

HIGHER EDUCATION IN THURROCK



First Graduates Honoured!

Thurrock & Basildon College recently toasted the success of its newly graduated students at the London Barbican Centre.

The Graduation Ceremony at the Barbican was part of the University of East London Awards Ceremony and the Thurrock & Basildon College students were rewarded for their work on the BA Playwork & Youth Studies Programme at the College.

Thurrock & Basildon College's Vice Principal, Julia Spearman was delighted with the achievements of the students: "These students represent the very first of our Higher Education students to gain Degrees. The students were Nicola Clarke, Helen Dunne, Sally Rogers and Giles Trezies. College Student, Emily White, achieved a First Class Honours Degree.

Julia continued " These Degree awards really do represent the start of something very special for Thurrock & Basildon College Students."

Also awarded Degrees on the night were former Thurrock & Basildon College students who progressed to the University of East London to complete BAs in Education and Community Studies. The students were Tosin Anjolaiya, on the Thurrock & Basildon College BTEC National in Early Years and Jason Burr who gained a BA (Hons)

Education & Community Studies.

Martina Cole, a well-respected local novelist from Aveley, was awarded an Honorary Master of Letters at the ceremony.

All in all a very enjoyable evening and a night of great achievement for local people.



Students from Thurrock & Basildon College at the recent Degree Awards Ceremony at the Barbican London with, pictured far right—College Vice Principal, Julia Spearman

Stella Benton

*Thurrock Adult Community
College*

Stella Benton has lived in Grays for most of her life attending Little Thurrock Primary and then Torells Secondary School. Stella says "I left school with Maths, Biology and French in CSE and Cookery and Nutrition in GCE. I was accepted on the NNEB (National Nursery Examining Board) at College and embarked on my career in childcare working as a private nanny.

After raising my own family I returned to work and was employed by Thurrock Adult Community College to run the Crèche. I have recently completed an NVQ4 in Early Years Care and Education and have become an NVQ Assessor.

Higher Education has given me confidence and self-esteem, which I never experienced in school life. With the support and encouragement from senior staff at the college

and work colleagues I am going to continue my learning and take the next step into gaining an adult teaching and training qualification.



Work, Earn and Learn

*Thurrock & Basildon
College Student of the Year
Higher Education Award
Lorraine Keohane—Business
Studies*

Lorraine first attended College back in 1993 and was described at the time as a 'reluctant student'. She enrolled on the GNVQ Intermediate Business course and immediately struck up a rapport with both the teaching staff and her work placement company, Ilford Engineering, who were so pleased with her that they offered her a full-time post upon completion of her course.

Lorraine returned to the College part-time in 1996 to study Level 3 and then again in 1999 to begin a HNC business course.

Nearing the end of the HNC course Lorraine applied for a position with the Ford Motor Company – out of 33 hopefuls – five were chosen – and Lorraine was one of them!

Shortly after starting her new job, Lorraine returned to College again to enrol on the Higher National Diploma programme which she completed in 2002, to a very high standard, and on the way was also awarded Student of the Year .

Lorraine is due to complete a BA Hons in Business Management this year and is now being sponsored by Ford Motor Company.



*Nicky Henderson
Brett Harvey
Rotmi Akinyemiju
Kerry Hanson*

Father-of-two Nicky Henderson is currently following a family tradition of working on Tilbury Dock. Having already gained a BTEC National Diploma in his former employment as a trainee barrister's clerk, Nicky now plans to give his future career a specialist focus by gaining an **Honours Degree in Logistics.**

His first step was to enrol on the **Foundation Degree in Logistics and Transport, a new course offered by Thurrock & Basildon College in association with**

Anglia Polytechnic University.

This is a 2 year course, equivalent to the first 2 years of an Honours Degree, which is delivered via a series of Friday or Saturday workshops, e-mail and telephone tutor support, and workplace tutorials, thus enabling those in full time work to gain the qualification as quickly as students on traditional fulltime degree courses.

Joining him will be Brett Harvey, who with many years experience in the Logistics Industry is seeking a specialist qualification to give his career new impetus, Rotimi Akinyemiju, a Systems Team Manager at Tibbett and Britten, and Kerry Hanson who works for Nestle Water Coolers and at 20 is one of the youngest Foundation Degree students. Leaving school with GCSEs, Kerry now has a clear

career ambition, and embarks on her studies with the full support of her employer.

The Foundation Degree in Logistics and Transport enjoys the support of many local employers, not least the Port of Tilbury itself, a key player in establishing the new Academy of Logistics and Transport at the port. Employees continuing their degree studies include Steve Lyons who joined the Port a year ago as an Asset Manager, and Caroline Grant, who is embarking on her second year and has already found the course beneficial in learning about the Logistics Industry generally and in developing skills relevant to her new post as Logistics Co-ordinator at the Port. Caroline hopes to graduate next summer and plans a further year's study to attain an Honours degree.

What are Foundation Degrees?

The Foundation Degree is a new vocational higher education qualification which is just below the honours degree. Foundation Degrees will address the growing skills gap at associate professional and higher technician level.

It is predicted that there will be around 800,000 job vacancies at this level over the coming decade. Typical careers at this level include legal executives, engineering technicians, personnel officers, and teaching assistants.

This qualification is particularly well suited for upskilling existing employees since flexible delivery arrangements enable them to earn and learn at the same time. It also an ideal stepping stone for those wishing to go on to a full Degree.

Access to Higher Education

Diane Chadwick, teacher

From adult education to further education and higher education.

I left school without any formal qualifications. School education came at the wrong time for me. I was very shy and self-conscious and my exams made me so nervous I was unable to apply myself to them.

Without qualifications I found it very difficult to get a job that I enjoyed.

Years later, as a full-time mother, I found myself very bored. so I took a deep breath and decided I would try my hand at an O-level in Child Psychology. I couldn't believe it when I passed.

I thought I would continue my study

full-time. I had heard about an **Access to Higher Education course at Thurrock & Basildon College.**

While I was studying, I was also able to seek help to support my understanding of English and Maths, and study for an A-Level.

Before I knew it, I was on way to studying at the University of East London.

I have been working as a teacher for eight years now. I share my knowledge and experiences with 240 children and their families. I can't imagine any other job that can be so rewarding. The sense of achievement and job satisfaction I experience each time a child experiences success is very gratifying and reminds me how worthwhile my hard work and study was.

If you are determined to persevere,

people are willing to help.

I tell the children in my class the same thing. If you don't know, ask. If you still don't understand, keep asking and never give up.



What is an Access Course?

Access to HE is usually a year-long course which prepares adults (over 19) for entry to higher education (ie university or courses of a similar level).

Students need no previous qualifications as the course makes use of the skills they have

developed. Everyone studies a Common Core of Communications, Study Skills, Information Technology and Numeracy; specialist subjects, of which students follow three, are chosen from the following: English, Life Sciences and Health, History, Psychology, Social Studies and

Education. Access courses are available locally at Thurrock and Basildon College.

If you do not quite feel confident enough to go straight on to the full Access course, you can start by doing a pre Access course at Thurrock Adult Community College



*Local Access students and their tutors at Thurrock & Basildon College -
Next year's Higher Education Students*

Nowadays qualifications are graded as levels.

Level 4 is degree level. A wide range of Level 4 qualifications are on offer in Thurrock, which you can study part-time or full-time - and it is not just for 18 year olds. Large numbers of higher education students are mature and study when it suits them.

Some never thought they would ever study for a degree or higher level qualification, but by taking it step-by-step from entry to levels 1, 2 and 3 everyone can get there.

At Thurrock & Basildon College over 400 people are studying higher level courses in over 20 different programmes. These include Business, Information Technology, Electrical/Electronics Engineering for which the College has Centre of Vocational Excellence status (in partnership with Chelmsford College), various engineering programmes, Art & Design including Fashion with Textiles, Management Studies, Sport, Health and Exercise (in partnership with SEEVIC College), Certificate in Education and many others.

New programmes are always being developed to meet demand and new for 2004 is a Foundation Degree in Learning Support (in partnership with Thurrock Council Education Department) and a Foundation Degree in Early Years and Education.

Thurrock Learning Partnership works closely with Thurrock employers so that programmes can be developed to meet local needs. We know that many people like to study locally especially when they have family commitments.

KEY CONTACTS:

Thurrock Adult Community College
www.thurrock.gov.uk/adultcollege

01375 372476

Thurrock & Basildon College
www.tab.ac.uk

0845 601 5746

Palmer's College
www.palmers.ac.uk

01375 370121

Anglia Polytechnic University
www.anglia.ac.uk

01245 490835

Free Careers Guidance Interviews (Adults)
www.thurrocklearningpartnership.org.uk

0800 169 7002

Connexions (under 19)
www.estconnexions.co.uk

01375 413735

THURROCK LEARNING PARTNERSHIP—Working together for you

Partners:

- Anglia Polytechnic University
- Connexions
- Government Office-East
- Jobcentreplus
- Link-Ed Consortium
- Palmer's College
- Private Sector Training Providers
- Thurrock Association of Schools and Colleges
- Thurrock Adult Community College
- Thurrock & Basildon College
- Thurrock Business Forum
- Thurrock Council
- Thurrock Council for Voluntary Service
- Thurrock District Association of Industries
- Thurrock Libraries and Cultural Services
- Thurrock Primary Care Trust
- Thurrock Youth and Play Service