

# ADULT AND COMMUNITY LEARNING

## CREATING OPPORTUNITY AND CHANGING LIVES

– a statement from our  
Principal



*“The college mission is ‘creating opportunity, changing lives’ and by that we mean that we aim to create ladders of educational opportunity no matter the previous achievement of our students and we add value to the economic and social lives of our students through the power of high quality education, training and skills development.*

*Our work with adult and community learning enables the college to engage learners who we would not otherwise encounter. For many it is the start of their learning journey and it is fantastic to see individuals being engaged through our community provision as they grow in confidence, go on to access further learning or employment or simply live more enriched lives through the benefits that learning affords.”*



**Peter McCann**

Principal and chief executive  
Kirklees College



## Help us reach more people for whom learning might be a life changing opportunity

Kirklees College offers a wide range of courses and projects to engage adults and families across its local community. We work closely in collaboration with over 60 community partners, each academic year, in order to ensure that our offer is the best fit for the needs of Kirklees' communities.

However, we have a vision to widen participation further

than ever before and change the lives of the people who need it most through accessing learning opportunities in their communities. If you are involved with any community based organisation, school or venue in Kirklees that shares our vision for enriching the lives of adults and families then please get in touch to discuss how we could most effectively work together.

## Learning for LIFE NOW

Our work in the community is divided into seven key themes:

- Language, English and maths
- IT and digital courses
- Family learning
- Employability
- Neighbourhood cohesion and culture
- Organisation, group and volunteer training
- Wellbeing

## Language, English and maths

English and maths are vital for being able to function effectively in today's world and progress with learning and employment. The college offers accredited ESOL, English and maths courses at its sites and a number of satellite centres.

In addition to this we can offer the following short courses:

- Basic English
- Basic maths
- ESOL (non-accredited)
- Creative writing
- Spell with confidence
- Managing money
- Punctuation
- Grammar
- Rules of number
- English confidence and conversation
- Languages in your community (various)

## IT and digital courses

Being IT literate is becoming increasingly crucial for running a home, communicating with friends and colleagues, using services and accessing further learning or employment.

The ACL team can offer a range of courses both at college campuses and in the community. We have laptops, tablets and a portable internet hub that allow us to run classes from any location. However, we would also be keen to make use of any IT facilities that partners can offer.

Courses include:

- Beginner IT
- Computer assisted language learning
- Using tablets
- Internet safety (including Prevent Agenda)
- Social media
- Buying and selling online

## Family learning

We can offer a wide range of courses for families, some that aim to give parents, grandparents and carers the skills they need in order to play a more active role in their child's learning and some which simply provide an activity for parents and children to participate in together. Family learning courses typically run from schools and children's centres but we would love to meet with any community organisation that works with families in order to advise which courses might be suitable or plan a bespoke project in partnership.

Family learning courses include, but are not limited to:

- Get ready for school
- Story sacks
- Letters and sounds
- Family English
- Family maths
- Family ESOL
- Creative writing
- Family IT
- Internet safety
- Raspberry Pi
- Healthy cookery
- Family wellbeing
- Family first aid (non-accredited)
- Art and craft
- Singing

## Employability

One of our main drivers is to work with learners as they search for employment. Our courses aim to develop the skills individuals need in order to complete a successful job search or give them an introductory taste of a range of sectors.

Courses include:

- Enterprise and self employment
- CV writing
- Interview skills
- Communication skills for employment
- Food hygiene
- First aid
- Health and safety
- Teaching assistant
- Child care
- Health and social care
- Customer service
- Travel and tourism



## Neighbourhood cohesion and culture

Within this area of our work we do not offer a range of 'off the shelf' courses as we recognise that the needs of one community will be very different to the next. Rather, we offer a service that will work with community partners in order to devise bespoke projects. These may include:

- Establishing community groups around a particular interest, for example helping a community form an arts group or choir.
- Facilitating co-produced community projects in which

community members help to plan and deliver a course, an event or develop something new such as a community new letter.

In order to develop these projects, the college draws on its expertise in:

- Managing committees
- Managing volunteers
- Working with community groups and organisations
- Working with schools
- A wide range of vocational and creative subjects

## Organisation, group and volunteer training

Not only does the college offer a range of opportunities for volunteers to support our work, we are also able to train volunteers to work in a range of other sectors.

Current programmes on offer include:

- IT Buddy Volunteer
- Wiseminds Volunteer (this our project that provides learning for people who experience mild to moderate mental health problems)
- School Volunteer

We would also look to work with community partners in order to develop bespoke programmes for volunteer roles or those that manage them.



## Wellbeing

Whilst all our courses have been proven to enrich people's lives as they gain confidence through learning, we also offer a range of courses that directly address various aspects of health and wellbeing, including:

- Wellbeing
- Five ways to wellbeing
- Confidence building
- Assertiveness
- Managing stress
- Meditation and relaxation
- Mindfulness
- Healthy eating and nutrition



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q

Who can attend these courses?

A

Learners need to be 19 years old or over (other than on family learning courses where we can enrol younger learners who would benefit from attending).

We aim to work with learners who will benefit most from accessing these courses and as such we prioritise:

- Those with limited prior learning
- Job seekers
- Those who experience mild to moderate mental health problems

Q

How long do courses last?

A

Courses typically run for five weeks at two hours per week. However, we endeavour to work flexibly in order to meet the needs of our community partners.

We often find that running taster sessions ahead of courses is an effective way to engage learners.

Q

How much do courses cost?

A

Courses that fall within our priority themes which are laid out above are free of charge to all eligible learners.

Q

How many people need to be in a class?

A

In order for a class to run we would typically need to engage a minimum eight learners.

There may be some flexibility in this where a piece of work is considered high priority or a course needs time to gather momentum.

Q

What do I do if I want to plan a course for my centre or community?

A

Enquiries can be emailed to **[ACE@kirkleescollege.ac.uk](mailto:ACE@kirkleescollege.ac.uk)**

Or alternatively you may want to contact one of our community development team:

Kirsten Hunter (South Kirklees)  
**[KHunter@kirkleescollege.ac.uk](mailto:KHunter@kirkleescollege.ac.uk)**  
**01484 437150**

Helen Jones (North Kirklees)  
**[HelenJones@kirkleescollege.ac.uk](mailto:HelenJones@kirkleescollege.ac.uk)**  
**01924 423893**