



11 January 2010

Can I start by wishing you a Happy New Year and hope it's a prosperous one. We are pleased to kick off the new year with lots of information about what is up and coming for 2010.

Short Courses

Have you thought about starting the new year with some expert training at the bargain price of just £45 per person? Our short courses, that are running throughout January and February, are designed specifically for the Hairdressing & Barbering Industry and include "An Introduction to Barbering", "Vintage Hair Up" and "Advanced Cutting".

Salon Management

We are delighted to inform you that we are working with the local Learning Skills Council (LSC) on this targeted program designed for the industry to provide support and guidance to salon owners and managers on surviving the credit crunch. As this is a supported scheme **funding is available to businesses with 5 employees or more**, including self-employed and voluntary workers (subject to funding terms and conditions). Dates for the training will be agreed to ensure suitable flexibility and you will develop and review a personalised business action plan.

To ensure you and your team don't miss out on any of our training courses please contact Stacy Dillon at our Braintree Centre on 01376 552055 to book your place or find out more.

The Hair and Beauty Diploma

You may find that you start to receive applications from young people wishing to join you that have achieved this new qualification so we thought you might like to know a bit more about it. The Diploma is already being delivered in some local schools and Colchester Institute is now offering the Diploma rather than the NVQ.

The Diploma is a Preparation for Work qualification (as opposed to Job Ready) in that it prepares 14 to 19 year olds for an Apprenticeship (or other education / work experience) but does not make them competent as a Stylist or Beautician.

The Diploma is very different from the NVQ qualification as it is far more theory based and practical work is assessed with a more flexible approach to models and block work. It is also different to traditional GCSEs and A-Levels as it offers a mix of class work and hands-on experience. This means learners can study English, Maths and ICT whilst finding out what the industry is like by looking into hairdressing, barbering, African Caribbean hairdressing, beauty and spa therapy, or nail services.

As industry professionals we will continue to offer the NVQ Level 2 and Level 3. City & Guilds have rolled out new standards which we are embracing and using as an opportunity to review our service delivery to ensure we continue to improve.

Please turn over

The Apprenticeship Awards 2010 are now open.

The Apprenticeship Awards honour and celebrate England's apprentices, old and new, along with the businesses that employ them. This year is the seventh annual Apprenticeship Awards hosted by the National Apprenticeship Service, who manage and fund Apprenticeships in England.

Employers and businesses of all sizes and across all sectors can nominate themselves, or their apprentices, for an Apprenticeship award. The prizes will be judged across nine regions and winners will be taken through to a national award ceremony in July 2010.

As an employer who is committed to Apprenticeships, and can clearly show the direct benefits to your business, an Apprenticeship Award could be the perfect opportunity for you to shine. You can also encourage your Apprentices to enter the competition for Apprentice of the Year (Level 2) or Advanced Apprentice of the Year (Level 3).

The closing date for entries is **Friday 26th February 2010**. I have attached a copy of the Questions & Answers provided by National Apprenticeship Service for your convenience. Good luck!

As always I have also enclosed our latest newsletter for your information. Once again, thank you for taking the time to read this update, we hope you find it useful and will write again soon.

Yours sincerely,



Gemma Rawson
On behalf of EASI Hairdressing Academy

PS. Have you checked out our new website yet?