



# Lostsocks Newsletter

July/Aug 2010 lostsocks Newsletter

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## Further Cuts in Funding for learners aged 19+

As we predicted in our March issue, funding cuts for learners aged 19+ have already been made for the oncoming academic year, and further cuts are expected after the Comprehensive Spending Review on the 20th October. The Government has indicated that it expects employers to pay up to 50% of all training costs for learners in small businesses and a further 25% for businesses with over 1000 employees. To the best of our knowledge, this currently excludes schools and the National Health Service. The message is clear, however, that in future, employers will become more responsible for the cost of training their staff.

The Train 2 Gain programme has already been reduced this year and in the next academic year, there will be little funding for those wishing to do a second or higher qualification. Priority will revert to those who have not yet achieved a Level 2 qualification or 5 GCSEs at grade A–C.

**All those currently on programme will continue to be funded for the duration of their course.**

Here at Chiltern, we know our settings will not always be in the position to afford the training their staff may require and our policy is to support our employers and learners in any way we can, so please contact us to discuss your individual needs and we will work with you to reach the best compromise we can.

If you have any learners aged 19 or over for whom you will need training, please contact Sarah or Josie in our admissions team as soon as possible to discuss your needs for next year.

The budget for 16–18 year olds, remains untouched.....for the moment!!

## Baby Practitioners in our Reading Centre



Chiltern is delighted to welcome five very young members to our team - a set of digitally controlled life like baby dolls. The dolls are programmed to behave just like the real thing, including crying at the most inopportune moments, as our apprentice class found out recently. In addition to the dolls, we have also purchased a set of accessories, which includes carrying slings and even a very heavy and very lifelike 'baby bump'. The dolls have

been integrated into our curriculum for the teaching of the baby units and to date have been a huge success. Chiltern learners are learning how drugs and alcohol adversely affect an unborn foetus, to enable them to appreciate that a mother's actions during pregnancy can have permanent affects on the baby. To support the learners own personal development the college has purchased life-sized electronic baby mannequins that demonstrate the physical and behavioural signs of mothers having taken drugs and alcohol during pregnancy.

Our learners are also being given the opportunity to experience some of the physical demands and constraints of pregnancy through wearing a simulated 'bump'.



Learners have been taking off and putting on their shoes and socks; walking up two flights of stairs; lying on their backs then trying to get up; and standing still on the spot for 10 minutes; all whilst wearing the heavy 'bump'. Afterwards all learners were able to explain how pregnancy affects physical ability, agility and stamina and they were pleased to be able to take the 'bump' off and put it back in the box!

### Celebrate Success!

Attend our Presentation Ceremony on 20th July at Reading Town Hall and support the Teenage Cancer Trust

**Inside this issue:** Katy's Word, Learners trip to Thames Valley Adventure Park, The Budget, Achievers, e-Safety, library reminder, new charity news

*A note  
from  
Katy:*



As we approach the last few weeks of what will be the last term for many of our learners, we would like to thank the staff and managers in our settings for their continued support of our apprentices. This is always a tense time, when portfolios are due to be completed and the last assessment visit carried out. We have had an outstanding year to date, with success rates sitting at 93% for Train to Gain learners and 75% for our apprentices.

We have also successfully opened two new training centres in Swindon and Spalding and started training courses for Teaching Assistants, none of which we could have done without the continued support of our settings and their staff.

As the end of this academic year approaches, we have begun to self assess our performance - strengths and weaknesses and would be sincerely grateful for any feedback - negative and positive, and suggestions from learners and settings on how we can continue to improve the learning and courses we offer. To this end, your Training Co-ordinator will be asking for your personal contributions to our self assessment process.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing everyone a wonderful summer.

*Katy Edwards*

## Chiltern Learners enjoy a visit to Thames Valley Adventure Playground

On 8th June a group of 12 Advanced Apprentices from our Tuesday AA25 group visited the Thames Valley Adventure Playground in Taplow. The playground provides a safe and stimulating play environment for children and young people with physical or learning disabilities and sensory impairment.

Our Chiltern learners had fun experiencing the outdoor wheelchair-accessible roundabouts and swings, 'climbing' trees via the elevated walkways and clambering into bucket seats with safety harnesses to enjoy the thrill of whizzing down a zip wire. These exciting experiences gave our learners a real feel for how people with all types of special needs can enjoy the fun, freedom and friendship afforded by outdoor play. There were further learning experiences to engage the group indoors including the multi-sensory rooms, to stimulate and relax, as demonstrated by the specially-trained staff.

Our learners came away from the visit tired but with a very positive view of how play environments can be inclusive; enhancing and supporting their learning in Unit 007 on providing equal opportunities and creating enabling environments.

TVAP is a voluntary run organisation which provides a fantastically stimulating play environment for children and adults with special needs. Inside are multi-sensory rooms to stimulate and relax.

The Playground is an OFSTED-registered day-care facility, run by a voluntary Board of Trustees, with on-site care provided by 6 full-time and ten sessional staff, supported by a loyal band of volunteers.

Garry Warrington, Operations Director says "The greatest lesson we have learned over the years is never to underestimate the children - they continue to amaze us. Their resilience and willingness to try anything is truly an inspiration. As the children grow both physically and intellectually we continue to listen to them to find out about their changing needs and adapt our approaches and methods accordingly"

Running the Playground costs around £320,000 a year, with less than 5% of our income coming from Local Authority funding, despite supporting children from 10 counties, who last year made over 10,800 visits.

For further details on they work they do or how to become a volunteer, visit [www.tvap.co.uk](http://www.tvap.co.uk)



TVAP's aerial runway (zip wire) has a specially-adapted seat to enable even the most severely disabled child to enjoy the thrill of zooming down the 40 metre wire at full tilt and bouncing into the air at the far end - safely secured by the harness.

## Achievers for May/June

### What does the budget mean for you?

Budgets aren't always the most interesting topic of conversation, unless of course, it directly affects the money in your pocket or the wage you receive every week.

In June, the Government issued an "Emergency" budget to try to get our economy back on track and reduce the national debt. The Coalition Agreement between the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats

includes a long-term objective to take many low earners out of taxation by raising the starting point for income tax to £10,000. From 6 April 2011, the personal allowance will be raised by £1,000, significantly more than the usual inflationary rise, as a first step towards this aim.

### ***So what does that actually mean for me?***

At present, employers and employees both start to pay NIC when pay exceeds £110 per week. Everything you earn over that is taxed. The change to the threshold will mean that you don't have to pay tax or insurance until you earn £140 per week.

This won't happen until April of next year and in January of next year the VAT will rise from 17.5% to 20% and that means everything you buy, from clothes and shoes to DVDs or laptops, will go up in price by 2.5%. For example, a pair of shoes costing £29.99 will cost £30.62 and a laptop costing £499 will cost £510.

The one thing you can be sure of about a budget is that your chances of being genuinely better off, are extremely slim.

Go online and find out exactly what it means for you at:

<http://www.ft.com/indepth/uk-emergency-budget-2010/calculator>.

This automatically calculates how much better or worse off you will be as a result of the emergency June budget.

### Increased Flexibility:

Chelsie Davis– Reading Girls  
Charlie Bennett– Denefield  
Emma Stannard– Reading Girls  
Lilliana Martins– Reading Girls  
Janay Royden– Theale Green

### Apprentices

Michaela Brombley-Happitots  
Mica Prendergast– Goldilocks  
Jade Duff– Nuffield Health  
Natalie Mansell– Bracken Bears  
Emma Hawtree– Little Red Hen  
Joanne Gerdes Hanson– Woodlands  
Mehreen Saddique– Kiddies Cabin  
Sarah Atkinson– Our Lady's

Claire Allaway– Forbury

### Advanced Apprentices

Claire Hughes– Bees Knees  
Lydia Bateman– The Grange  
Samantha Douglas– Toad Hall  
Georgina Dixon– Bramleywood  
Kirsty Elmore– Little Dragons

### Level 2 NVO

Naheed Tahir– St John's Primary  
Sarah Alderman– Western Elms

### Level 3 NVO

Rachel Allen– Bishopswood  
Tameena Mahmood– New Bridge  
Natasha Rubio– Dickory Docks

### Level 2 Team Leading

Tina Bonney- Little Learners  
Rebecca Schaufler- Little Learners  
Coral Roper- Little Learners

Leanne Skelly– Tigers

Jade Shafi- Little Learners

Jagjeet Sandhu– Little Learners

### Level 3 Management

Anna Hurst- Just Learning

Emma Beach- Just Learning

### Level 4 NVO

Emma Doyle– Forbury

Siobhan Francis– Goldilocks

Louisa Wilshire– Little Rainbows

Rachel Hobbs– Dickory Docks

## e-Safety at Chiltern

At Chiltern, we embrace new technology and encourage the use of ICT to support learning. We also provide opportunities to get involved in our online community through forums, blogs and wall postings. We appreciate that although we aim to encourage young people to have fun with new technology, they also need to stay in control of the risks.

If you would like to find the latest information on the sites you like to visit, mobiles and new technology visit <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Find out what's good, what's not and what you can do about it.

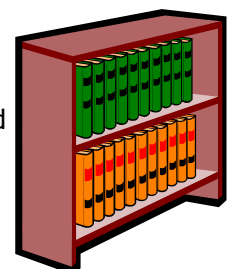
In college, we are offering group tutorials with films, games and discussions covering a range of issues from grooming by child sex offenders to cyber-bullying, plus advice on where to get support if you have any concerns.

If you have any eSafety concerns or would just like to talk to someone



### Reminder

All library books to be returned before the end of term. We currently have a long list of outstanding books - please check at home and either post, or bring them back.



## Chiltern Learners vote overwhelmingly to support The Teenage Cancer Trust

Every year, we nominate a local charity and raise money through raffles at our Presentation Evenings.

This year, however, we asked our learners to choose the charity to which they would like to donate and the Chiltern learners voted overwhelmingly in favour of the Teenage Cancer Trust.

The Teenage Cancer Trust is raising money to build a state-of-the-art unit at a recognised centre of excellence, the Royal Marsden Hospital. It will care for teenagers and young people with cancer from across the South East and parts of London, but it is a hugely expensive project and during this time of economic depression, they are relying heavily on donations to procure equipment for the unit.



### How our support could make a difference

**£10 means Harry Potter can help Hayley through her chemotherapy.** This could buy books or a DVD for one of our wards. A simple thing, but it can help distract and entertain a young person whilst they go through hours of drug therapy.

**£1,000 could help Adam forget about chemo for a couple of hours.** This could put a flat screen TV or music centre in one of our units which is vital for keeping young people entertained and out of bed and mixing with others.

**£1,500 means Amy doesn't have to spend her first night in hospital alone.** This could fund somewhere for relatives to sleep overnight, meaning young patients can have their mum, dad, partner or friend close by during this frightening time.

**£5,000 means Dan can inflict some heavy metal on the nurses.** Our digital juke boxes become the hub of our units. They encourage young people to get out of bed, chat, socialise and remember what it's like to be a teenager. £5,000 could put a juke box on one of our wards - though the nurses might not thank you for it!

SO COME ON CHILTERNERS - LET'S GO FOR THAT JUKE-BOX AND GET SELLING THOSE RAFFLE TICKETS, WALK THE WALK AND GET INVOLVED WITH OUR AUCTION OF PROMISES.

**LET'S DO IT!!!**

**Teenage Cancer Trust is one of five charities from around the world that has worked together to draw up the International Charter of Rights for Young People with Cancer. It's a global campaign and we need your help. Add your name and show you support the Charter at: [www.cancercharter.org](http://www.cancercharter.org)**

## Just diagnosed ?

If you have been told you have cancer, or someone you know has, you may be uncertain about what it all means and a bit scared. Finding out a bit more about it can really help.

Talking about things that are on your mind with a trusted friend or adult can be really useful. It can help you feel like you're not struggling with something on your own, and other people can often provide help or a new perspective that gives you support. This is as true about cancer as it is about other things.

Hearing from young people who have been affected by cancer can be a good way to better understand what it really means, and can also be a source of reassurance and support if you are going through a similar experience yourself.

**Teenage Cancer Trust  
93 Newman Street**

**London**

**W1T 3EZ**

**Tel: 020 7612 0370**