



## Diploma CPD offer for the Summer Term

To provide further support for Diploma delivery teams across the City and County, VESA in conjunction with Learning Skills Network (LSN) have planned a number of training events throughout the summer term.

### Assessment/Evidence Gathering and Assignment Writing

for Diploma Lines in Hair & Beauty (11th May) and for Creative & Media, Engineering and Environment & Land Based (15th May).

### Diploma Project and Domain Assessors

(10th & 22nd June respectively).  
**Successful Learning Strategies for Delivering to 14-16 Year Olds and Assessment for Learning** (25th June). This training will be of particular interest to Further Education and Training Provider colleagues and we positively encourage applications from all providers in this arena even if they are not delivering Diplomas from September 2009.

The training has been based on the needs identified by the Diploma groups currently planning for implementation in September 2009.

For timings and venues for all of the above training or to book your place please go to the VESA website [www.vesa.org.uk/](http://www.vesa.org.uk/) Calendar.

For further information on CPD related to Diplomas please contact Jo Charlesworth at VESA

## DIPLOMAS IN LEICESTER+SHIRE SUCCESSFUL NEXT STEPS

Leicester and Leicestershire have taken important next steps towards meeting the national 14-19 entitlement vision, to offer the full suite of 17 Diploma "lines of learning" to all 14-19 year-olds from 2013. On 6th April, the DCSF announced the results of the rigorous Diploma Gateway 3 application process. Leicester City, were successful in gaining DCSF approval to run seven additional Diplomas from September 2010. This represents a 100% success rate for the City and compares well with the national success rate of 58%.

When combined with, earlier Gateway successes, **twelve** Diploma lines of learning will be on offer in the City and **nine** across the County from 2010.

### Gateway 3 Results - for offer from 2010

#### Leicester City

- Business Administration and Finance
- Construction and the Built Environment
- Hospitality
- Information Technology
- Retail Business
- Sport and Active Leisure
- Travel and Tourism

#### Leicestershire

- Creative and Media
- Environment & Land Based
- Sport and Active Leisure
- Society, Health and Development

The Gateway 3 results reflect the effective work undertaken by individual (line specific) Diploma Development Groups and respective Partnership colleagues from the City and County. We hope to secure this good practice to take things forward in the coming year, working in collaboration, to prepare centres for delivering the next wave of Diplomas to young people in Leicester and Leicestershire.

In a sense, getting through the Gateway is the easy bit. Now the real work begins!

If you would like more information regarding Diplomas in Leicester City, please contact Jo Charlesworth or Stuart King at VESA.

## Date for your diary.....



### Leicester City 13-19 Partnership

## Launch of "Gateway 4" for remaining Diplomas

Building on the success of previous Gateway application rounds the Leicester City 13-19 Partnership is planning its next stage of Diploma implementation. Interested schools, colleges and training providers are invited to a meeting on **June 3rd 3.30pm** at the Braunstone Skills Centre where they can express an interest in being part of collaborative development groups in the following Diplomas:

- Manufacturing and Product Design
- Public Services
- Science
- Humanities and Social Services
- Languages and International Communications

For further information please contact Jo Charlesworth at VESA



## 'Q MARK' - LEICESTER + SHIRE 'ONE CAMPUS' QUALITY KITEMARK

With the anticipated increase in demand for off-site provision arising from Diploma delivery and the Foundation Learning Tier (FLT) there is an increased imperative to ensure that appropriate systems are in place to promote and ensure robust Quality Assurance.

With Ofsted now focussing in more detail on the effectiveness of arrangements for collaborative and off-site learning, the drive to ensure consistency of delivery has led us to investigate potential solutions to these challenges. We have explored how a local "Kitemark" approach to Quality Assurance can be harnessed to raise levels of achievement.

Working in conjunction with Connexions, we have initiated a small scale pilot of "Kitemarking" with eleven local Training Providers. This pilot will run over the summer and autumn terms 2009. We will be working with Nexus Consulting (a Peterborough based company established in 2002) which has a small team of highly skilled and experienced associates operating across the country to support education providers. Following completion of a self-assessment by the Training Providers, the consultants will carry out a visit to the delivery

centre to ensure the Framework requirements are in place.

Schools and Colleges using these Training Providers can then be assured that the quality systems have been suitably audited and evidenced, thus avoiding the need for all users to find a means of checking these factors out on an individual basis.

The Kitemark framework (provisionally known as "Q-Mark") will help to ensure that students have an appropriate and effective experience wherever they study. There will also be protocols in place to ensure the effective exchange of information. "Q-Mark" will be awarded at either **Silver** (which focuses on systems to ensure a quality student experience) or **Gold** (which measures the impact of these systems in more detail).

Over the next few months we will be supporting the organisations listed opposite through their applications for the Silver Award. The first awards are expected to be awarded over the summer term.

For further information please contact Viv Laxton at VESA or Emma Southern at Connexions email: [esouthern@connexions-leics.org](mailto:esouthern@connexions-leics.org)

## Dates for your Diary

### Alternative Curriculum/ Foundation Learning Tier Conference

Thursday 21st May 2009  
Beaumanor Hall

### Leicester-shire Personal Development Programme (LPDP) Consortium Residential

Thursday 11th & Friday 12th June 2009  
Launde Abbey

### Aimhigher Conference

Thursday 18th June 2009  
Beaumanor Hall

### AS & A2 Psychology Teachers' Conference

Tuesday 23rd June 2009  
Beauchamp Community College

## Going for SILVER

- Leicester City FC-Sportiv8
- Stride
- Talent4Life
- Wing PH
- Midland Divers Training
- Leicester College
- Kb in the Community
- Heart of England Training
- Oadby Equestrian Centre
- STARS
- New College Hairdressing

13 - 19 Education Support Agency

# VESA

Leicester + shire

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# Aimhigher...

Leicester city + Leicestershire

## Significant Impact

Leicester City and Leicestershire Aimhigher continues to have a significant impact on student attainment and successful progression to HE (see the summary document enclosed with this newsletter).

The City and the County have the highest successful application rates to HE for young people in the East Midlands. Indeed the city has the highest rates of successful applications of any city in the country outside of London.

## Newsletter

The latest Aimhigher newsletter will be circulated to schools and colleges over the course of the next few weeks. The newsletter will highlight the range of current activities linking schools, colleges

and universities. It will focus on good practice and interesting student case studies. Please look out for the newsletter in your staffroom, alternatively copies are available from **Emma Taylor at the VESA office.**

## Local Conference

This year's Leicester and Leicestershire Aimhigher Conference will be held at Beaumanor Hall on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June. All school and college Aimhigher co-ordinators along with Connexions staff will be invited, but the event is open to other colleagues as well. If you are interested in attending but are not currently engaged formally with Aimhigher, please contact Neil Stock at VESA

## Website

[www.aimhigher-leicester-shire.org.uk](http://www.aimhigher-leicester-shire.org.uk)

The website is constantly being updated. On it you can find useful contacts in local universities, find

out how much Aimhigher funding schools and colleges receive, get updates on forthcoming activities, find useful resources and websites for yourself and your students etc. Please feel free to have a browse!

## Events

- Creating a Visual C.V.
- Forensic Science Taster
- Problem Solving Masterclass
- Archaeology Taster Day
- University Experience Day

These are just some of the events that have already been booked in by schools and colleges over the next few weeks.

Your students could also benefit from such activities, providing they meet the Aimhigher student targeting criteria.

Please contact your school / college Aimhigher co-ordinator for more details.

## Progress File Folders and Presenters for schools and colleges in 2009/10

Staff with responsibility for Progress File and related learning processes in Leicester-shire schools and colleges should by now have received a letter that sets out the Progress File offer for 2009/10. This builds on the co-ordinated local purchasing mechanism which has been in place for the last 3 years. The details of the offer are as follows:

1) The 2009/10 offer price is based on a set which includes the Progress File "Folder" and "Presenter". This is the most cost effective method of offering the Progress File product. Some schools have asked to purchase just the "Folder" or just the "Presenter" but, in reality, this

disaggregation of the product complicates the ordering arrangements and drives up overall costs.

2) The offer price of **£2.30 per Progress File** set has been achieved assuming that we secure an overall order in Leicester and Leicestershire of 2000 Progress File sets. We are asking that schools and colleges indicate interest in taking advantage of this offer by returning a preliminary order form by **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May.**

3) We anticipate that the delivery of Progress Files to schools and colleges will be early in the autumn term [hopefully by the first week in September 2009].

We hope that local schools and colleges will continue to support the local sourcing and purchasing arrangements for Progress File by taking advantage of the 2009/10 offer. The Progress File "brand" now has strong local recognition and has become emblematic of sound and commonly understood learning processes such as managing and recording own learning; wider key skills and personal, learning and thinking skills [PLTS]. The need for learners to understand, record and evidence achievement of these skills is arguably more important today than it has even been.

For further information contact **Tim Farthing at VESA or Cathy Sibley at Connexions Leicester-shire CLAS Team on 0116 261 5920**

## VESA Alternative Curriculum/Foundation Learning Tier Conference 21st May 2009 at Beaumanor Hall

The theme of our conference this year is '**Leading the Way to Success**'. With the continued development of the Foundation Learning Tier in Leicester, Leicestershire and nationally, the conference will provide an excellent opportunity for delegates to learn more about this important aspect of the 14-19 reforms and how it may impact significantly on curriculum planning, student achievement and success.

Leicester City and Leicestershire are 2 of 15 Consortia involved in the national Foundation Learning Tier 14-16 Progression Pathway Pilot Project. 16 schools in the City and County are part of the pilot, running from September 2008 to July 2010. Almost a third of the total number of students engaged in the national pilot are from Leicester and Leicestershire schools!

Thanks to the hard work and the dedication of key staff in pilot schools, our two consortia are

gaining a national reputation as beacons of best practice.

We believe that the Foundation Learning Tier will continue to develop and expand as the pilot runs its course and more and more students and schools come on board until national roll-out in 2010/2011.

The recently announced 'merger' between the Foundation Learning Tier and the Key Stage 4 Engagement Project will further fuel the development of the FLT.

The VESA Alternative Curriculum/Foundation Learning Tier Conference will be a great opportunity for people to find out more about FLT and other Alternative Curriculum opportunities across the City and the County.

Workshops and keynote addresses have been carefully selected to be informative and to provide inspiring, innovative and down to earth evidence of progress from

a number of Foundation Learning Tier pilot schools, both locally and nationally. Some workshops will include student input - always the best advocates!

In addition, external providers of vocational/alternative curriculum and awarding bodies will be exhibiting at the conference and delegates will have the opportunity to engage with them during the day.

We hope that the conference will be of interest to delegates from current and prospective Foundation Learning Tier schools and colleges, and people interested in the exciting potential of the FLT for the future. It will provide a great opportunity to 'get inside' FLT and pick up on the local and national pictures.

You may book a place at the conference using the VESA on-line booking service [www.vesa.org.uk/Calendar](http://www.vesa.org.uk/Calendar). For further information please contact **Bill Leivers at VESA.**



## Braunstone Skills Centre takes its first students

In March 2009 we were delighted to add the brand new Braunstone Skills Centre to the range of venues offering opportunities available to students in the Leicester City Partnership.

Year 11 groups from Fullhurst and Beaumont Leys Schools as well as the "Future Pathways" Collaborative group now have access to these first class Motor Vehicle and Motor Cycle workshop facilities as well as modern areas to relax in during any breaks.

Riverside and Fullhurst Year 11 Construction groups as well as the collaborative Year 10 level 1 group are also learning in the brand new Multi Trades (Wood, Plumbing

and Electrical) and Painting and Decorating workshop.

This excellent, modern venue for the City also has three classrooms with IT facilities which have already been used to deliver wider key skills to Year 11 students on the Late Intervention Project.

The centre has the potential to meet the needs of Pre-16 and Post-16 learners both from the West of Leicester and the City as a whole.

There is already a growing interest in using this space for the 2009-10 academic year.

Visitors to the centre on Fullhurst Avenue Leicester are most welcome. Please contact [wendydavies@vesa.org.uk](mailto:wendydavies@vesa.org.uk) for more information

