



Foundation Learning

Newsletter

February 2011

'Quest4Success'

Quest's Foundation Learning programme

Quest began delivering post-16 Foundation Learning in August 2010 as a replacement for its Entry to Employment (E2E) programme, designed to get young people into work.

Foundation Learning's aims are very different (see attached factsheet) focusing initially on the achievement of qualifications and then on the progression of young people to Level 2 opportunities such as apprenticeships, Diplomas, sixth form and further education colleges. Quest completely restructured its E2E programme to take account of these changes, employing new staff and moving its training centre to Ilford, next door to its Neptune House head office.

The staff

Quest recruited five well qualified and experienced teaching staff with expertise in English, mathematics, ICT and ESOL and four key workers to offer support and guidance to learners throughout their training programme.

Trainers from Quest's apprenticeship vocational teams deliver practical and theory training in ICT, administration, hairdressing, retail and motor vehicle.

The programme

Quest offers a 'roll-on, roll-off' Foundation Learning programme - young people can join at any time throughout the year.

Each learner is offered a personalised programme of learning designed to meet their individual needs, including initial assessment, induction, individual learning plan, monthly reviews and guidance and support.

Foundation Learning qualifications

- **Functional Skills** in maths, English and ICT at Entry Level and Levels 1 - 2
- **Employability and Personal Skills** at Entry Level and Level 1
- **Level 1 vocational qualifications** in hairdressing, ICT, retail, administration and motor vehicle

Foundation Learning Case Study

Alexander Okegbenro



Alex is aged 16 and lives in Custom House. He has been involved with Quest since taking part in a summer project in June 2010 as well as a two-week project at Beckton Activities Centre. He started on Quest's Foundation Learning programme last September.

Alex has had an interest in working with cars since primary school - his older brother owns and runs his own garage. During Year 10 at Royal Docks community School, Alex took a motor mechanics option and successfully gained a City & Guilds Entry Level 3 qualification. It was during this class that he met Dave Marling, a Quest trainer, who encouraged him to find out more about what Quest could offer him. Alex left school with few GCSEs, but knew what direction he wanted to head to.

'I wanted to be a mechanic so I decided to go to Quest as they take you to the next level - you learn more here as they've got more resources. The training at Quest is better than school as the teaching is different - it's easier to understand. You actually work on cars instead of just reading'.

With Quest, Alex has now gone on to achieve a Level 1 Diploma in Motor Vehicle and has worked hard to gain Entry Level functional Skills in Maths and English.

Alex is currently on a work placement with Motech Vehicle Services in Hainault - he enjoys the garage environment and gets on well with the management team there.

'I now trust myself to do more things on my own in the garage - I'm more confident. The things I'm learning during my training with Quest, like servicing cars and MOT testing, I now use at my work placement. You've got to be interested in the work. If you enjoy it, you put all your effort into it. That's what I do'.

Alex has just been told that Motech is offering him an apprenticeship. Well done, Alex!

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Tel: 020 8911 0760 www.quest4training.com

The premises

Quest offers Foundation Learning from premises in Clements Court, adjacent to Ilford Town Centre. A number of bus routes pass close to the training centre and the train station is also nearby.



Clements Court

Enrichment activities

As well as the activities that lead to qualifications the learners on the Foundation Learning programme are offered a variety of enrichment activities. These include sport and leisure, cookery, painting, science, drama and visits to local places of interest. Recently learners attended a performance of Little Red Riding Hood at Theatre Royal Stratford East - many of the learners had never been to the theatre before. Learners have been taken bowling followed by a meal and the Year 11 ESOL group were taken on a trip to London to visit the British Museum.



Learners enjoying making and selling smoothies.

About Quest

Quest is a local training provider based in Ilford town centre.

The company offers the following programmes funded by the Skills funding Agency and the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA):

- Apprenticeships
- Train to Gain
- Foundation Learning (Quest4Success)

Vocational courses offered by Quest include:

- administration
- information technology
- hairdressing
- motor vehicle
- management/team leading
- retail
- customer service
- warehousing

Quest's apprenticeship success rates have been consistently above the national average for the last four years.

The company also offers a Year 11 Engagement programme, on behalf of the London Borough of Redbridge, for young people in Year 11 unable to access a school place. Young people who have recently arrived in this country and need help with English are offered a programme of ESOL support. Other Year 11 young people without a school place are integrated into the Foundation Learning programme and work towards Functional Skills, Employability and Personal Skills and ICT.

Quest is a City & Guilds, ILM and EDI approved centre and offers management qualifications as well as the new teaching qualifications, Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTLLS) and the Certificate for Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (CTLLS).

Foundation Learning Case Study

Hayleigh Cleary

Hayleigh is 16 and is from Dagenham. She started Quest's Foundation Learning programme in October 2010 and has now progressed to a hairdressing apprenticeship with Pure Aura salon.

Hayleigh left Robert Clack School during Year 10. She always wanted to be a hairdresser and it was her mum who found out about Quest through a friend who worked as an assessor at Quest's training salon.

Hayleigh says 'My training at Quest is pretty much the first thing I've actually stuck at. I didn't enjoy school and the hairdressing training I started when I left school didn't work out. I knew that Quest was my last chance to do something or I'd be stuck so I had to do it well'.

Hayleigh feels that through Quest's Foundation Learning programme she has learnt how to work with lots of different people, which has boosted her confidence. The best part of her programme was her placement at Pure Aura, where she has learnt a range of new skills including colouring, blow drying and setting. Hayleigh gets on well with all the stylists and finds the clients friendly.

'At Quest you don't get treated like a little kid. It's a fun atmosphere, even though we are all learning at the same time. The small groups are good because it's easier to get extra help if you need it. I think it's better than college as the atmosphere is lighter and there is less pressure - and it's easier to learn that way'.



Since completing the Foundation Learning programme, Hayleigh has stayed at Pure Aura to complete a hairdressing apprenticeship. Hayleigh hopes to become a fully qualified stylist and would like to run her own salon in the future.