

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



JULY 2024

NEWSLETTER

Patron Member



AI-powered Quality Improvement: Take part in the Innovate UK R&D Project

Mesma Secures Six-Figure Digital Launchpad Funding from Innovate UK

Mesma, specialists in quality assurance for education and employability, has been awarded research and development funding by Innovate UK, the UK's innovation agency.

This funding will support Mesma's R&D efforts to enhance its quality management solutions with artificial intelligence.

The investment from Innovate UK aims to support digital technologies that have the potential to impact sectors such as education and employability.

The funds will be used to develop innovative solutions that aim to ensure high standards of education and employability are supported by quality assurance practices.

Mesma plans to utilise artificial intelligence tools to work towards improving outcomes for learners and jobseekers.

Professionals in the education and employability sectors often report that quality assurance processes are often complex and costly to administer. Many add that it is hard to find trusted guidance and resources that are relevant to the problems they are looking to solve.

Read more: <https://mesma.co.uk/innovate-uk-digital-launchpad/>



Ascentis Functional Skills Qualifications Achieve Ofqual Approval

Ascentis is incredibly thrilled and proud to announce that our English and Mathematics Functional Skills qualifications have successfully passed Ofqual's rigorous technical evaluation. This milestone enables us to offer these essential qualifications to education providers nationwide, empowering learners to advance in their educational journeys and seize new opportunities in the workforce and further training. A special thank you to Centres who have participated in the development of the qualifications and we continue to offer assessment pre-testing to interested Centres.

Read more here: <https://www.ascentis.co.uk/news/ascentis-functional-skills-qualifications-achieve-ofqual-approval>



Engineering The Future

HETA's 2023/24 Cohort Triumphs in First Year of Training

Humberside Engineering Training Association (HETA) celebrates the successful completion of the first year of training by the 2023/24 cohort of apprentices. This year has seen a record number of apprentices enrolled, reflecting the increasing demand for skilled engineers in the region, as highlighted in the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP).

Founded in 1967, HETA has a longstanding legacy of providing high-quality technical training. Over the years, it has evolved into a cornerstone of engineering education in the region, continuously adapting to meet the industry's evolving needs. The successful completion of the first training year by this cohort is a testament to HETA's commitment to nurturing future engineering talent.

To honour the apprentices' achievements, HETA held awards ceremonies across its three sites in Hull, Grimsby and Scunthorpe. These events celebrated the learners' hard work and dedication, with sectional awards recognising outstanding performance in specific disciplines and overall apprentice awards for each site.

[Read full article here](#)



Octavia Learning

Octavia Learning begins delivery on the Opportunities for Refugees Skills Connect course

In July, Octavia Learning, in partnership with the Kirklees and Calderdale Health and Care Partnership and Third Sector Leaders, delivered the first Skills Connect Volunteer Pathway to Care for refugees in Huddersfield. The training was a success, and 20 refugees secured interviews for volunteer roles and potential paid opportunities with local charities and the NHS Trust.



DN COLLEGES GROUP

The New Global Hub for Renewable Energy Excellence – UK and Japan’s Gold Medallists Come Together to Prepare for WorldSkills Olympics in Lyon, France 2024

The Institute of Technology in Doncaster is thrilled to announce the arrival of the WorldSkills team from Japan for a four day-long joint training session in renewable energy. This exciting event will bring together top talents in the field.

The training session will feature Danny McBean, the UK gold medallist in renewable energy, alongside his Japanese counterpart. The event will also include their respective coaches and support staff, ensuring a comprehensive and collaborative training experience.

Last year, the Institute of Technology at University Campus Doncaster hosted the WorldSkills UK Renewable Energy competition, where Danny McBean emerged victorious as the UK gold medallist. His outstanding performance earned him a spot to represent the UK in the prestigious WorldSkills Olympics, scheduled to be held in Lyon, France, in September 2024. [Read full article here.](#)





A Skills People Group Company

Construction Skills People Achieves 'Good' Rating in Ofsted Inspection!

We are thrilled to announce that Construction Skills People Ltd (a division of the Skills People Group) has received a glowing 'Good' rating across all categories in our first full Ofsted inspection!

From June 4th to 7th, 2024, inspectors highlighted numerous strengths that make us a standout provider in the construction sector.

Check out some of the statements from the report that highlight the incredible impact we're making on both our employed and unemployed learners.

Read more: <https://constructionskillspeople.com/ofsted-good-rating-2024/>



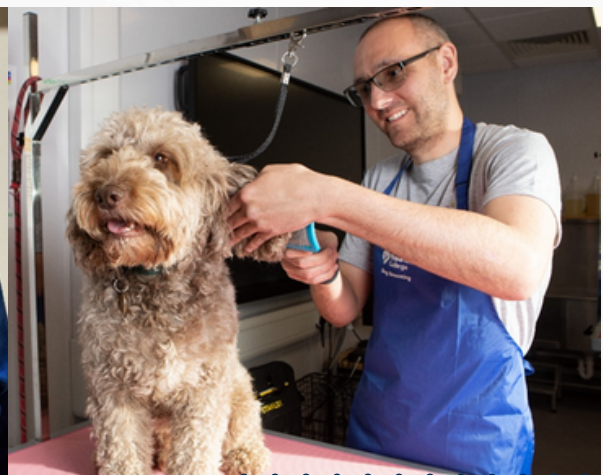
Heart of Yorkshire
Education Group

Group boosts adults' skills and job prospects with new courses

The Heart of Yorkshire Education Group is offering adults the opportunity to enhance their skills, retrain or move into employment with its latest range of adult courses.

Offering over 170 different part-time and online programmes, adults can train in a range of areas including Automotive, Business, Childcare & Early Years, Construction, Dental, Engineering, Health & Social Care, Hospitality & Catering, Sport, Teacher Training and much more.

For those interested in becoming a professional dog groomer in the animal care industry, the Group will deliver a Level 3 programme in Dog Grooming from September 2024 in its modern animal care facilities, at Wakefield College.



This will teach aspiring professionals key skills to be successful in a dog grooming environment, such as preparing and styling dogs, customer service, dog health checking and handling and health and safety.

The Group's new and enhanced offer also includes brand-new Skills Bootcamps in Construction Site Operatives, LGV Driving and Heat Recovery and Transfer, providing learners with the skills and knowledge to progress or move into a range of high-demand sectors.

The Group is also expanding its Access to Higher Education offer, as it launches Online Access programmes in Computer Science, Engineering and Health Science.

Its brand-new Online Access to Higher Education courses allow students to progress to university degrees in their chosen subject after one year of studying, without having to step foot in College.

Learners can also gain a recognised qualification from the comfort of their homes with the Group's vast range of Online Learning courses, which cover Business & Management, Childcare, Early Years & Childhood Studies and Health, Social Care & Wellbeing.

This includes a Level 2 in Understanding Retail Operations, which will enable learners to develop sector-specific knowledge in areas such as customer service, the selling processes within retail and much more.

Sam Wright, Principal and Chief Executive at the Heart of Yorkshire Education Group, said: "Whether you want to upskill, retrain or do something fun, education has the power to unlock so many opportunities. We understand that studying whilst working or raising a family can be a challenge, which is why we aim to make learning flexible through our range of part-time, online and short courses. We work also closely with local and national employers to ensure our programmes provide our learners with the knowledge and skills that are highly sought in the labour market, enabling them to successfully progress onto employment or into newly developed roles, such as green jobs."

The Group also offers a range of short courses in garment making, floristry, photography, music production and more, which are a perfect way to start a new hobby or try something fun.

This comes as former Level 2 Floristry student Caroline Poskitt was recently awarded a Special Commendation for Entrepreneurial Skills at the West Yorkshire Learners Awards 2024, held at the Civic Hall in Leeds.

The award recognises the sheer determination Caroline has put into creating her own floristry shop, Anthophilia Flowers by Caroline Poskitt – which is a unique and bespoke flower stall based in The Glass Works Barnsley Market.

Caroline said: “Studying floristry is the best thing I’ve ever done. I learnt some amazing floristry skills and met some lovely people. The course gave me confidence in all aspects of basic floristry, including finances, costing of materials and profit. Changing my career path and entering education again later in life certainly took me out of my comfort zone, but I’m so pleased that I did it. It feels so good to wake up every single morning and go to the business I have created, and that this is my life now.”



Askham Bryan College wins at North Yorkshire Apprenticeship Awards

At the North Yorkshire Apprenticeship Awards, Askham Bryan students won:

- Intermediate Apprentice of the Year: Ellie Pilbrow was runner up with a 'highly commended' certificate.
- Agricultural Apprentice of the Year: Tara Patchett won this award.
- Will Edkins received a 'highly commended' certificate in this category.
- Also to note, Garent Jenkinson and Sam Ellis were extremely well deserved nominees competing in 2 very tough categories. Well done to all the students!





Our new academy with Car Supermarket

Our Automotive Technologies Centre will house our newest academy partnership with a national car retailer and servicing company.

Car Supermarket, which has ten branches and two preparation centres, will use the academy to identify and nurture the next generation of automotive technicians, and those interested in a career in the industry.

We welcomed representatives from the business – established in Hull in 2001 – to officially open the branded academy room at the ATC, our £3.5 million state-of-the-art training centre at our Honeywell campus.

Car Supermarket Talent and People Manager Vanessa

Warrington said: “The College has great facilities and amazing talent coming through that will keep businesses like ours going forward. The equipment and EV area are fantastic and our room here looks absolutely superb.

“We’re always on the lookout for individuals that are going to fit well within our organisation. We’ve already interviewed a couple of apprentices here for one of our opportunities within the branch.”

Read more: <https://www.barnsley.ac.uk/our-new-academy-with-car-supermarket/>



Gateway Qualifications is now a live EPAO

We are excited to announce that Gateway Qualifications is now a live EPAO, offering end-point assessment for five apprenticeship standards, which include:

- Level 2 Customer Service Practitioner
- Level 3 Customer Service Specialist
- Level 3 Business Administrator
- Level 3 Team Leader or Supervisor
- Level 5 Operations or Departmental Manager
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We have listened to providers and researched the needs of the market, and our approach to EPA promises to be apprentice-centric, with an emphasis on fairness, transparency, and flexibility, whilst also meeting the rigorous standards set by industry and Ofqual.

Hannah Newman is our dedicated EPA specialist; do contact Hannah if you'd like to learn more about our EPA service:

hannah.newman@gatewayqualifications.org.uk

Alternatively, all information regarding our service can be found on the [new EPA section on our website](#).

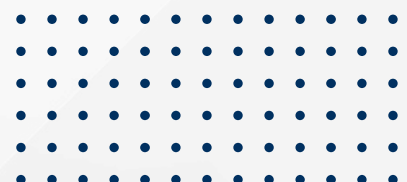
We welcome your questions and enquiries and look forward to supporting you with EPA very soon.



NBC MAKE THE LOCAL NEWS!


Following the fundraising events for Forget Me Not Children's Hospice by one of NBC's Business Administrator groups, the local Huddersfield Hub news website published an article showcasing the achievements.

Read more: <https://huddersfieldhub.co.uk/apprentices-put-learning-into-action-to-raise-money-for-forget-me-not-childrens-hospice/>





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