

Adult Community Education News

DACES is Derbyshire Adult Community Education Service

Join us to get qualifications, confidence and skills for life and work!

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Why adult learning is a brilliant idea (yes, really)



For many, the word 'learning' may conjure memories of stressful classrooms and tedious schooldays. It's understandable if the idea of returning to education feels unappealing, but we're here to change that.

Adult learning offers far more than you might expect. Discover how returning to education can:

- Boost your mood and overall wellbeing
- Expand your community and social circle
- Help you achieve something new and feel proud of it

Education for your mental and overall wellbeing

Learning as an adult is nothing like being back at school. You choose what, when and how you learn, and there's absolutely no pressure. No homework. No being put on the spot. You can engage as much or as little as you like.

What's more, our tutors offer support tailored to *your* pace and preferences. Our courses are designed to fit around your life, not the other way round.

And here's something you might not expect: adult education can actually improve your health. Research shows that adults who engage in learning make significantly fewer trips to their GP, saving the NHS an estimated £1.6 million. So, it's good for you and your local community too.

[Health and wellbeing courses - Derbyshire County Council](#)

[Adult education success stories - Derbyshire County Council](#)

Growing your community through collaborative learning

Learning isn't just about gaining knowledge, it's also a chance to build friendships and feel part of something bigger.

By 2025/26, an estimated two million people aged 50+ in the UK will be experiencing loneliness. That's a 49% rise from 2016/17. But loneliness isn't exclusive to older generations. The Lonely Not Alone campaign revealed that 95% of young people feel lonely, yet only 35% feel confident speaking about it.

Studying with others who share your interests naturally builds connections and support networks. And with Derbyshire Adult Community Education Service (DACES), you don't even need to leave home. Our wide range of online courses means you can meet people and grow your circle wherever you are.

[Sustainability and stronger communities courses - Derbyshire County Council](#)

Learning something new for that feel-good factor

Want to lift your spirits? Few things feel as satisfying as mastering a new skill. Whether you're looking to:

- try your hand at cookery or gardening
- brush up on history
- tap into your creativity, the sense of pride that comes with learning is truly rewarding.

Sure, the first step might feel a bit daunting. But just imagine the satisfaction when you look back and realise how far you've come. With hundreds of DACES courses to explore, from mindfulness and languages to crafting and beyond, there's no better time to start than now.

Take that first step today and see what's happening near you. Your learning journey is waiting.

[Find an adult education course - Derbyshire County Council](#)

Derbyshire Adult Community Education Service Early Years Professional Skills Bootcamp



Take the first steps towards becoming a qualified Early Years Educator by attending our free Early Years Professional Skills Bootcamp.

If you are aged 19+ and a Derbyshire resident we are offering this 8 - week course for free.

You will gain:

- Paediatric first aid certificate
- Food safety level 2
- DBS check
- An Early Years toolkit

You will learn:

- Child development theories
- Role of the Early Years Educator
- Relationship building
- Safeguarding
- Diversity Equity and Inclusion

We will support you with:

- Digital resources e.g. laptop loan
- Costs for childcare
- Travel costs
- Job applications & CV writing



Our Bootcamp will give you the knowledge and tools to work in an Early Years childcare setting, with further learning and employment opportunities available on completion.

[Complete the form to register your interest](#) or scan the QR code below for more information.

Flavours of India bring families together at Alferton: Indian cooking course success



A group of parents and carers, whose children attend the 14-19 Study Programme, recently enjoyed a vibrant Indian cooking course at Alferton Adult Education Centre.

Led by tutor Nusrat Sohail, the sessions offered a fantastic opportunity to explore traditional Indian recipes and develop new culinary skills. Participants learned how to prepare a range of delicious dishes, gaining confidence in the kitchen while enjoying a shared cultural experience.

Everyone gained new skills and confidence in the kitchen, with many continuing to practise their cooking at home. The course brought people together through food, and parents and carers enjoyed sharing meals, and their newfound knowledge with family and friends.



Get that job: build your confidence!



Unlock your potential and take your first steps towards a fulfilling career with confidence! This inspiring course will help you discover, learn, and achieve your career goals, giving you the tools and knowledge to succeed in the workplace.

Explore a range of job roles and the essential skills needed to thrive. Learn what employers expect and understand your rights at work, so you can make informed decisions about your future.

We'll provide practical guidance and expert insights to help you move forward - whether you're just starting out, changing direction, or returning to work after a break. This course is designed to help you turn ambition into action and take meaningful steps towards the career you want.

If you're ready to build skills, gain confidence, and secure the job you deserve, register your interest now! Click the link below, and we'll be in touch with everything you need to get started.

[Get that job: build your confidence](#)

Your next opportunity is just around the corner, let's make it happen!

Celebrating learning disabilities week



To mark Learning Disability Week, special events were held at our centres in Clay Cross, Cotmanhay and Derbyshire Eco Centre. Learners, parents, carers and partners came together to celebrate the occasion.

Learners proudly showcased their achievements in adult education, engaging visitors in conversations about their work and experiences. At Derbyshire Eco Centre, the celebrations also featured an Enterprise Day, where learners collaborated with students from the 14-19 Study Programme to sell handmade items and plants they had grown.

It was a wonderful opportunity to share skills, build confidence, and celebrate the talents and accomplishments of everyone involved.

From uncertainty to success: Jessamy's journey to becoming a teaching assistant



When Jessamy walked through the doors of the Chesterfield Youth Hub with her mum, she felt disillusioned by the education system and uncertain about her future. Confidence was low, and direction unclear - except for one thing: her dream of becoming a piano teacher. Keen to avoid the traditional university route, Jessamy was eager to explore alternative pathways.

With support from a Youth Hub adviser at the Quad, Jessamy identified a new starting point. Becoming a Teaching Assistant could help her build confidence and gain valuable classroom experience. A volunteering placement was suggested, and with guidance from her adviser, Jessamy successfully secured a role

at Wigley Primary School starting in September 2024.

Her time at Wigley proved to be a turning point. Immersed in the school environment, she thrived through supporting teachers, working with pupils, and seeing first hand how children grow and develop. This experience not only confirmed her passion for education but also solidified her commitment to a new career path.

The Youth Hub team continued to walk alongside Jessamy every step of the way. When an apprenticeship opportunity for a Teaching Assistant role opened up at Lowfield Primary School in Sheffield, she and her adviser worked together on her application. Drawing on the skills and experiences gained during her placement, Jessamy was fully prepared. Her adviser also arranged a mock interview, using the STAR technique, to boost her confidence ahead of the big day.

By the time of the interview, Jessamy was a different person, self-assured and prepared. She made a strong impression and was delighted to be offered the apprenticeship, which she will begin in February 2025.

Reflecting on the journey, Jessamy shared that she felt “over the moon” and incredibly proud of how far she had come. Her mum echoed those sentiments in a heartfelt message to the Youth Hub:

"Your help has been invaluable in getting her to where she is, and I will be forever grateful. When we first walked in that day, I thought you were just offering her careers advice, but you have given so much more. It's been a long road from the young girl who came out of school early to now, and it is a real success story! I'm so proud of her. Thank you so much x"

Jessamy's story is a powerful reminder of how the right support, encouragement, and alternatives to traditional routes can empower young people to take control of their futures, and thrive.

Youth Employment Support (YES) Derbyshire learners celebrate success



Two young people from the YES Youth Hub in Erewash are celebrating an important milestone in their journey towards employment. Tom and Harry have successfully completed the Get that job, keep that job! course, earning certificates for their achievement and gaining valuable skills for the future.

The course, which leads to a City & Guilds Level 1 Extended Award,

comprises five core units:

- Career planning and making applications
- Conduct at work
- Effective communication
- Investigating rights and responsibilities
- Creating a positive impression on customers

For both learners, the experience has been transformative.

“I feel like the course helped boost my confidence and helped me to apply for my current job,” said Harry, who has since successfully secured employment with a local organisation. “I learnt a lot about health and safety and what is expected of me in the workplace.”

Tom, who is now pursuing an apprenticeship opportunity in the local engineering sector, reflected:

“I learnt about appropriate workplace behaviour and health and safety across different jobs. The course has made me more sociable and positive overall.”

Tutor Anne Saint praised their dedication, explaining that both Tom and Harry participated fully in every aspect of the course, including mock interviews designed to challenge and prepare them. “It took them out of their comfort zone,” she said, “but gave them skills to move forward. They also broadened their horizons when it came to job searching, which is already proving successful.”

Sarah Ball, Programme Development Worker at the YES Youth Hub, explained the wider aims of the course:

“The course was designed to give young people at YES the confidence, knowledge, and practical tools to take those first steps into employment. We’ve worked closely with employers and support agencies to offer real-world insights and activities that help bridge the gap between education and the workplace.”

The programme has benefitted from strong community partnerships, featuring contributions from Joined Up Careers Derbyshire, RAF recruitment, and Live Life Better Derbyshire. Participants took part in a wide range of discussions and activities, all of which contribute towards a nationally recognised qualification.

Tom and Harry’s achievements are a fantastic example of how the right guidance and structured support can help young people take positive, confident steps towards a brighter future.

Your feedback is important is important to us

Have you completed a course with us recently ?



Your feedback is important to us. It helps us identify what we do well and what we can do better. Your feedback really does shape what we do. its supports us to:

- continue to improve quality
- make sure your learning is effective and enjoyable as possible
- makes sure our courses stay inclusive and relevant to meet your needs

If you have completed a course with us recently and haven't yet completed your feedback form, now is your chance! Please scan the QR code or follow on the link below:

[DACES course feedback form 2024 to 2025](#)

It only takes two minutes to complete the form. We would love to hear from you. Every feedback form we receive makes a difference.

Find a job with Derbyshire County Council

We work hard to be an excellent employer and in return we expect our employees to give their best so that we can deliver high quality services to the people of Derbyshire.

[Find a job with Derbyshire County Council.](#)

Ofsted says we're Good!



For further information, contact your local [Adult Community Education Centre](#) or visit our website www.derbyshire.gov.uk/adulteducation