

PRESS RELEASE! PRESS RELEASE! PRESS RELEASE!
**EXPERT CLASSES HELP CAMBRIDGESHIRE LEARNERS
DEVELOP THEIR TASTE FOR EXCELLENCE**

Thursday 15th January 2009

Cambridge Regional College (CRC) is giving over 20 Catering Apprentices from Cambridgeshire the chance to develop their skills in their chosen areas by holding a series of expert classes.

These classes form part of the “From Competence to Excellence Programme” and are co-hosted by the College and Infusions4Chefs, East Anglia’s premier supplier of catering ingredients and equipment. They will focus on new trends in cookery, and presentation styles of some of the world’s best restaurants. Up to twelve students on CRC’s Level 3 Advanced Professional Chefs Apprenticeship will apply to attend the two classes to be held in February.



The Learning Skills Council (LSC) fund the national programme, which aims to inspire 5,000 Apprentices to improve their skills from being competent, to demonstrating excellence. This can be done through one or two day expert training sessions, encouraging Apprentices to participate in skills competitions such as the World Skills competition. The classes will give them an insight into the latest technology and innovation in their field and underline the world class skills they will need in tomorrow's workplace.

Helen France, Director of Apprenticeships at the LSC said: "The LSC believes that this programme will help Apprentices and vocational learners to take their skills to world class levels. Understanding the difference between being competent and excellent is a crucial part of any learner's journey. Expert classes also allow trainers to develop better links with employers and really promote world class skills across a range of industries. The expert input that apprentices get in these classes will be a fantastic boost to their learning and demonstrate the real value of an Apprenticeship for their future."

Through the expert class programme, training providers and employers in Cambridgeshire can share best practice and contribute to a lasting skills legacy. The project is also aimed at introducing potential competitors to the concept of skills competitions and increasing the number of Cambridgeshire competitors within the regional and national competitions, leading up to the UK WorldSkills Event in London in 2011.

Ian Sparke, Lecturer in Catering and Hospitality at CRC said: "The 2009 programme is a great opportunity to follow up and build on last year's success and take our learners to the next level. By demonstrating the difference between competence and excellence and encouraging learners to strive for this, we are successfully developing the outstanding learners and employees of the future. This totally unique approach brings top Apprentices together with the best training providers in the UK and leading employers to discover and achieve true excellence".

There are currently 240,000 Apprentices working in over 130,000 organisations in England alone, across 80 different sectors of industry. Apprenticeships are also increasingly being recognised and used as a pathway to university, often part time and with financial support from their employer whilst they continue to work.

CRC is one of the largest work based learning providers in the Eastern region and currently has over 800 students on Apprenticeship programmes across a diverse range of areas, such as Catering, Care, Hairdressing and Construction.

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NOTES TO EDITOR:

About Learning and Skills Council:

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. It is responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. It has a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Its vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. The LSC works nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

About From Competence to Excellence

Expert classes in the Cambridgeshire region are being run at Cambridge Regional College on Wednesday 11th and Wednesday 25th February 2009. Key partners are Infusions4Chefs Ltd.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

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