



DistanceLearningCentre.com

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Our courses

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Hard to believe we are already into May, though again it is hard to work out where we are in the year with the hot sunny days alternating with Arctic winds and snow!

This month we have some exciting news about new Diplomas we will be launching in September. If you know someone who is looking to do a Business degree or just wants to improve their knowledge on all things business don't forget to share this newsletter with them. We also have information about services UCAS offers if you have not yet been successful in securing an offer from a University.

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish GCSE/iGCSE learners all the best for their exams that start at the end of May.



## COURSE UPDATE

### **NEW Diplomas coming in September 2017.**

We are pleased to announce that, in September 2017, we will be launching two new Access to Higher Education Diplomas for Business.

#### **Access to Higher Education Diploma Business and Finance**

This new Access to HE Diploma will concentrate more on accounting and will be ideal for learners who wish to specialise more on Business and Business Profitability.



#### **Access to Higher Education Diploma Business and English**

This new Access to HE Diploma will be ideal for learners who wish to focus on Business Analysis. The English units would be particularly useful for Marketing Skills and Business Reporting.



Keep an eye on our Courses section of the website for details as they are released.

## MEET THE PEOPLE

**This month is all about Karen Hayday, our Curriculum Executive Director.**



**Although Karen still undertakes tutoring when cover is needed, her main role is managing the writing of material for our diplomas and ensuring they meet the requirements for accreditation.**

If it hadn't been for Karen's vision, in the early 1990's, DistanceLearningCentre.com would not exist and we wouldn't have been able to help the thousands of students, past and present, to achieve their dreams of going to university and changing their careers.

At the time Karen was working at Bury college, as Head of Psychology, but decided to start up her own "college" writing materials under Greater Manchester Open College Network. In 1993 Distance Learning Centre was founded offering just the one correspondence Diploma; 'Access to Nursing'.

As computers became more widespread the content moved from being paper based to being sent out on a password protected CD ROM and since 2001, and with the explosion of the internet, DistanceLearningCentre.com became one of the first providers of online Access to HE Diplomas in a range of subjects.

When Karen is not hard at work writing content for existing and new courses offered by DistanceLearningCentre.com, she runs Hourglass; a charity that promotes the therapeutic benefits of horticultural activities for people with mental health and well being issues.

Rather than focusing on the problems and the difficulties people may be suffering at this particular moment, the charity concentrates on encouraging those people to use and share their skills with other people allowing them to move forward in their recovery.

## IMPORTANT EMAILS FOR ACTIVE STUDENTS

Starting next month we will be periodically sending out additional emails, to all Active Learners, that will feature bite-size reminders for information in your student handbook. Therefore, if you are currently working towards your Access to HE Diploma please look out for these emails in your in-box.

As mentioned last month, there have been changes to the Student Handbook and we do urge you to read it. We know there is a lot of information to digest in one go so with the new information emails we want to provide you with easy digestible links to jog your memory about all the processes and procedures we have in place, to ensure you receive the support you need to successfully achieve your Access to HE Diploma.



Hourglass members at a recent visit to the Harrogate Flower show.

As well as being a charity for Mental Health, Hourglass is part of the National Garden Scheme recognised for their Horticultural Excellence.

You can follow the activities of Hourglass on Twitter [@GrowthProjectUK](#) and [@NGSOpenGardens](#)



**If you have not received an offer for the course or the university you wanted to go to then all is not lost, there are additional services provided by UCAS to help you find a place at university.**

### **Track**

If you haven't used all five choices yet, before the 30th June and if you've not accepted or declined any offers, you can add extra choices to Track.

If you originally only applied to one choice and want to add more, you will be asked to pay an extra £11 application fee in Track.

### **UCAS Extra**

If you have used all five choices but have received no offers, UCAS Extra allows you to search for courses that still have vacancies on them as well as opt in to UCAS Media mailings to get emails from universities and colleges with vacancies.

Using the search tool, browse for the subject you're interested in. When you click 'Show courses in Extra' you will see a list of universities and courses that still have vacancies left on them.

If no vacancies appear for the subject you have looked for, think about doing a search for related or alternative subjects.

From the list of results contact the university to check you would be considered for that vacancy. If they confirm they would welcome your application then add their details in Track.

Extra is a free service available for you to apply to one course at a time, until the 4th of July 2017. If Extra is available to you, it'll show up as a button when you sign in to your "Track Application". Please note you can only apply to one course at a time, meaning you'll not be able to have an insurance choice.

### **UCAS Clearing**

Clearing, which is available between July and September, is how universities and colleges fill any places they still have on their courses and is an ideal way for you to find vacancies on degree courses.

You can use clearing if you

- Apply after 30th June.
- Didn't receive any offers (or none you wanted to accept).
- Didn't meet the conditions for your university offer.

Clearing vacancies are updated regularly by universities and colleges so if you don't find the course you're looking for straight away, keep going back to check for new additions. If your grades are reasonable and you're flexible on subject/location, there's still a good chance you'll find another course.

If you need any advice on UCAS Extra or Clearing please contact Jane Dowd at [j.dowd@distancelearningcentre.com](mailto:j.dowd@distancelearningcentre.com)

## EXTRA CURRICULUM

This month's extra curriculum activity has been undertaken by Rebecca Smith, Tutor and Curriculum Leader for Psychology and Social Work.

Rebecca and her husband have just participated in the [Acrobat Challenge](#) which has been initiated to raise funds for a 26-year-old musician, Stephen Sykes, who has been diagnosed with Hodgkins Lymphoma. After six different unsuccessful chemotherapy treatments, Stephen now needs to be treated with a particularly expensive drug to reduce the cancer enough so he can receive a life-saving stem cell transplant. The money raised from the Acrobat Challenge is to help fund this new treatment.

The Challenge itself is for trombonists and other brass instrument players to upload videos of themselves playing John Greenwood's 'The Acrobat' to Facebook and invite other musicians to accept the challenge.

To see Rebecca's posting please click the image below:



## OUR UNOFFICIAL STAFF MEMBER

Did you know that each day we have an 'extra' member of staff in our office?

In response to a news article on the BBC, this month, about dogs being allowed into peoples' workplaces as well as published research about the benefits of animal therapy for children and adults alike, we thought we would introduce you to Hebe our resident furry staff member.

.....and admit it, you are a little jealous that we can have such company through our working day!

