

SUMMER 2015



Welcome

Welcome to our second official newsletter. There is so much good news and so many exciting developments to share, it's hard to know where to begin!

Our art exhibition 'Transformation' was truly a work of dedication, partnership and going above and beyond, and it's fantastic to read about what Maxine and her fantastic team achieved. We have budding art curators in our midst!

We were also very proud to launch the new Women's Curriculum, developed in partnership with NIACE, at Drake Hall in June, demonstrating the excellent work the team there have done, to develop and deliver this innovative programme, but also to hear the impact from both the women involved and the wider staff team at Drake. We now intend to develop and pilot this approach, with NIACE, within our YO establishments.

We have recently entered new realms and are now responsible for running the library services at HMP Bedford. We are grateful for the support and expertise of our College librarian, Sarah Evans and welcome Sally Arm and Bianca Woods to the Milton Keynes College team.

Our Employment Academy model has been reviewed, revised and is now moving forward with great momentum. We welcome the new team, Chris, Bethan and Navinder, led by Ann Marie, who will work with each establishment to case manage learners who are in the Academy, link with employers and make that transition successfully, where humanly possible. The team will also be able to support where there is no Academy, so don't feel left out! We will have regular data produced to demonstrate impact, so watch this space!

As for Ofsted, I'd like to say a fantastic WELL DONE to Zara, Clare, Ross and the whole team on the Isle of Wight for achieving a Grade 2 good

at HMPs Albany and Parkhurst. In particular, your embedding of maths and English and drive to improve maths and English success rates, and dedication to delivering quality processes and closing the loop, has really borne fruit.

So, as we move forward into year 4 of OLASS 4 (yes, that's really where we are!), we must keep 2 key priorities to the forefront.

Firstly, a focus on quality and being the best we can be, in order to get the best outcomes for our learners.

Secondly, the focus on progression and employment outcomes. We need to focus on where our programmes are leading our learners and that, by using the Employment Academy model and the new team where possible, we support our learners into positive outcomes on release that help them to never come back to us again.

And as a final note I would like us all to take a moment to remember and celebrate the life of Cat Walgate, manager at HMP Leicester, who passed away earlier this year after a courageous battle against all the odds, who will be remembered for her tenacity, enthusiasm and passion for her work in offender learning.

Sally



This year the College has launched:

- A Hospitality & Catering Employment Academy at HMPYOI Drake Hall
- A Hospitality & Catering Employment Academy at HMP Woodhill

Ongoing OLASS Marketing materials

In addition to course posters and flyers that have been produced for a number of prisons across the region, and are in progress for the remaining, Inspirational Posters have also been designed. The aim of the inspirational posters is to encourage and motivate learners. Further to these, a set of posters depicting the Milton Keynes College Values, in keeping with the OLASS branding, are also being designed.

A number of case studies and news stories have been added to the website, to view these and keep up to date with the latest stories visit <http://www.mkcollege.ac.uk/listing/olass-updates>

'TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH LEARNING'

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE REGIONS

EMPLOYMENT

HMPYOI Swinfen Hall Skills Fair

HMPYOI Swinfen Hall hosted a Skills Fair in December with some impressive results! In an attempt to improve allocations and continue to recruit smartly, all partnership organisations working within the prison hosted stands, with the aim of reaching out to prisoners and informing them of the current opportunities both in the prison and through the gate. The education department embraced the opportunity to celebrate its successes, present its courses and dispel any historic myths that education 'is boring'. With the help of staff and learner mentors who worked on the stands, the department spoke to prisoners from all wings and encouraged them to either commence or continue their 'learning journey' with Milton Keynes College. Workshops were opened up and prisoners had the opportunity to tour the site and see the resources available to them.

Swinfen's Skills Fair was, without doubt, a huge success. The day amassed over 300 applications for courses with MKC alone and December's allocation figure rose sharply to 94%! Statistics aside, the biggest success was the finding that there is a vast amount of willing learners within HMPYOI Swinfen Hall. The message was clear; prisoners want to engage with education.

Due to the positivity from staff and prisoners following the Skills Fair, it is hoped that this will become a regular event that not only promotes partnership working, but that also maintains momentum in education's recruitment.

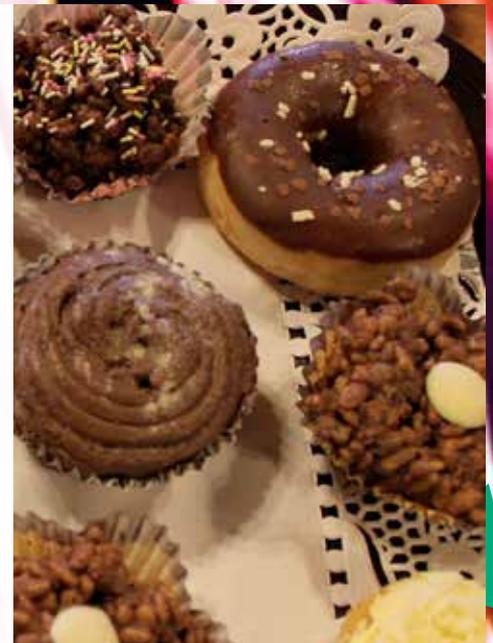


MK College Offender Learning Art Exhibition Success

Milton Keynes College held an Offender Learning Art Exhibition at the Project Space in MK Gallery. The exhibition showcased artwork from learners at a number of prisons served regionally by the college.

The exhibits were based on the theme of 'Transformation' and offenders created art in a number of different formats from paintings, through to hanging objects and woodwork. Each exhibit featured a description underneath from the artist on their inspiration, and members from MK College OLASS division manned the exhibition each Friday, providing visitors with further insight into the work on display.

The exhibition was free for the general public to attend and received very positive feedback from the public. Maxine Bennett, Innovation & Development Manager for OLASS, at the College said "We are extremely proud of the work produced by the learners. For many offenders being in prison is often their first opportunity to take part in any kind of artistic activity, and art plays an integral role in engaging people in education, enabling them to learn again."



HMP Hewell Raises Funds for Charity during Black History Month

HMP Hewell held a series of events to raise vital funds for charity during Black History Month. The first of which, saw Staff and learners baking delicious cakes to sell to staff and other prisoners, fundraising for Sickle Cell Disease.

Milton Keynes College organised an Art/Poetry competition, with work being displayed to the public. Music in Prisons also delivered a week long workshop resulting in a Prisoner Group being formed called 'One Nation' who gave a concert to staff and invited guests to attend. Other activities held during the week included topical talks about Caribbean history, and drumming lessons.

The fantastic efforts from both staff and learners raised a grand total of £700.00, a thoroughly successful week!



NEWS FROM ACROSS THE REGIONS

Milton Keynes College Offender Learning Celebration Events 2015

This year Milton Keynes College is running a number of events celebrating staff, learners and partners who are involved in the Offender Learning provision. Each region will hold a separate celebration event presenting the winners' certificates.

The events are to be held on the 19th June - West Midlands, 26th June - East Midlands and the 3rd July for South Central. Nominations are for a variety of categories, from teacher of the year to partnership award. A unique award, giving the opportunity to nominate somebody who is not directly employed by the college, but who has gone above and beyond to support the success of OLASS.

A national event will be taking place on the 7th of August, bringing together the three regions. The winners from the regional events will be entered into a final category and will be reviewed against the college values; Respect, Excellence, Innovate, Inspire and Integrity, a further five awards will also be presented on the night.



Prince's Trust

Hot on the heels of the success of HMPYOI Swinfen Hall's Skills Fair, the Education Department is delighted to announce it will be working with The Prince's Trust throughout 2015.

To complement Milton Keynes College's Level 2 Business course, The Prince's Trust will be supporting learners who are genuinely interested in setting up a business on release. Learners will complete an Exploring Enterprise qualification with the organisation and will, upon release, be allocated a mentor who will give direct support in writing a formal business plan and helping them to source and secure sources of finance. On successfully completing the course, learners will also be given permission to add credibility to their businesses by adding the Prince's Trust logo to their business cards!

NoOffence! Redemption & Justice Awards

Milton Keynes College are proud to sponsor the NoOffence! Redemption & Justice Awards again this year, which takes place at the Manchester Cathedral on the 9th October.

The NoOffence! Awards are a celebration of the success stories from the year, giving recognition to offenders who have made a transition of change and turned their lives around, as well as highlighting individuals from across the criminal justice sector that make it all possible.

The College are one of the largest providers of Offender Learning, delivering education in the justice sector to learners for over 20 years. Sally Alexander, Executive Director of Offender Learning at MK College, will be judging the Employer Award for the second time - recognising UK employers who provide employment for people with convictions or organisations that support people with convictions into employment.

Sally is delighted to be part of the Awards and said "I am honoured to be judging the Employer Award again this year and am pleased to have the chance to show Milton Keynes College's commitment to supporting offenders. The Redemption and Justice Awards are a fantastic celebration of the hard work and dedication of learners and all involved in the sector. I am passionate to continue to support this and build upon the opportunities we have created so far and look forward to a fantastic night."



REDEMPTION & JUSTICE
AWARDS 2015

EDUCATION
&
SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE REGIONS



Huacarpay School Fundraiser in Peru

Steve Minchin, a math teacher at HMP Woodhill, and his family travelled to Peru on the 13th of June to visit a primary school they support and fundraise for.

The school, named Huacarpay Primary School, is not supported by the state and relies on donations to stay open. Many fundraising events have been held to help raise the vital funds needed for the school, as well as a Facebook page named, Huacarpay School Fundraiser, which has a donate button if anyone wishes to contribute to the worthy cause. For more information about the school and fundraising, visit the Facebook page which includes photos, comments and regular updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/Huacarpay-SchoolFundraiser?fref=ts>



HMPYOI Drake Hall pilots PSD Course Tailored to the Needs of Female Prisoners

Milton Keynes College, along with other OLASS providers, has worked in partnership with NIACE (National Institute for Adult Continuing Education) to develop a new Personal Social Development (PSD) course tailored specifically to the developmental needs of female prisoners in custody. The course has been piloted at HMPYOI Drake Hall, where Milton Keynes College manages the education provision.

The pilot began at the beginning of May 2015 and is set to run for a six month period in order to gain sufficient data for NIACE feedback. It is expected that comparisons in behaviour before, during and after the course will reveal positive trends. Milton Keynes College is commissioned to engage with at least seventy learners, but the figure is much more likely to exceed one hundred. Not all learners will be required to complete all units of the programme and a filtering system is in place designed to engage only those learners who require further involvement, ensuring the needs of the women are met in an appropriate manner.

The course comprises four modules: Developing Ourselves, Dealing with Problems, Managing Social Relationships and Working with Others. The theoretical principles of Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) underpin the course's description of the links between thoughts, beliefs and values and feelings. While the content of module 1 focuses on thoughts, beliefs and values and gives learners an understanding of why they think, behave and feel the way they do, the content on self-esteem, self-acceptance, and more helpful ways of thinking, motivation and self-development equips them to respond better to the challenges of real life.

Glen Manning, Senior Education Manager at HMPYOI Drake Hall said, *"The pilot so far has revealed an immediate impact on some learners. Of the first twenty learners, twelve will be continuing onto module 2. Staff across the prison have already identified a noticeable shift and improvement in the attitudes and behaviour of the learners who have started on this programme, and all are very enthusiastic about the potential of its future impact"*.

Award Winning OLASS!

A huge well done to HMP Oakwood who won not one, but two awards in the College Student of the Year 2015 Awards. The Offender Learning Award went to learner Patrick Drummond, and Teacher of the Year - Offender Learning, to Stephanie Taft. Congratulations to Lisa Brown who won "Most Inspirational Leader" in the College Staff Awards.

