued the success with third places in Verse Speaking, Bible Reading and Sonnet reading.

Gary Gough won second place in the Shakespeare class and third place in the Verse Speaking class.



Noah Kilworth won a third place for Acting. This was Noah's first competitive festival.

# Thank you for joining in 'The Big Chat'



## THE BIG CHAT

Wolverhampton Adult Education Service is keen to know what our students feel we are doing well and what can be improved. So for one week (12<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May) we actively sought views from as many of our students as possible. Many of you completed response slips and posted them in our Chatterboxes and some recorded your responses on the 'VoiceBox'. We appreciate you taking the time to get involved and give your opinion. It's good to know we listen and most importantly respond so, through whichever method you gave your feedback, we would like to thank you as we value your comments.

### **What happens next?**

We are currently busy analysing all the information collected. We would then like to invite you to attend the follow up 'Chat-room' event where learners and staff will have the opportunity to work together exploring key issues, prioritising issues raised and identifying suggestions to improve our Service. We will also look at our strengths and suggest how these can be celebrated or extended. So please join us at the.....

**'Chat-room' event**  
Room 39,  
the Alan Garner Centre  
for a working lunch on

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June**  
**12.00-2.00pm.**

Lunch and drinks will be  
provided **free** of charge  
for all those who participate.

# Recruitment day for YOO

A **BIG**  
WELCOME  
TO **YOO...**



Wolverhampton's  
Recruitment Agency

INFORMATION  
SESSION

Wednesday  
2 July

**BOOK  
NOW**

Following the success of the recruitment day held in May, the agency is holding another information session to register individuals who are interested in applying for temporary employment opportunities.

YOO Recruitment is a temporary recruitment agency and are based exclusively in Wolverhampton City Centre. YOO Recruitment is owned by Wolverhampton City Council and was set up to help local people apply for temporary vacancies with Wolverhampton City Council and other local employers. YOO Recruitment guarantees to pay £7.45 for people over 21 years of age.

The next recruitment and information day will take place at Wolverhampton Adult Education Service at the City Learning Quarter on Wednesday 2nd July 2014 from 10.00am-4.00pm

If you would like to attend the recruitment session, please call into the Learning Development Centre to book an appointment with a member of Learning Services staff or telephone 01902 551658 for further information.

Please ensure you bring the following details with you to the appointment:

- Current email address
- Up to date CV
- Two references with email addresses and postal addresses including post codes
- Details of what type of job you require
- Original birth certificate
- Original valid passport
- Two proofs of address (e.g. utility bills, bank statement, council tax bill, benefits statement - less than 3 months old)



## Need a place to Study?

Drop into your

Learning Development Centre (**Room 5**)

in the Foyer Building

to get the support you need.

**Need a place to study either on your own or with other learners?  
Need to access a computer to do homework or practise new skills?**

Then look no further, the Learning Development Centre (room 5) in the Foyer is open between 9.00am – 6.00pm Monday – Thursday and 9.30am-4.00pm on Friday during term time. The Learning Services team can also give information, advice and guidance to help you with your learning.

**See you soon!**

# Cookery Student Feeds Back

## After completing a 15 week cookery course Martin Kilroy shares his thoughts!

### *My knowledge before the course:*

I would always say that I was not able to cook. I was brought up in a family in rural Ireland where mother did the cooking. We were called to meals and we ate what was put in front of us.

Later on I spent many years in the hospitality (travel) business, 11 years of this living in Rome. During that time I was eating out all of the time. So, not a life with much experience of what happens in the kitchen!

When I retired from work I had reached the stage where I was overweight and diabetic. This led to gall stones, which is something that I would not want to experience again. This was followed by a hernia and eventually surgery to rectify the gall stones and hernia. At that stage it was becoming very clear that I needed to do something about diet. Last year I managed to lose 6 stone in weight with LIGHTER LIFE (not easy, but successful). I thought it would be a help if I could understand cooking. Friends knew of my situation and they recommended the Back to Basics Cookery Course. Now I can say it was just what I needed, and the end result is that I now feel I can say that I CAN COOK.

### *The course:*

On the first day I thought, what have I let myself in for? The class had a number of students with special needs, and this was my first time ever experiencing this. But by the end of the class I knew there was no need to worry. The class was very well organised to take into account the requirement of the special needs group and the other students.

The tutor, Cecile, was just amazing. She communicated very well with all students, and all the students as far as I could see just loved her. She communicated clearly and is



very patient and understanding when required and the class was conducted in a disciplined and friendly manner. Being in a mixed group was a new experience for me, but it was one that I am glad I was able to share.

The format of the classes was excellent. The second hour of each class was a demonstration of what we would do the following week. And the following week for the first hour we put into practice what we were shown during the demonstration. There was so much that I learnt about 'mis en place' (I now realise this is one of the most important parts of cooking a meal), about how to prepare the ingredients, and the different processes of cooking, boiling, simmering, etc. etc.

At 68 years of age I can now say, "I can cook", this says it all for me. The course and tutor were just what I needed, and they were excellent.

After all that I would like to say, "Thank you very much for making the 15

weeks a great experience. And Cecile, in my mind, you are a very inspirational person and teacher!".

"Merci beaucoup". Best wishes for the future.

**Martin Kilroy**

# New Learning Services Officer

My name is John O'Gara and I am a new Learning Services Officer who joined the Learning Services team in May. My background is working in social work and learning and development. I have worked in many different teams and settings and look forward to my new job in Wolverhampton Adult Education Service (WAES).

Part of my role involves safeguarding and I look forward to working with everyone in making WAES a positive learning environment for all. I would like to remind learners that if you are concerned in any way about your safety or the wellbeing of others please contact one of the designated safeguarding officers as soon as possible. You can also send an email to [safe@aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:safe@aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk) I am based with the Learning Services team in the Foyer Building, St George's Parade, Wolverhampton and can be contacted on 01902 551532.

## Exhibitions and Events

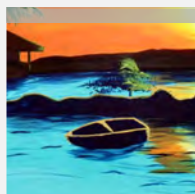
### Steps to Self-Employment Showcase



In May, Wolverhampton Adult Education Service hosted a showcase of artwork that celebrated the creativity of nine emerging creative businesses in the City. It included a wide range of arts and crafts ranging from 1950s style vintage themed pieces to crochet, metalwork and sculpture.



The display was presented by current learners taking part in the Steps to Self-Employment course, a 15 week programme that supports artists and creative businesses who are in the first stages of developing small businesses or a freelance career.



## Coming Soon....

### Access to Higher Education End of Year Exhibition

An exhibition of work by art and design students will go on show on **Wednesday 25 June (Opening Event 6.00pm - 8.00pm)**

The display features a wide range of media from painting, ceramics and mixed media to sculpture and installation, created by students on the Access to Higher Education Diploma in Art and Design course

It includes work by Matthew Doughty, Freda Edwards, Kirk Hadfield, Alan McKee, Amanda McKenna, and Rob Wallbank. Sian Fletcher, the Wolverhampton City Council-run 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. 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 90% of learners who completed the course this year are planning to go on to study a degree at university."

From **September 2014**, this inspirational course will be delivered as a **BTEC Foundation Diploma** in Art and Design. This course is the perfect course if you are thinking of going on to study at university or pursuing a career in Art and Design.

# Foyer

## Daily Specials

### Breakfast

Full English breakfast including hot drink £4.50

Small English breakfast £2.30

Vegetarian breakfast £3.00

Hot meals start at £1.30

A wide selection of sandwiches and snacks are also available.

### Opening Times

Monday - Thursday 9.00am - 3.45pm

Friday 9.00am - 1.15pm



Left to right: Assistant Tina Draker, Manager Linda Page and Assistant Manager Janet King

## Foyer Café goes Platinum



The Foyer Café now has mugs available to purchase that you will be able to take into your classroom...

With a free drink on purchase and then discounted drinks, you save 25p every time you refill



⚠ For Health and Safety reasons NO drinks to be consumed near computers please!

The Foyer Café were invited to join the 'Wolverhampton Healthy City Awards'. The Healthy City Awards was introduced in Wolverhampton to award those organisations that were promoting a healthy lifestyle and creating a healthy environment for staff and members of the community. The aims of the awards are to raise the profile of healthy living across the City, to create an environment in which it is easier to make healthy choices and to create local champions for healthy living.

The four categories awarded were Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum. Criteria had to be met which accrued points, covering food hygiene standards, healthy food and drink options, encouraging physical activity and green issues such as recycling and using energy efficient options where available. The Foyer Café do an outstanding job, offering all of the above, and were rewarded with the prestigious Platinum award and won £200 which they will use to offer even more healthy choices.

## Adult Education Service

### Send us your articles

If you would like to contribute to the next issue of Inbrief then please send your articles to: [enquiries@aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk) for the attention of Service Marketing.

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