

Welcome to Autumn '08



July 2008 saw the departure of the Tall Ships from the Liverpool Docks, and like the Tall Ships, We are embarking on a new route to learning opportunities with the arrival of Train to Gain awards. Train to Gain is the National Skills Service that supports employers of all sizes and in all sectors to improve the skills of employees as a route to improving business performance.

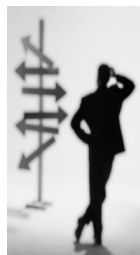
One other exciting aspect of Train to Gain is that it can now be accessed by self employed and volunteer staff.

In order to offer Train to Gain, we had to meet the exacting requirement of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and demonstrate the quality of our support and provision, we feel that gaining this recognition shows the excellent level of service we offer our clients.

Train to gain gives employers the chance to help staff gain a full level 2 qualification possibly using this to then move on to get a level 3 award. Because the qualifications are work based, the accreditation is given using National Vocational Qualifications NVQ's.

The NVQ's we can support using Train to Gain are:

- Personnel
- Team leader & First line management
- Administration
- Health and Social Care
- Learning & Development
- Advice and Guidance
- Customer Service
- Distribution and Warehousing
- Cleaning and Caretaking



If you have staff that may benefit from work related development and would like to know a little more about the funding, please give Sandra a call for more details.

Hello to new team members!

Our team continues to grow and we would like to extend a big hello and welcome to :

Fran Morriss. Fran has worked in Further Education, Third sector and Private training organisations a consummate professional she brings a great deal of knowledge to our team, and in particular the areas she specialises in housing and general management, advice and guidance and customer service.

Dom Walker, our assessor for Cleaning NVQ's. Dom has a wealth of experience in this sector, having worked for many years within Local Government and being a fully accredited British Institute of Cleaning (BICs) trainer and assessor.

Bill Williamson, another well qualified and experienced tutor and assessor who has worked in Further Education and with private training organisations. Bill has expert knowledge in the fields of Advice and guidance and Management.

Its all change!!



The **Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)** is a new way of recognising achievement through the **award of credit** for units and qualifications across England and Northern Ireland and Wales. In Wales, the QCF is being recognised as part of the larger **Credit and Qualifications Framework Wales (CQFW)**.

The QCF provides more **choice and flexible routes** to gaining full qualifications, enabling qualifications and career progression to be achieved in smaller steps. The QCF is now live, with the full implementation to be phased in over the next year, it will completely replace the current **NQF** (National Qualifications Framework) by January 2011.

This means:

Units and qualifications are assigned a **credit value**
The units required to make up a qualification are set out by the **'Rules of combination'**
Qualifications are categorised as **Award, Certificate and Diploma**, and are divided into levels
Units will be **transferable** between Awarding Bodies (ABs)

Learners are given an electronic **Learner Achievement Record (LAR)** to log units and qualifications attained
Learners are assigned a **unique learner number (ULN)**, which enables transfer across AB's.

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Roll call of success!!

Congratulations are due to Lindsay Harrison, Margaret Walters, Suzanne Wright, Michelle Daniels, Roger Morris, Mikaela Williams-Brown, Zoe Tarrach, Nic Munro, Liz Freeman, Sheila Pigott, Nicola Woodward, Litza Gorman, Lynda Whalley, Angela Critchley, Marie Swift, Pauline Purcell and Pat Roberts.



'I am so pleased to have achieved my Level 5 ILM qualification. The Learning Curve has provided me with such an effective and efficient programme. Completing the programme has given me so much more confidence in the work place and has helped me to gain greater knowledge of Management in practice. I thank Liz, Ray and all at the Learning Curve for providing their up-most help, support and guidance throughout the course of the programme.'

Litza Gorman.
*Senior Marketing Executive,
Trinity Mirror North West & North Wales.*



Karen Aindow from Walton Progressive School receiving her NVQ level 5 in Management from Liz Hindley.

Well Done to all our successful candidates from team at The Learning Curve!

Notice Board.

Well done to Involve North West, previously known as Tranmere Alliance, on the growth of their work in economic regeneration, the change of name illustrates how they have now expanded the area that they now operate in. Of course, its the work we are doing with their Advice and Guidance teams that has helped them to sustain the high standards of support they provide to residents in the Wirral.

Best wishes for the future from all the team at Learning Curve, go to Margaret Walters who got married on the 24th August and also to Nikita Shiels, who got married on 6th September.

Welcome to Knowsley Economic & Social Inclusion unit, we have recently held a full away day to help bring the 3 separate delivery teams together before they began work on their NVQs in Advice and Guidance.

Welcome to our latest clients European Well Care who have recently started working on their level 3 NVQs in health and social care for adults & children and young people - we wish them all a successful outcome to their hard work.

Finally making a clean sweep of it.....hello to our two new groups undertaking their NVQs in cleaning and caretaking at Liverpool John Moores University and Manchester City Council

Developing the developers!!

Just wanted to prove we practice what we preach, we have recently set out on a business development programme ourselves.

The aim is to help us grow our business and use this process to get all the team to buy in to the new ideas and approaches identified.

The programme is facilitated by Fresh Consultants and so far we have all gained a lot from the chance to take time out, reflect and focus on the important strategic decisions rather than getting distracted by the day to day operational stuff.