

7 September 2011

Press Release

CRC FLEX PROGRAMMES MOVE TO SCIENCE PARK CAMPUS

Cambridge Regional College's flexible programmes, aimed at helping young people into employment, have moved from their Cherry Hinton base to CRC's Science Park campus.

The move puts all the College's learning operations on one site and means more opportunities and training courses are available for youngsters on the FLEX schemes, targeted at 16 to 20 year-olds.

Programme Area Manager Cathy Bayford said the move was a big advantage to learners on the programme. "We have been running a very successful programme at Cherry Hinton for a number of years, but the training opportunities at the main College site are far better for our students - particularly after CRC's £23million redevelopment programme," she said.

"All the operation, including staff and learners, has now moved and we hope we will be able to expand the programme to help more young people get back into education or employment."

The Flexible Programmes are run throughout the year in small groups, with staggered and rolling start dates offering taster sessions in vocational areas, and one-to-one support to help learners improve their Maths, English, ICT and employability skills. There are also opportunities to gain recognised qualifications across the timetable.

"We want to open doors for youngsters who might feel there is no hope, or need help in getting ready for the next stage of their lives. There is a growing number of NEETS

(young people not in education, employment or training) in this county and the more people we can help the better,” said Cathy.

“The move to the main CRC site means we now have access to much better facilities for our learners, and they can get more of a feel for the College and see what a full-time course here would be like.

“All 12 of our last group of learners have gone on to employment or further training – eight of them have been accepted on full-time courses at CRC, which is a great achievement – and we are looking forward to continuing with that success.”

CRC has been responsible for flexible learning programmes at its Cherry Hinton site, in the grounds of Cherry Hinton Hall, since 2006 when it took over the old Entry to Employment programmes run there by the City Council.

The success of the courses brought rapid growth, with CRC’s E2E success rates becoming the highest in the county. The programme was later integrated into the College’s Foundation Learning Tier and, after the College’s £23 million redevelopment programme, the decision was made to move the operation to the College’s main site.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES

For more information, please contact Lynn O’Shea, Communications & PR Manager, on 01223 418773 or email loshea@camre.ac.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Cambridge Regional College is one of the largest providers of full-time further education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region, with more than 4,000 full-time and 6,000 part-time students. Students come in from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk. Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes.