



3 July 2009

EASI Update

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying the hot weather. This latest EASI Update is aiming to provide you with important information on what is coming up including: changes to **Wages**, our upcoming **Competition** and much more.

Apprenticeship Wages

Following our letter in December last year I would just like to remind you that with effect from 1st August 2009, the Apprentice weekly wages change from £80 to £95 per week. As before, apprentices aged 19-25 who are in the first 12 months of their apprenticeship are not entitled to the minimum wage until the second year of their apprenticeship.

Models

Firstly, I would like to thank you for taking the time to complete our recent Employer Questionnaire; your feedback continues to help us deliver a better service. As a result of the last questionnaire I would like address the concerns raised regarding Models.

There appears to be some frustration regarding the rule for models and so I would like to confirm the situation and explain what we are trying to do to address this issue.

Formative Assessment

This is a "practice" assessment and there is no restriction on who can be used as a model.

Summative Assessment

This is the final assessment on a unit. HABIA and City & Guilds have set down strict criteria for the assessment which includes the below points:

- The assessor must be present at all times during the observation.
- All assessments must be carried out on paying clients.
- Payment can be made using cash, cheque, card or vouchers.
- Family, friends or learners from the same class CAN NOT be used for summative assessment.

As you can see this rule is not set by EASI Hairdressing Academy. The aim of this standard is to ensure that all candidates are being assessed against the National Occupational Standards in a "realistic working environment" with the general thought being you wouldn't treat a member of your family in the same way you would treat a member of the general public and equally they would not respond in the same manner.

We recognize this is a potential barrier to Learner's achievement and therefore actively encourage learners to bring in family/friends and then "swop" models with others in the group.

We appreciate this requirement can be frustrating for yourselves and the Apprentices and will continue to explore new ideas and ways of supporting them but it is unlikely this requirement will be removed.

Evening Classes

As I am sure you are aware we currently run a Level 3 evening group in both our Braintree and Colchester Centres. However, in a further attempt to address the above frustration regarding models we are offering a few evening practical sessions for all Learners to allow further access to models outside of normal office hours. Depending on the success of these sessions we will look to open the centres for practical assessment in the evening on a regular basis. We would appreciate your support in encouraging your Apprentices to attend these evening sessions and make the most of the opportunity.

Hairdressing Competition - "A Hairy Fairytale"

We are very excited to be holding our third hairdressing competition on Monday 26th October. The event will be taking place at The Stoke by Nayland Golf Club and Hotel; with the competition starting at 6pm and finishing at 10.00 pm. We are looking forward to an exciting evening full of magic and wonder and hope that you will join us. The entry cost for spectators is just £3.00 in advance and £4.00 on the door; Apprentices that have entered the competition do not have to pay.

If your Apprentice hasn't already entered, why not encourage them to complete the enclosed entry form and return it to our Colchester office.

Don't forget our competition for salon teams: "Happily Ever After" - enter your salon's artistic team in the evening's final showpiece event.

Barbering

For those of you not already aware I would like to highlight our Barbering provision at Colchester. If an individual already has Hairdressing NVQ Level 2 there are only 3 additional Units (Cutting, Facial Hair & Finishing) in order to obtain the full Barbering NVQ Level 2.

The training takes places on Wednesdays on a fortnightly basis and for the additional units only; there is a charge of £300. Alternatively Apprentices can do the full Barbering NVQ rather than Hairdressing if this is appropriate to you and your salon needs and this is funded in the normal way.

Newsletter

Please find enclosed a copy of our first EASI newsletter. These will be issued to Learners on a quarterly basis and will including "Spotlight" interviews with Staff, Learners and Employers.

On a final note, following lots of positive changes we are feeling very excited about the future and the new ways we are communicating and working with you to produce highly skilled stylists. If you would like to meet with me to discuss how we are looking to boost our relationship with you and your Apprentice then please call Stacy Wager on 01206 796677 to arrange a convenient time for me to come out and have a chat. If nothing else, it's nice to put a face to a name! In the mean time please make the most of Pam and Sue during their regular visits to your salon.

Yours sincerely,

Gemma Rawson
On behalf of EASI Hairdressing Academy