



***PRESS RELEASE! PRESS RELEASE! PRESS RELEASE!***

**CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL COLLEGE OFFERS UNIQUE  
VOLUNTEERING SCHEME AS CAREER OPTION**

Tuesday 8 September 2009

**Cambridge Regional College (CRC) is offering an exciting new opportunity to anyone who is worried about their next step at this tense time of year. Now that exam results are out, there are many options on offer, such as volunteering, further study or employment. CRC is offering a unique volunteering scheme to gain free qualifications and outstanding work experience at the same time.**

The College is seeking enthusiastic and committed Volunteers to participate in the new “v talent year” full-time volunteering programme. CRC wants to recruit full-time volunteers, aged 16–25, to work with College students to develop activities, displays, events.

Research published by the Institute of Volunteering Research shows that 87% of local Volunteer Centres have seen an increase in enquiries about volunteering opportunities over the last 6 months<sup>1</sup> and 76% of these centres reported volunteers to have a high level of interest in using their experience of volunteering to find employment.

Jackie Cannell, Head of Learner Engagement & Support comments, “We are delighted to be launching this new and unique programme, which will help volunteers to develop

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<sup>1</sup> The Institute of Volunteering Research commissioned BMG Research to interview Volunteer Centres in England about their relationships with other local organisations, funding and activities around volunteering and employability. 220 Volunteer Centres were interviewed and the research took place between 2 and 8 March 2009.

their skills while making a meaningful difference to college and school communities. The volunteers will be involved in a range of learner support activities such as developing healthy lifestyles, supporting young parents and leading youth work challenges”.

The College will recruit 15 volunteers a year for the next two years who will carry out approximately 30 hours of volunteering per week, over the 44 week placement. Volunteers will be recruited from the local community, with 40% of places available to young people who are not employed or in any form of education or training.

This is an excellent opportunity to boost a young person’s career prospects as they will gain outstanding work experience, as well as obtain free Level 2 qualifications. The volunteers will be involved in a range of learner support activities such as developing healthy lifestyles, supporting young parents and leading youth work challenges.

The programme can also cover their expenses up to £100 per week and on completion of their placement they can apply for a Personal Development Grant of up to £1,500 to support their learning and development after the programme. With this experience and an accredited qualification under their belt, the young volunteers will be well-placed to progress on to further training or employment.

Terry Ryall, v’s Chief Executive says, “v is delighted to award Cambridge Regional College this grant to support full time volunteering among 16-25s. We believe it will unleash young peoples’ talents and bring valuable new support services to the college community”.

If you are worried about your next step and are interested in taking up this great opportunity starting on 14<sup>th</sup> September, then contact the CRC Volunteer Support Worker for application pack via 07511165158 or 01223 418442, email [atoth@camre.ac.uk](mailto:atoth@camre.ac.uk) or visit the website on [www.camre.ac.uk](http://www.camre.ac.uk)

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**NOTES TO EDITOR:**

1. **v** is The National Youth Volunteers Service, whose mission is to inspire a new generation of young volunteers in England aged 16-25.
2. **v's** aim is to create a culture where volunteering comes naturally – and where the benefits of volunteering are understood and celebrated.
3. **v** is an independent charity launched in May 2006 as a result of the Russell Commission report, A National Framework for Youth Action and Engagement.
4. To find out more about **v** visit the charity's website [www.vinspired.com](http://www.vinspired.com).
5. The research referred to is "Young People Speak Out – attitudes and perceptions to full time volunteering" and was published by **v** on 2 June 2009

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

For more information, please contact Lesley Devaney, PR & Events Co-ordinator, on 01223 418773 or email [ldevaney@camre.ac.uk](mailto:ldevaney@camre.ac.uk)