



ADULT LEARNING
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE



Inspiring Learning, Changing Lives

Buckinghamshire Adult Learning
Annual Report 2017-2018



Strategic Objectives

Our aim at Buckinghamshire Adult Learning is to provide inclusive learning opportunities to promote wellbeing and inspire people living or working in Buckinghamshire to achieve their potential. We strive to work to the following values and strategic objectives:

Ambitious

Education in Buckinghamshire is inclusive, exciting and aspirational; it inspires a lifelong love of learning. It delivers positive outcomes, in achievement, skills, progress and ambition for every child, young person and adult.

Inclusive

Children, young people and adults feel safe, valued and happy: they are resilient and empowered to overcome disadvantage and fulfil their individual potential. Families feel valued, supported and engaged in their children's and their own education.

Collaborative

The educational system is collaborative and self-improving, with all partners sharing a collective responsibility for all.

“Buckinghamshire has a reputation for great education and has good and outstanding practice on which to build for the future.”

Mike Appleyard, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Principal's Report

Welcome

We are pleased to present our report for 2017-2018. Buckinghamshire Adult Learning remains a strong provider with talented staff, excellent learning facilities and extensive local partnerships supporting our diverse body of learners. Our education programmes continue to have a tangible and lasting impact on all of our learners' lives. We are governed by Buckinghamshire County Council and support them to deliver the key priorities specified in Buckinghamshire's Education and Skills Strategy:

- Equipping people with the knowledge, skills and experience to thrive in a modern economy
- Addressing widening skills gaps by supporting lifelong learning
- Increasing the number of apprenticeships at all levels
- Inspiring a lifelong love of learning.

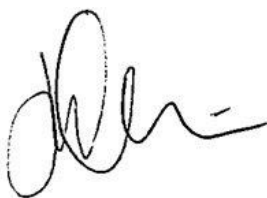
Outcomes for our learners in 2017-2018 were outstanding and our overall learner achievement rate is 91.5% which is above the national rate of 85.9%. We have worked with 5634 learners throughout the year across a broad range of courses. 94.6% of these learners who started courses with us completed and 93% of learners surveyed by Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) said they would recommend us to a friend or family member.

Learners on our Adult Skills courses often continue to learn over a number of years and levels. Improving their communication, English and mathematics skills provides them with valuable skills to be able to thrive. Our GCSE results in this area are outstanding; our learners' results were 31.2% above the national rate for mathematics and 19.9% above the national rate in English.

We have offered 763 different Community Learning courses across the county in a number of Adult Learning Centres and off-site locations. In addition to the educational benefit of attending our classes, 99% of our learners recognised at least one other benefit including personal, social, health and well-being.

Our apprenticeship numbers have grown by 19% throughout the year. Working with Buckinghamshire's businesses we play a role in developing the talent of their employees to sustain and improve their employment opportunities. 85% of apprentices who completed their programmes with us remain in full-time employment.

All of our improvements were made possible by the dedication and sustained commitment of our well-qualified staff as well as community and public sector partners. We thank you for your continued support and belief in the power of adult learning to change lives.



**Jackie Wilson, Principal,
Adult and Community Learning**





“Excellent course.
Knowledgeable
and patient tutor.
Great opportunity
to learn new skills and
try equipment for
the first time.”

OPPORTUNITY

9551 Enrolments

5304 Learners

330 Apprenticeships

34% Ethnic Minority

18% Learners with learning disability/difficulty

23% Male

77% Female

82.4% Adult Skills Qualification

95.1% Community Learning Achievement

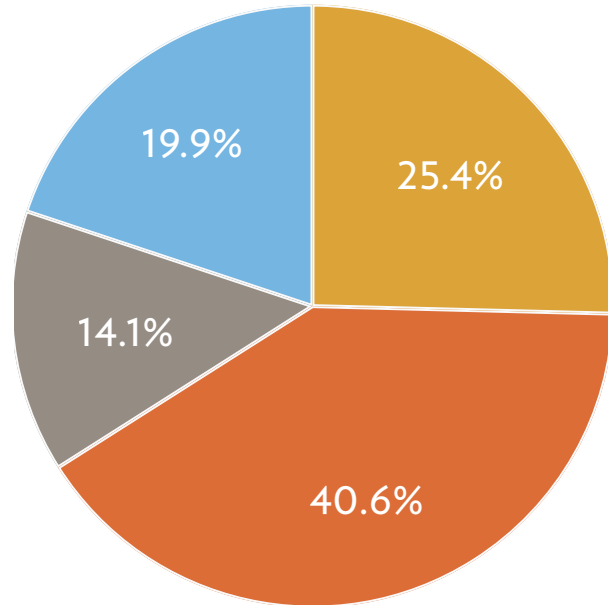
86.8% Adult Skills Retention

93.2% National Learner Satisfaction Score

85% Community settings

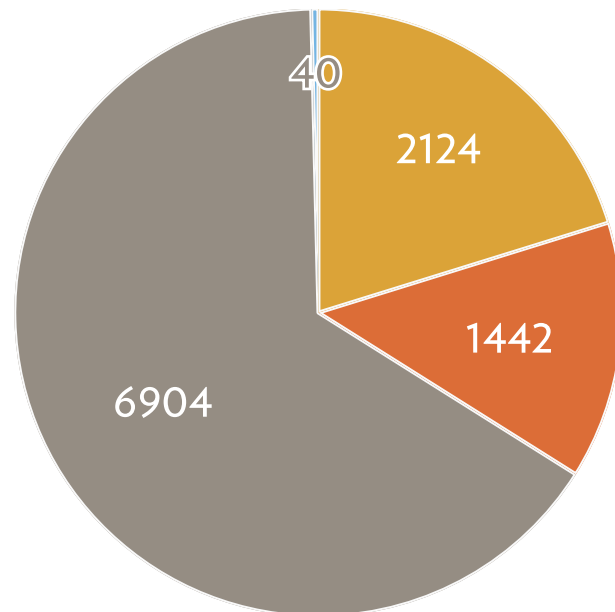
76% Daytime learners

24% Evening learners



Our Income

- Adult Education Budget Funding
- Community Learning
- Apprenticeships
- Fees



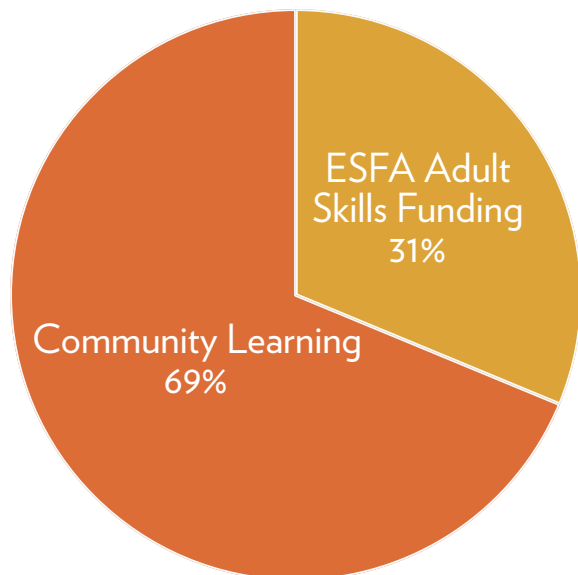
Enrolments by Fee Category 17/18

- Fully funded
- Co-funded
- Community Learning
- Non-funded

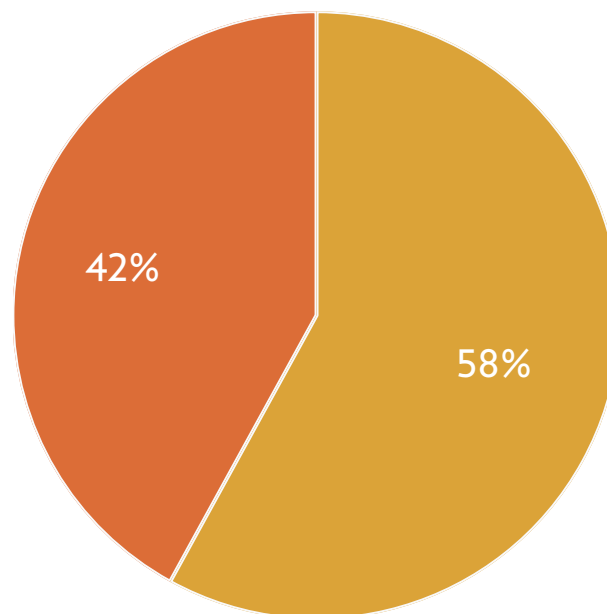
We were funded by:



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

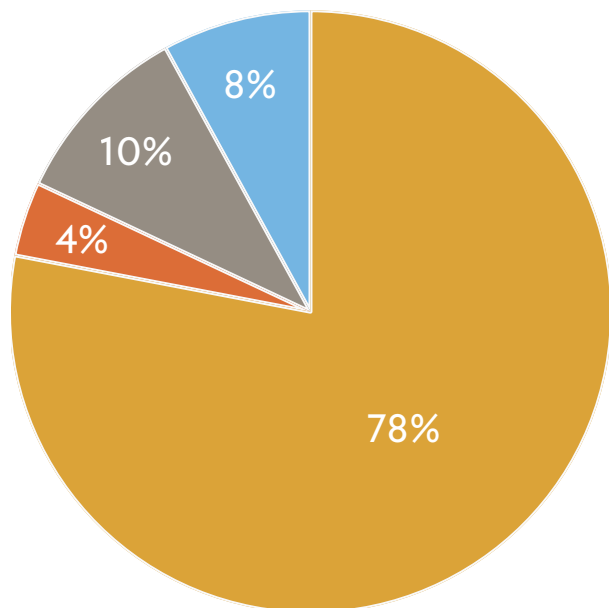


- Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Adult Skills Funding
- Community Learning



New vs Returning Learners

- New learners
- Returning learners



Community Learning learners by provision type

- Personal and community development (PCDL)
- Neighbourhood learning in deprived communities (NLDC)
- Wider Family Learning (WFL)
- Family, English, maths and language (FEML)

Adult Skills Achievement

The qualification achievement rates for our learners in 2017/18 was 82.4%

	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	National rate 2016-17
Enrolment numbers	2654	2668	2475	
Retention rate %	86.8%	89.2%	89.3%	92.5%
Achievement rate %	82.4%	83%	83.7%	86.9%

Community Learning Achievement

Overall achievement rate for Community Learning in 2017/18 was 95.1%.

	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Enrolment numbers	7009	8090	9603
Retention rate %	97.5%	98.1%	98%
Achievement rate %	95.1%	96.5%	96.6%

Adult Skills Destinations (as at October 2018)	Learners	%
Full Time Employment	361	31%
Self Employed	16	1%
Part Time Employment	54	5%
Full Time Education	73	6%
Higher Education	13	1%
Part Time Education	140	12%
Supported Internship	4	0%
Unemployed	202	17%
Economically Inactive	107	9%
Found Voluntary Work	7	1%
Social Destination	1	0%
Destination Unknown	185	16%
Total	1163	100%

86.5% of our staff members are proud to work for Buckinghamshire Adult Learning

When asked what our strengths were, members of staff said:

Great learning opportunities and all-round support offered to learners. Great support and development opportunities for tutors within a pro-active and friendly framework.

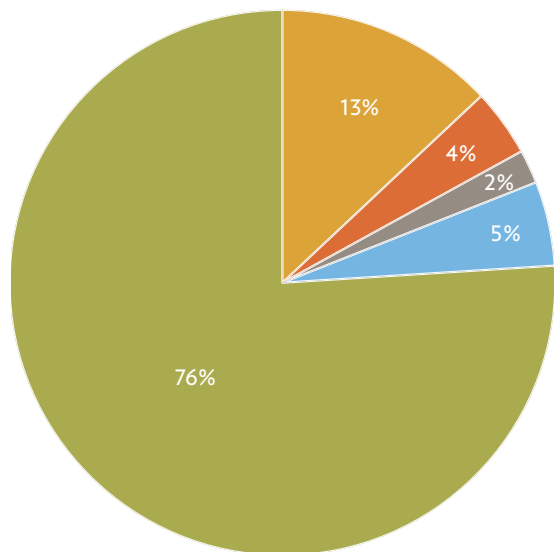
Excellent courses for learners. A fantastic group of people to work with.



Overwhelmingly, learners are positive about their learning and take much pride in their progress. Most learners develop high levels of confidence and self-belief in their own achievements.

Ofsted Report, November 2015

CONFIDENCE

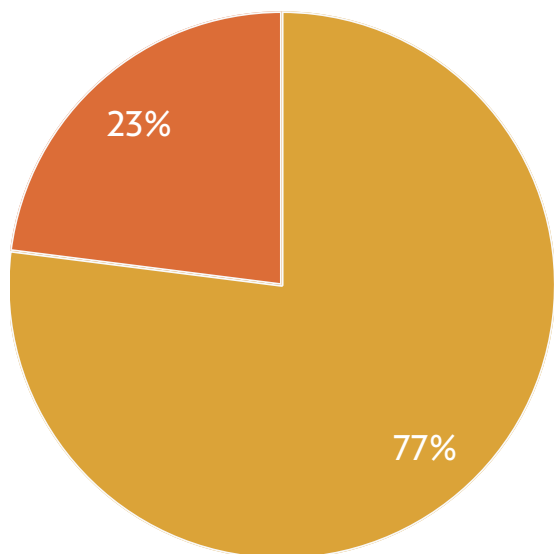


Ethnic Groups

- Asian/Asian British
- Black
- Mixed
- Other
- White

Age Group

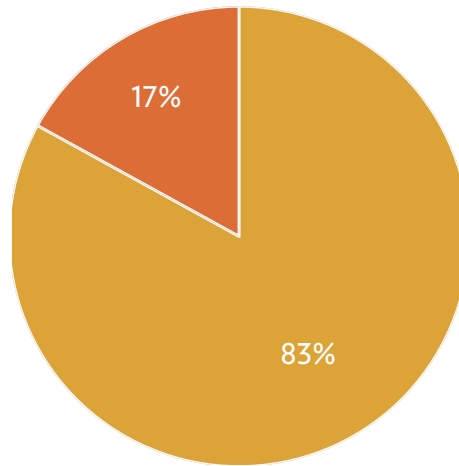
16-18	1%
19-23	4%
24-34	18%
35-44	19%
45-54	17%
55-64	22%
65-74	14%
75+	6%



Gender

- Female
- Male

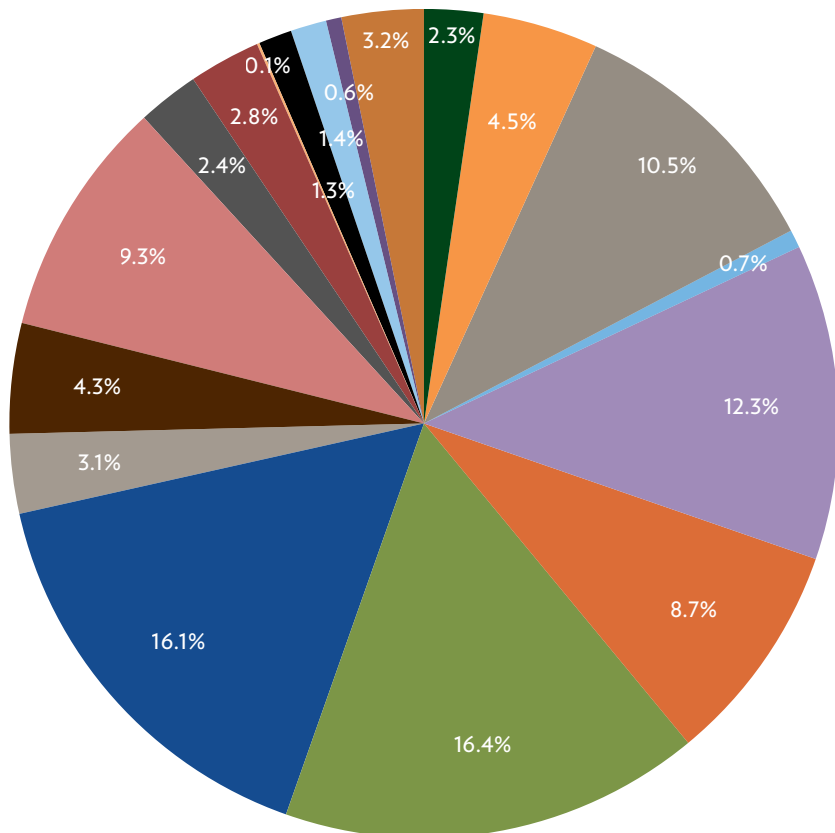
Proportion of learners with learning difficulties or disabilities



- No learning difficulty or disability
- Learners declaring a disability or learning difficulty (broken down below)

Programmes for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities or low prior educational attainment are particularly effective.

Ofsted Report, November 2015



- 2.3% Aspergers syndrome
- 4.5% Autism spectrum disorder
- 10.5% Disability affecting mobility
- 0.7% Dyscalculia
- 12.3% Dyslexia
- 8.7% Hearing impairment
- 16.4% Mental health difficulty
- 16.1% Moderate learning difficulty
- 3.1% Other disability
- 4.3% Other learning difficulty
- 9.3% Other medical condition (for example epilepsy, asthma, diabetes)
- 2.4% Other physical disability
- 2.8% Other specific learning difficulty
- 0.1% Profound complex disabilities
- 1.3% Severe learning difficulty
- 1.4% Social and emotional difficulties
- 0.6% Temporary disability after illness (for example post-viral) or accident
- 3.2% Visual impairment

Support for learners who need extra help is highly effective. Purposeful deployment of specialist staff and volunteers supports a wide range of learners' additional needs.

Ofsted Report, November 2015

Apprenticeships

What our apprentices have said:

“I really liked learning how I can implement techniques and skills into my daily job and dealing with issues that might arise with the team. I feel more confident in dealing with team members in a management capacity. I would highly recommend this course as it has given me a great starting point for a management role - in fact I have had a promotion on the back of this!”

“The highlight of my apprenticeship was the workshops and getting to know the other apprentices. I learnt a lot about myself and my own working style which helped in building my confidence. My plan now is to complete the Business Admin L3 apprenticeship and I hope to get a distinction. I worked on the National Apprenticeship week social media project and the Bucks Innovation summit where we had to present ideas for the special education needs department and the ideas presented are actually going ahead. The biggest obstacle was overcoming my confidence issues”.

“The highlight was gaining experience in different departments and being offered a full time job. I plan to stay at Buckinghamshire County Council and may consider a Level 4 in the future. Would recommend doing an apprenticeship to anyone”.

Employers we have worked with include:

Anglo Dutch

Aspire

Aylesbury Vale District Council

Buckinghamshire County Council (Schools, Social Care, Corporate)

Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service

Citytalk Communications

Everyday Loans

The Freemantle Trust

Gearhouse Communication

June Medical

Meadowcroft Surgery NHS

Medical Supermarket

Paradigm Housing

Ringway Jacobs

Royal Masonic School

Youd Andrews

Wilkins Solicitors

Wycombe District Council

Partnerships

We work closely with a number of partners:

- Adviza - Building Futures and National Careers Service
- Buckinghamshire Family Information Service
- Buckinghamshire Libraries
- Bucks Mind
- Carers Bucks
- Chiltern Wood Recycling Centre
- Department of Work and Pensions
- Highcrest Academy
- Hiya Bucks Magazine
- JobCentrePlus
- Millbrook Combined School
- Movers and Shakers
- National Trust
- One Recovery Bucks
- Oxford Health – including the Recovery College
- Red Kite Housing including their Job Club
- Restore Hope
- Street Associations
- Terriers & Totteridge News
- Thomas Harding Junior School
- Thomas Hickman School
- The Oasis Trust
- Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust including their Job Club
- Wycombe Arts Centre

“I would like to thank everyone that helped with these workshops. And even though attendance was low I know that certain residents have gained so much. One in particular who finds it hard to leave his room and suffers with poor mental health. Attending the workshops has been a big step forward for him”

YMCA

“Buckinghamshire Adult Learning staff treats everyone as individuals and they take into account all health conditions presented. They have made it possible for them to attend and complete courses that customers would otherwise struggle with. They are solution focussed in that they also create valuable learning sessions tailored to meet our customers’ needs which is a resource that ultimately enables individuals to move closer to employment”

JobCentrePlus

“Throughout this accreditation assessment against the Matrix Standard, Buckinghamshire Adult Learning has demonstrated its commitment to providing outstanding support for its learners throughout their learning journey”

Matrix: the quality standard for information, advice & guidance services. July 2016.

Adult Learner of the Year Awards 2018

We held our annual Adult Learner of the Year Awards in June 2018. Mike Appleyard, Member for Education and Skills and Sarah Callaghan, Director of Education at Buckinghamshire County Council presented certificates to 28 learners, 29 tutors and Learning Support Assistants and 11 volunteers.

The Adult Learner of the Year Award was presented to Leia Oxley, an English and mathematics GCSE learner. Jill Organ was awarded Tutor of the Year. Jill is an English tutor who has taught English for Buckinghamshire Adult Learning for eight years.

Learning Support Assistant of the Year was awarded to Shelley Parry who has worked for Buckinghamshire Adult Learning for seven years on a number of courses for Adults with Learning Disabilities and/or Difficulties.

Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Liz Dack who volunteers in an Art class for Adults with Learning Disabilities.

Also recognised on the night were two City & Guilds Medal for Excellence winners in the student category: Patricia Wallington for Floral Design and Sarah Nicholson for Design & Craft, Stitched Textiles, Patchwork and Quilting. Tutor Janice Gunner was also recognised for her tutor medal award for Patchwork and Quilting.

Adult Learner of the Year Nominees



Adult Learner of the Year Awards Winners 2018



Highlights of the Year

Autumn Term 2017

Start of the 2017-2018 Academic Year

Over 3400 learners enrolled on their part-time courses with us for the new academic year 2017-2018. Courses included Apprenticeships, Community Outreach, English, Mathematics, ESOL, Family Learning, Adults with Learning Disabilities and Difficulties and Learning for Personal Development.

Quarrendon Opening Event

The new Quarrendon Adult Learning Centre in Aylesbury officially opened its doors on Thursday 26 October, with a ribbon cutting ceremony and cake cutting by the Chairman of Buckinghamshire County Council, Patricia Birchley. The new centre had new windows and doors, low energy lighting and a new heating system installed as well as new toilets. There are five flexible classrooms including an ICT suite and a kitchen classroom. All classrooms have a smart TV and Wi-Fi is available throughout the centre. Learners, tutors, LSAs, volunteers and staff from Buckinghamshire Adult Learning attended the event where learners were presented with course certificates to celebrate their achievements. They had the opportunity to take part in craft activities and experiment with ipads in the new ICT classroom.

Try It, Love It, Learn It week

In November, we ran our biannual taster week where learners can try one of our learning personal development courses for free. Over 50 learners tried a course ranging from languages, art, photography, bridge, yoga, stained glass, floristry, jewellery making and gardening.



Children in Need

Our ALDD learners worked hard to raise money for their chosen charity Children in Need by holding coffee mornings across the county.

International Volunteers day

We recognised and celebrated the contribution of all the wonderful volunteers who support the work of our tutors to help learners achieve their goals. Their commitment to our learners enhances the learning environment for everyone.



Spring Term 2018

National Apprenticeship Week

Apprentices learning with Buckinghamshire Adult Learning attended a team building away day at Green Park, Aston Clinton, to celebrate National Apprenticeship week 2018 (5-9 March). They spent the morning completing team building activities involving a mixture of creative, team working, problem solving and communication skills. Our apprentices were also tasked with completing a challenge to design an advertising campaign promoting the value of apprenticeships. Each group created slogans, marketing material and a plan for their campaign.

ESOL Saving Energy Project

Our ESOL learners participated in a Saving Energy project, exploring recycling and easy energy saving tips for the home. They displayed their work in the classroom to promote their project and inspire others to save energy.



Employability Fairs

Our successful Employability fairs at Millbrook and Quarrendon Adult Learning Centres gave learners an opportunity to get first-hand information, advice and guidance to support them with their future career choices. There were a number of external agencies and employers on hand for learners to speak with, including libraries, Job Club, the National Careers Service, as well as our own teams, to give advice on volunteering, apprenticeships and educational next steps.

Summer Term 2018

Our ALDD learners at Green Street organised a fundraising event in aid of a local charity 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf'.

The group were inspired to help out after a guest speaker told them about the important work the charity does and the huge costs involved in training the dogs - £40,000 each. A member of the ALDD class volunteers with Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, so knows first-hand about how amazing they are, making it an easy choice for the class to give their support to this worthwhile charity. They managed to raise well over £100 by selling cakes and refreshments at Green Street, which is a really fantastic achievement.



Adult Learner of the Year Awards

Member for Education and Skills, Mike Appleyard and Director of Education for Buckinghamshire County Council, Sarah Callaghan presented certificates to learners, tutors, learning support assistants and volunteers at our annual Adult Learner of the Year Awards Ceremony. The ceremony provided the opportunity to celebrate learner success and to showcase the vital role that Buckinghamshire Adult Learning has in supporting adults gain new skills and confidence.



Great Get Together

Buckinghamshire Adult Learning ran a 'Great Get Together' on 22 June at Quarrendon Centre in Aylesbury. The event was part of national celebrations, to mark the birthday of murdered MP Jo Cox, promoting her message that we have more in common than that which divides us. Staff, learners, local residents and community organisations brought and shared lunch outside on a beautiful sunny day. There was plenty to get involved in with children's activities, community displays and everybody voted for the winner and runner up of the 'Best of Aylesbury' poster competition.



Festival of Learning Exhibition

To celebrate the Festival of Learning, displays of unique work created by learners from a range of art, stained glass, pottery, patchwork and upholstery courses were showcased at a number of our centres in Amersham, Buckingham, Beaconsfield, Evreham, Gerrards Cross and Highcrest.



Best ever GCSE results

We were delighted to receive our best ever results in mathematics and English GCSE courses. This year, of the 87 adult learners studying with us, aged between 17 to 78 years old, 85% achieved 9-4 grades in mathematics, which is a 19% improvement on last year and 77% of the learners achieved 9-4 grades in English language, which is a 9% improvement on last year. Congratulations to a number of our learners who achieved 8 grades.



What our learners said

Thoroughly enjoying the course three weeks in. Tutor is natural in her teaching methods. Feeling relaxed and positive about my own writing.

Excellent teacher and very enjoyable class.

The whole set up at Buckinghamshire Adult Learning is superb. The relaxed atmosphere and the helpfulness of the staff and all the course tutors/assistants all helps towards an excellent learning environment.

It's helping me gain confidence in dress making. I want to make my own clothes and open a shop. I feel I'm on the right path now.

I've learned some useful things if you are looking for a job.

I can now calculate how much carpeting I need- working out area and costs I couldn't attempt that before - didn't think I could - but now I can- a great confidence builder.

What a wonderful day! The course was absolutely fantastic and I learned such a lot. It was a truly brilliant day to start the Christmas period and I shall be recommending the course to everyone. Thank you so much for such a lovely day.

Very friendly and informative tutor. Made it interactive and helped us to use specific examples relating to everyday work life.

Excellent course. Knowledgeable and patient tutor. Great opportunity to learn new skills and try equipment for the first time.

Very informative, useful. I think it will help in different ways with my sports and general wellbeing. I liked the friendly and relaxed format and the overall lesson plan. Thank you. I can now budget - which is great as I have my own place now.

Excellent, friendly, well-structured course - could not be better.

A hands-on practical course which allows you to learn techniques involved in stained and fused glass. Thoroughly enjoyable - with knowledgeable tutor and good company of other students.

I have a health issue which has left me unable to do most things I ever could before. This is one of the only things I can do well now. I pretty much live for it now. I was suicidal before doing this. There was nothing I could do.

I had an interview with a big company.



Buckinghamshire Adult Learning

Buckinghamshire County Council

County Hall

Walton Street

Aylesbury

HP20 1UU

Telephone: **01296 382403**

Email: studentenquiries@buckscc.gov.uk

www.adultlearningbcc.ac.uk

 [@buckinghamshireadultlearning](#)

 [@BucksCC_AL](#)

 [@buckinghamshireadultlearning](#)

CONTACT US