



DistanceLearningCentre.com

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We would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope 2018 is a good year for you.

For the first newsletter this year, we are sending you information about how 2018 is a milestone year for DistanceLearningCentre.com as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary of providing distance learning courses to adult learners.

We have also included some useful information for all learners who have applied or are applying to start university in September 2018.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF DISTANCE LEARNING



2018 is a landmark year for DistanceLearningCentre.com as it means we're 25 years old. And a lot has changed since we first started in 1993...

Back then our Executive Director Karen Hayday was Head of Psychology and Nicky Leeth our Curriculum Leader for level 2 and Study skills were lecturing at Bury College, at a time when colleges moved from Local Authority control (like schools) to being self-managed (like businesses). The department were about to lose their copyright and ownership over their learning materials, and so to protect it Karen and Nicky founded the Distance Learning Centre. Funded by a start-up grant of £1000 they offered one Access to Nursing course validated by Greater Manchester Open College Network, and became the first in the UK to offer Access by distance learning.

Fast forward 10 years and the provision had grown to include Access to Psychology, Social Work and Midwifery, as well as the original Nursing. Two further tutors were employed, Andrew Whitehead had joined, the Access was available to study online and we became DistanceLearningCentre.com. By 2014 we were settled in our current office space in Todmorden, West Yorkshire allowing the company to have a centralised office for Student Services, Exams, Curriculum and Quality.

And now in 2018 DistanceLearningCentre.com offers Access to HE Diplomas for 29 different career pathways as well as online GCSEs and Pre-Access Level 2 awards in

English, Maths and Science. We employ 29 qualified teachers who provide subject specific expertise to help our learners develop their subject knowledge, confidence and skills ...

A far cry from the one Access to Nursing course that was printed, bound and posted to the handful of students who replied to the advert in the Nursing Times 25 years ago!



MEET THE PEOPLE



Pam Leach is the Curriculum Leader for Biology and has been one of our tutors for Biology, Chemistry and Physics for the past 4 years.

Pam has a BSc (Hons) in Genetics & Cell Biology from the University of Manchester, and a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE). She has been teaching in secondary schools for the past two decades.

Pam has also been an examiner for AQA GCSE Science, and is an external moderator of centre assessed GCSE Science coursework.

In her spare time, Pam keeps very busy. She is a freelance photographer taking portraits of families and individuals. She is also an accomplished landscape photographer having sold her photos of the Yorkshire countryside through two galleries.

SURVEY REQUEST



Our awarding body, Ascentis, are always keen to know how our learners are progressing and have asked if you would share your experiences about studying your Access to HE Diploma with DistanceLearningCentre.com.

In order for Ascentis to receive this information, they have sent a link to an online student survey and ask if you would take a short time out of your schedule to answer their questions. They request that survey is completed by the end of March 2018.

To take part in the survey please click the link below:-

[Ascentis Student Survey](#)

When she is not taking photos she takes part in amateur theatre as an actor and in recent years as director. Her most recent direction of a show was *The Wizard of Oz*, performed last weekend. She also likes to attend Jive dances which she says is a "*fabulous way to keep fit*".

For learners who may have seen some "interested parties" walking past when they are having a Skype call with Pam, she says this would be one of her pet cats Astrid or Abbie.

ACCESS TO HE DIPLOMA EXAMS



The University of
Nottingham

We would like to remind any learners who want to study at Nottingham University's School of Health Science that you will need to take your Access to HE Diploma examinations at the DistanceLearningCentre.com offices in Todmorden.

If you are hoping to go to Nottingham, you **MUST** inform your tutor who will help you make the necessary arrangements.

UCAS APPLICATIONS



We are pleased to say that we have submitted 526 UCAS applications for the initial UCAS deadline of the 15th of January.

We wish all learners, who have submitted their applications, the very best and hope you get onto the course you want at the university of your choice.

And remember it is not too late for learners still wishing to apply to university for September 2018 entry. We will still support you in your application however, as the 15th of January UCAS deadline has passed, your application will be considered as a late application. Late applications can be submitted until the 30th of June 2018.

PREPARING FOR YOUR INTERVIEWS



For learners who receive an invite to attend an interview at their university choices, we strongly advise that you prepare as much as you can before you go.

There is information on how to prepare for an interview on the UCAS website

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/after-gcses/apply/interview-tips>

There is also a wealth of information on YouTube that will also help you. Below are some suggestions of useful YouTube "Prepare for your interview" links

General Advice: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZEzP7VcAyfM>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUwN6GI-0EQ>

Healthcare interviews: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yybFJ5WkCDo>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddf4jC3KNck>

Paramedic interviews: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_JePG4SAPI
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-BhNPCOE9s>

Nursing numeracy tests: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUi23bV0ikg>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sBuo5qKXgnQ>

Midwifery interviews: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=puVwLgBQp3g>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8zkAy6c9sw>

If you receive and invite for an interview and you can't attend at the allotted time, you need to let the university or college know as soon as possible.

If you received your interview decision in Track, the option to request a different time will be available. If you received the interview decision in another way, get in touch with the uni/college. When you've agreed a new date, they'll either update the invitation in Track or contact you directly to let you know.