

MIDLAND COMMUNITY
EDUCATION &
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PARTNERSHIP WITH;



ABOVE: Tea and scones!

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MCET Newsletter



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

DATE: JANUARY 2006

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Dedication and Commitment is the Key



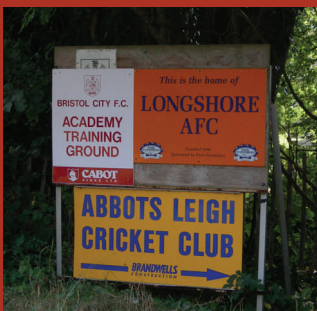
Above: Meeting other student and talking about your own experiences, develop your own social skills

Below : Local primary schools were introduced to "SafeMan" the road safety hero of the Midlands:



Cost Cutting

Bristol City FC a Championship football team, add new meaning to cost cutting in football



Robeena Kouser, at 34 year of age has proved with dedication, commitment and lots of enthusiasm, that anything is achievable and that dreams 'might just come true' "even old ones".

Robeena, who was born in Pakistan, worked as a teacher in a Government backed school, teaching youngster of various ages. But all this came to an end, when the opportunity to get married and come to Britain presented itself.

Having been married and now with a lovely one year old daughter called "Horiya" that parental feeling that you must create a better future for your child was becoming stronger, but finding work for a young Asian woman can be very difficult in a country that can have many obstacles.

With her previous experience in teaching, that dream of teaching again started to burn from within. She decided to enquire and apply for teaching jobs, and was shocked to find that the qualifications and experience she acquired in Pakistan counted for nothing.

At the time I assume Robeena was very upset,

but having talked to her, she seems theosophical about the whole thing, a topic that can be saved for another day.

In September this year 'Robina Kouser' made an enquiry with her husband at 'Midland Community Education & Training Ltd', MCET for short and for me and all the staff at MCET, this was the beginning.

Robeena had to start from scratch! Her initial assessments for English and Maths was at 'entry Level 3' so dreams of teaching again could not be any further away, than they were at that time. We enrolled her onto 'Basic Skills Program' in English, this covered; 'Speaking & Listening, Reading and Writing' and all this was to gain a 'level 1' qualification in literacy.

From that first enrolment, she came Monday for a couple of hours, then Tuesday, for a couple of hours, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and this became her normal routine. The staff and I could only look on and admire her will to succeed, that never give up, and I will not be beaten attitude, which motivates everybody. She continued with this routine, completing course, after course,

after course, until the day she was taking her 'Level 2, OCR National Literacy Test' a GCSE equivalent to A to C grades.

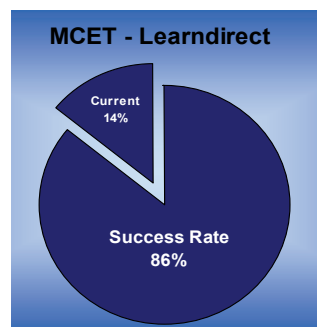
After finishing her test, there was a nervy wait, while we waited for the results to be downloaded from OCR website. And that moment when the student sees the word 'PASS' has no words that you can speak, just feeling that only the student knows.

A while after, Robeena spoke about, how delighted she was to gain a qualification, and said! *"I hope and pray that one day Pakistan and other third world countries around the world will have higher standard of education, which will be acceptable in any country, that anyone wishes to stay and work in. I am thankful to MCET Centre staff who had given me a chance to study, so that I could keep on improving my skills to be independent and self-sufficient"*.

Now she's completed her literacy, she's in the process of completing her numeracy, once this has been achieved, the program of teacher training stage 1 and 2 followed by CERT-ED will begin.

Building on Success

The partnership between MCET Ltd and Learndirect is proving to be successful for both parties and the local community, with total course enrolment from January 2005 till July 2005, up on the previous academic year. The figures prove that there is a great need for 'skills for life' courses within the community and that the targets set by the Government, that everybody should attain a 'level 2 in Adult Literacy and Numeracy' is achievable.



Community Training is Growing



Walk to success

Chhaya Shah, was born in 1959, and as a young woman, had to leave India to join her husband before she had the opportunity to complete her degree, a situation that a lot of young women found themselves in, back in the day.

In the early days Chhaya found it difficult to settle down, a new environment, climate, customs and the fact Black and Asian communities were not as they are today, made settling down all the more difficult. Having no immediate family and friends close at hand, can make 'dark times', 'darker' and having no job makes integrating and finding new friends all the more difficult.

Over the coming years "Mr & Mrs Shah" had three children; two boys and one girl, and while Chhaya was looking after the children "a full time job in itself" Mr Shah was working to support all five of them.

As the years passed and the youngest was old enough too go to nursery, Chhaya was able to get a part time job as a dinner supervisor, "not the best of wages, but it always helps in a family situation" and the fact that you meet new people should not be forgotten. But Chhaya, like most people has the desire, that's deep inside everybody to improve! "It does not matter what field of life you are in or level of education, everything no matter how trivial, can improve".

A friend of Chhaya, a "Mrs Parmar" informed her that 'MCET Ltd' a 'LearnDirect centre', can help her develop new and improve her everyday skills in Literacy and Numeracy, and with a bit of work even gain a qualification at the same time.

In September 2005, Chhaya came to MCET Ltd, situated in Moseley and enrolled on some literacy courses. Chhaya started at entry 'level 3' and worked her way through to the point where she was able to take her 'National Literacy Level 2 Test', but sadly the result was not the desired one, but Chhaya just smiled, came back the next day and started practicing for the retake. "Anybody who

can react and respond the way Chhaya did, deserves any success that may come there way". She has shown that age is not a barrier, that it's not too late to change and that success can come out of adversity.

**MCET
offered
me
great
support**

Chhaya Said! "I had received great support and help from MCET centre staff, who had explained the use of mouse, keyboard and the icons which open up the programs. The staff was kind and always there to help me achieve my goal. For so many years, I wasn't able to gain a qualification that could have improved my chances of getting a better job, but thanks to MCET staff it maybe possible one day to change all that."

Chhaya is continuing her learning and has enrolled onto 'numeracy' courses, and I'm sure with that same spirit she showed in her 'literacy' she will achieve the same outcome.

Rewards! Means a lot



Expansion on the Horizon

MCET Ltd are currently providing courses from two venues; Birmingham Central Mosque in Highgate (left) and The Thistles in Moseley, Birmingham (right). In 2006 MCET Ltd plan to expand and develop centres providing the same services in Small Heath and the bordering areas of Acocks Green and Fox Hollies



Second Time Around: “Local Girl Coming Good”

Farzana Kauser, born in Birmingham in 1979, and like most children, who are born in Britain, had the opportunity to learn and take advantage of the educational facilities, that are available to every child that's born in this country.

Like most children who grow up in this country, “I myself included” never understood what has been made accessible to me. The facts ‘are or were’ in my case; the world was made available, and I didn’t know it. Knowledge, you could say is the key and how you use it is entirely up to you!

Like most young Asian girls of her generation Farzana got married young, and over a short period of time she had four children ‘three girls and a boy’ who she loves, as all mothers love their children.

Back in April 2005, Farzana enrolled with us at MCET Ltd, she took her Initial Assessment and was enrolled onto “Word Skills Check” but this initial spell with MCET did not prove to be successful. Unexpected results, creates lack of confidence, therefore the student does

not attend and despite our phone calls there seemed to be no immediate way of getting her back to the centre to continue her learning.

Several months later, an unexpected student arrived to continue there learning! It was Farzana and I would like to think she came back because she was better prepared, plus it was also the right time for her to continue.

Farzana started where she left off, and resumed her “Word Skills Check” where she was working between ‘Level 1 and Level 2’ not bad you would think, but for a girl with a lot of pride she expects more from herself. The ‘word skills check’ highlighted the areas of weakness and she was then enrolled on courses that are designed to help her improve on those areas of weakness.

After a relatively short period of time ‘Farzana’ was in a position to take her ‘Level 1 in Literacy’ assignment, which she approached with a great deal of care. Each question carefully read and thoughtfully answered, “Advice that I would give to anybody who’s taking any type of exam”. With Farzana approach you could see that her



chances of success were greater than you would normally predict in a student, and yes, it was the case, she passed with flying colours, 36 out of 40 is something to be proud of.

With confidence at its peak she quickly moved through the level 2 syllabus and was ready for her “Level 2 literacy test” and again her result of 38 out of 40 showed the high standard of work she had set for herself. Farzana has now moved onto her ‘numeracy’ and if she adopts the same approach I’m sure she will be just as successful.

Congratulations to ‘Farzana’ from all the staff at MCET Ltd

Midland Community Education & Training

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Birmingham, B12 0XS

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Fax: 0121 440 6541

OPENING TIMES

Mon-Fri: 10.30am - 6.00
Sat-Sun: 11.30am - 5.30

The Thistles

1 College Road
Birmingham, B13 9LS

Phone: 0121 777 8009

Mob: 07929 976 606

Fax: 0121 777 9877

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Mon - Fri: 9.00am - 9.00

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