

VESA Coordinator collects STAR Award

Bill Leivers' outstanding contribution to the development of the further education system has been honoured at a glittering ceremony in London.

The STAR Awards recognise the dedication and expertise of those people who, on a daily basis, are making a significant contribution to improving the skill level of young people and adult learners.

Bill was named a 'STAR of Further Education' at the ceremony where he picked up his award.

Bill's award recognises the work he has done collaborating with

schools to develop and deliver successful outcomes for school learners in further education. His work in developing the e-progress file (which has transformed tutorial processes both locally and nationally) came in for particular recognition. The e-progress file is an electronic tool for setting targets, monitoring progress and recording achievement and is one of only two systems to have government support.

Bill was extremely pleased to be named a STAR of further education.



"I was delighted to have been short-listed for the award and invited to attend the event in London, but to actually win took me completely by surprise! It was great to be recognised in this way, but my thanks go to all the wonderful people who I have worked with over the years."

LEICESTER CITY PARTNERSHIP INCREASED FLEXIBILITY PRE-16 COLLABORATIVE PROSPECTUS

Our extensive network of providers, including Further Education Colleges, Sixth Form Colleges and Training Providers, have come up with a substantial and exciting offer for City KS4 students in 2008-9.

The Pre-16 Collaborative Prospectus is available on the VESA website www.vesa.org.uk and will also be sent to our named School Co-ordinators and Headteachers. There are a wide

range of National Vocational Qualifications, Vocationally Related Qualifications as well as BTEC/ GCSE courses at Entry, Level 1 & 2.

We do hope that many of your students will enjoy the different experiences and styles of learning offered in the prospectus and that the opportunity will enable them to make informed choices Post 16.

Applications Will need to be completed on-line (as for 2007-8). The on-line facility will become active from the end of February and the closing date is **Friday April 11th 2008**.

Interviews will take place in the 2 weeks commencing May 12th and 19th 2008.

Induction for successful applicants will take place week commencing **June 16th 2008**

School co-ordinators will be supported through this process by the VESA team.

For further information please contact Viv Laxton, Graham Conway, Bill Leivers or Jo Charlesworth at the VESA office. For the West of Leicester consortium please email Wendy Davies - wdavies@newcollege.leicester.sch.uk

VESA would like to thank on behalf of students, schools and colleges in Leicester + shire all the companies listed below for their continuing commitment, service and support for Work Experience. Organisations awarded the 'Certificates of Appreciation' in the second round of breakfast 'Thank You' events included:

A 2 Z Computer Products Ltd • Abbey Tyre Services • Abbeyfield Society • Adams Kidswear • Adults & Housing • Allexton Day Nursery Ltd • Allexton Pre-School • Argos Limited • Asda Wall Mart Inc • ASDA Stores Ltd • Ash Field School • Ashby Emporium • Asra Housing Association Ltd • Aylestone Leisure Centre • Barkby Road Post Office • Barnett's • Bay Trading Company • Belgrave Playhouse • Bell Brown & Bentley • Belmont House Hotel • Birkett House • Boots The Chemist • Brooklands Kennels • Caldecote • Castle Donington Care Home • Community Primary School • Car Care • Catering Services • Charnwood Arts • Charnwood Primary School • Chic Hair Designs • Christopher Scotney Ltd • City Catering • Clafoutis • Clarks International • Courts Solicitors • Cutting Room • DMU Student's Union • East Park Road Surgery • Envy • Estates Department-Leicester College • Ethel Austin • Evington Pool • Fairfield Community Primary School • J Farthing Ltd. • Ford & Slater • G I Direct • Georges Hair Salon • Granary Pets • HMV UK Ltd • High & Mighty Holmfield Day Centre • Iceland Foods Ltd • Iceland Frozen Foods plc • Intasound Organs • J A Kapasi & Co • Keith Hall • Le Petit Four Francais Ltd. • Leicester Crown Court • Leicester Leys Leisure Centre • Leicester Museums • Manasi • Manor Road Sports Centre - Sports and Recreation Department • Marks & Spencer • Marshalls of Leicester • Mere Lane Riding School • Milans Enterprise Ltd • Mind Charity Shop • Moda Greco Hair Salon • National Car Rental • New Parks Leisure Centre • Next Retail Limited • NIACE • Nicholls Colton & Partners Ltd • Norman & Underwood • Nurseries Service • Oliver D'Sa Solicitors • Olympia Conditioning Centre • Otis Ltd • Paper Gourmet • Pearl Chemist • Poundstretcher Ltd • Premier Travel Inn Leicester South West • Print Vision (UK) Ltd • Resources Department • Rolleston Primary School • Rossa's Catering / Don's Diner • Sainsburys Supermarkets Ltd • Serco Services • Shoe Zone Sign Here • Snippers Hair and Solarium • Somerfield • Sound & Vision Centre • Sound Control • Spectrum Photos • Spence Street Sports Centre • Sudera Care Associates Ltd • Tesco • Tete A Tete Hair Ltd • The Jeanery • The Pearl Chemist • To Suit You • W H Smith & Son Ltd • Water Leys Primary School • Watsons Restaurant & Bar • William Davis Ltd • Witham Villa Riding Stables • ZMS Solicitors



BUILDING WORK EXPERIENCE INTO DIPLOMAS

Diploma developments in Leicester and Leicestershire are about to enter an accelerated phase as Gateway 2 announcements are expected at the end of March. We will know then which Diploma applications have been successful, this will trigger a range of activity to support planning for implementation from September 2009.

The City has applied to run eight Diploma "lines" from 2009 with a similar number of additional and new applications being made across the County.

WEXA, VESA's Work Experience Agency, is currently developing Work Experience placements to meet the needs of learners on Diplomas as well as those on existing applied and vocational courses, including BTECs. There is already a growing demand for 'bespoke' placements. This is expected to grow significantly as Diplomas require that learners undertake at least 10 days of Work Experience linked broadly to their line of learning.

With the support of the Learning & Skills Network (LSN), WEXA is establishing subject specific project groups, working under the generic banner 'Building Work Experience into Diplomas'. The main focus of the programme is to build capacity to meet the needs of centres and consortia seeking to place learners where outcomes and skills relating to their courses can be met and developed.

Development days, open to teachers, are currently in progress with initial work being undertaken in three subject areas - **Business, Administration & Finance (4th February), Engineering (25th February) and Society Health & Development (28th February)**. Development groups for other subject areas will be rolled out later in the year.

On the Business, Administration & Finance development day, a group of teachers from Gateway College, Regent College, Leicester College, The City of Leicester College and William Bradford Community College (all involved in either Diploma planning or the delivery of BTEC courses) worked together to identify areas of courses that would generate learning outcomes from work placements. Practical outcomes from this day will now inform work involving schools and colleges, WEXA colleagues and a number of "pilot" employers, to produce a series of fit for purpose placements. Subject to securing funding to undertake further development work, we hope to increase the range of bespoke placements and produce support resources for employers, teachers and leaders.

If colleagues from any schools or colleges want to become involved in this aspect of our work please contact Stuart King at the VESA office or Kay Ives at WEXA.

Dates for your Diary

Work Experience Conference
Thursday 21st February 2008
Beaumanor Hall

Health & Social Care Student Conference Level 3
Monday 17th March 2008
Leicester Tigers

A/AS Psychology Student Conference
Knighton Fields Centre
Wednesday 9th April 2008

Alternative Curriculum/ Foundation Learning Tier Conference
Thursday 22nd May 2008
Beaumanor Hall

VESA 13-19 Curriculum Conference
Thursday 5th June 2008
Beaumanor Hall

Leicester shire Personal Development Programme LPDP Consortium Residential
12th & 13th June 2008
Launde Abbey

Leicester City & Leicestershire Aimhigher Conference
Thursday 19th June 2008
Beaumanor Hall

A/AS Psychology Staff Conference
Thursday 26th June 2008
Beaumanor Hall

13 - 19 Education Support Agency

VESA

Leicester + shire

Knighton Fields Centre, Herrick Road, Leicester LE2 6DH
Tel: 0116 270 7942 Fax: 0116 270 9759
E-mail: firstname.lastname@vesa.org.uk
www.vesa.org.uk

Personal. Learning & Thinking Skills What, Where and How?

Generic skills, as opposed to vocational or sector specific skills, are at the heart of current 11-19 educational developments. Generic skills come in the guise of Functional Skills (Mathematics, English and ICT) and Personal Thinking & Learning Skills (PLTS). Both feature prominently in the **New Secondary Curriculum** and are a compulsory component of **Diplomas**, the first five of which are to be launched nationally from September. The message is clear - all young people should have the opportunity to develop the full range of skills, skills that are essential to success on a personal developmental as well as an economic level.

To date, PLTS have tended to have a lower profile than Functional Skills, in part as the latter have an integral relationship with GCSEs in the relevant subjects, and will be formally assessed and will consequently impact directly on Performance Tables.

PLTS, are a series of personal and interpersonal skills which seek to develop learners as

- Independent Enquirers**
- Creative Thinkers**
- Reflective Learners**
- Team Workers**
- Self Managers**
- Effective Participators**

Schools and colleges are currently exploring strategies and beginning to take advantage of the flexibility now inherent in the New Secondary Curriculum. This will enable them to offer a more skill-rich experience for their young people. Of particular note is the work going on at the City of Leicester College and Regent College, both seeking to develop whole institutional strategies to develop PLTS across the curriculum in their respective contexts, an 11-19 school and a Tertiary College. We hope to draw on the experiences of these and other institutions as part of ongoing network activity in the coming terms.

VESA, working in partnership with our local LAs and drawing on national agencies working in the area of PLTS, is in the process of establishing a PLTS Network and will organise associated CPD sessions in response to locally identified needs.

The inaugural meeting of the PLTS Network will take place on the afternoon of the 13th March at the Knighton Fields Centre.

Details regarding PLTS support will be sent directly into centres. Any thoughts or ideas about activity in your school or college or how we might support you in your endeavours would be most welcome.

Please contact Stuart King at the VESA office for further information.

Progress File Update

Our efforts to continue the sourcing of a locally offered Progress File [PF] for Leicester and Leicestershire schools and colleges for 2008/09 are now nearly complete. Cathy Sibley [Connexions Leicester shire] and Tim Farthing [VESA] have been busy on a number of fronts trying to ensure that the "Progress File" product continues to be used extensively by local learners. The main developments since the autumn term are as follows:-

- We have begun discussions with alternative providers to ensure that we are achieving best value.
- We are seeking local sponsorship from companies and other partnership organisations. This is likely to entail endorsement in the form of logos on the front of the Progress File. In return, the sponsoring organisation will offer a financial subsidy. Our hope is to reduce the unit price of the PF folder and presenter.

We expect to conclude the discussions regarding sponsorship and sourcing soon and to be in a position to write to all local schools and colleges describing the PF offer for 2008/09. We will ask them to "sign up" to the offer and make a commitment to purchasing PF through the centrally co-ordinated arrangements.

If you are interested in finding out more about this please contact Tim Farthing at the VESA Office or Cathy Sibley at Connexions Leicester shire CLAS Team on 0116 261 5920

GCSE Health & Social Care Student Conference

Once again, this annual event was a great success thanks to the continued support of Leicester Tigers RFC and a number of local Health & Social Care professionals. On Monday 11th December, **159** students from **9** City and County School/Colleges were in attendance. Students were able to access 4 workshops designed to support learning on their GCSE/BTEC 1st Health & Social Care Courses.

The workshops were designed to be 'hands on' and interactive, enabling students to get involved as well as hearing first hand from professionals working on a daily basis in Health and Social Care.

Workshops presented on the day included:

FIRST AID
St John's Ambulance,
Dave Parker & Team

This workshop aimed to raise awareness of how to reduce risks and deal with emergencies. This session was extremely popular, its practical nature always proving a hit!

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IN A NURSERY?
Leicester College Nursery,
Jane Price & Tracey Stewart

This fun and informative workshop explored the daily activities you might find in a nursery and looked at the different requirements for children ranging from babies to toddlers

"Fun & informative, made me consider a career in a nursery"



HEALTHY EATING, HEALTHY LIVING
Chris Stephenson, NG Fitness*

This session looked into healthy eating habits and challenged students with the question "how healthy are you in terms of your eating habits?"

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE
Frank Sly

Frank has been delivering workshops on British Sign Language at the conference for over 5 years now and, as usual, gained excellent reviews.



"I think Frank was hilarious and it was informative."

DRUGS & THE LAW
Leicestershire Constabulary,
PC Kevin Love

This was an interactive session with a quiz that was not only fun but also thought provoking.

SAFER HANDLING
Leicester General Hospital,
Nick Howlett & Paul Ayrton

This is another regular slot at the conference which always goes down well, with the two presenters' lively and energetic

"I really enjoyed this session, great information and warm up exercise - was interesting and good."

approach to Manual Handling. 'Hands on' and interactive, not a session for sitting still!

DISABILITY AWARENESS
Skills for Care,
Annette Forbes & Team

This session looked at the many and varied aids to assist with independent living. Students were given case studies and asked to decide which aids would be of use in each scenario.

CREATIVE PLAY WITH CHILDREN
Leicestershire VESA,
Viv Laxton & Ute Sansom

This fun-filled workshop required students to get messy and creative, whilst looking at how you can use creative arts to help increase knowledge and understanding about other cultures.

"Learnt how to make a Snowman and help others to do it, enjoyable."

2nd WORK EXPERIENCE EMPLOYER 'THANK YOU' EVENT

Following on from last summer term's employer 'thank you' event, WEXA nominated a further 100 employers to receive a 'Certificate of Appreciation' for their valuable contribution to work experience over a number of years.

The second of these 'thank you' events took place at the Salvation Army HQ on Wednesday 5th December 2007.

The main purpose of the event was to thank employers for their long term contributions. In addition, Stuart King from VESA did a presentation

on 'Changes to the 14-19 Curriculum and implications for employers.' The presentation gave an up-date of local and national Diploma developments and an outline of the Young Apprenticeship scheme being promoted locally by the LEBC.

John Garret, representing the Property Department of Leicester City Council, gave his thoughts on providing work experience for 2 Young Apprentices in Business and Finance from Beaumont Leys School.

The employers present expressed

their thanks and welcomed the opportunity to ask questions and identify further sources of help and information.

A third event is scheduled for the Summer Term, this time focusing on employers who have been supporting work experience for students with additional needs and on extended placements.

The full list of those awarded certificates at this, the second 'thank you' employer event, is provided on the back page of this newsletter.

* A big thank you to Liz Hayes for helping with this workshop