

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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Derbyshire Adult Community Education: A fresh chapter in lifelong learning



Great news! Thanks to new funding from the [East Midlands Combined County Authority](#), we're expanding our work. We'll be helping more Derbyshire residents who've been held back by past experiences to reconnect with learning, build skills, and open doors to better opportunities.

What's New?


We're here to make sure everyone feels welcome and supported to take their next steps. Whether you need help to boost your confidence, gain new qualifications, or try something new, we're here to help.

Courses that fit your life

We continue to offer a wide range of courses, including:

- English, maths, and digital skills
- Health and wellbeing
- Qualifications for work
- Community learning in areas like sustainability, parenting, and confidence-building

New courses are added regularly, and many are free or discounted depending on your circumstances. You can learn face-to-face or online, whatever suits you best.

If you would like to know what is available, please visit: 

[Find an adult education course –](#)

[Derbyshire County Council](#)

Let's work together

If you're part of a local group or organisation, get in touch! We can tell you about our courses or work with you to shape something that suits your community.

Positive changes and still here to help

Derbyshire Adult Community Education is changing, but we're still here for you and ready to help. We'd love to meet you.



Email: adult.education@derbyshire.gov.uk



Telephone: 01629 531241



Stay Connected

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates, inspiration, and learner stories.



[Adult community education – Derbyshire County Council](#)

- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)

The results will soon be in – guidance on where next



Are you supporting, working with, or living with a young person who is expecting their GCSE or A-level results this August?

Derbyshire County Council's Youth Employment Support (YES) Team is hosting a series of **Post-Results Support Events** to help young people navigate their next steps, whether results day brings celebration or uncertainty.

Why Attend?

Results day can be a challenging time, especially if outcomes don't meet expectations. That's why YES Derbyshire is offering drop-in sessions across three hubs, where young people can access guidance, explore training opportunities, and receive one-to-one support from qualified staff and local providers.



Event locations and times

The Quad, Chesterfield -Tuesday 26 August

- Ages 16–18: Drop-in between **10am and midday**
- Ages 16–24: Drop-in between **12.30pm and 3pm**

Ilkeston Library -Thursday 28 August

- Ages 16–18: Drop-in between **10am and midday**
- Ages 16–24: Drop-in between **12.30pm and 3pm**

Swadlincote Adult Education Centre - Monday 1 September

- Ages 16–18: Drop-in between **10am and midday**
- Ages 16–24: Drop-in between **12.30pm and 3pm**



How to book

Full details, including dates and times, are available on [this downloadable poster](#). To reserve a space, simply scan the QR code provided.

Young people will have the chance to meet:

- Local training providers
- Supportive, qualified YES staff
- Advisors ready to help secure post-16 and post-18 education, training, or employment options

Let's help every young person feel confident about their future, whatever their results may be.

Cotmanhay and Ilkeston ACE Community Open Day



Cotmanhay and Ilkeston Adult Community Education Centre opened its doors on Wednesday 7 August, for a lively and inspiring **Community Open Day**, bringing together learners, families, and local residents to celebrate education, opportunity, and community spirit.

From the moment visitors arrived, the centre buzzed with a positive energy. Staff from **Derbyshire Adult Community Education Service (DACES)** greeted guests with warmth and enthusiasm, offering guided tours, interactive activities, and a chance to explore the wide range of **free courses** available this autumn.



Showcasing lifelong learning

The event highlighted DACES' commitment to **accessible, inclusive education** for adults of all ages and backgrounds. Attendees had the opportunity to:

- Speak directly with tutors and learning support staff
- Try hands-on tasters in subjects like photography, music, story telling and wellbeing
- Learn about tailored study programmes for young learners
- Discover pathways into employment, further education, and personal development



One of the day's most moving moments came from current learners who shared reflections on their educational journeys, stories of resilience, growth, and newfound confidence that affirmed the transformative power of adult learning.



"A place where you're truly supported"

Visitors praised the centre's welcoming atmosphere and the **nurturing support** offered to learners. DACES staff were on hand to explain how their programmes are **tailored to individual needs**, helping students overcome barriers and achieve their goals.



Building connections, inspiring futures

With refreshments, creative displays, and a friendly buzz throughout the day, the event was a celebration of community connection. Local organisations also joined in, sharing resources and opportunities for further support.

As the day wrapped up, many left with information leaflets in hand and a renewed sense of possibility. The message was clear: **education is for everyone**, and DACES is here to help every learner thrive.

Rink House and Swadlincote Adult Education Centre update

You may have heard that Rink House and Swadlincote Adult Education Centre buildings are being listed for sale. These properties are being marketed as an **'Investment Opportunity'**, which simply means that the new owner will receive rental income, they won't be moving in or using the space themselves.



Here's the key point: **Our tenancy is secure until December 2033**, and **Derbyshire County Council will remain in place**. There are no plans or requirements for us to vacate, so our services and day-to-day operations will continue as normal.

We understand that change can bring questions, but rest assured: This means **no disruption** to our classes and activities in Swadlincote.

Money Matters



Free 6-week course at Glossop Adult Community Education Centre
starts Thursday 18 September 1-3 pm

Want to feel more confident managing your money? Join our friendly, practical course designed to help you take control of your finances, whatever your starting point.

Each week, we'll explore:

- How to budget and plan ahead
- Understanding basic bank accounts
- Tips to make your money go further
- How spending habits can change, and how to adapt

No tests, no pressure, just useful skills for everyday life.

Book your free place online:

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/adulteducation

Do Something BIG



To support the government's drive to 'Do Something BIG', we have several opportunities for learning and training in the Early Years sector.

Step into Childcare

A 5-week course introducing learners to some aspects of a career in the early years and education sector.

Early Years Professional Skills Bootcamp:

An 8-week course which includes delivery towards some of the Early Years Educator apprenticeship standards. Learners will gain Paediatric First Aid, Food Safety, and a DBS check. Learning is at Level 3 and is free for learners aged 19+ living in the D2N2 (Derby/Derbyshire, Nottingham/Nottinghamshire) area. There is a cost to Early Years settings if current staff are looking to upskill. Delivery can be flexible to meet employer needs.

Early Years Professional Level 2

Offered as both an apprenticeship and a stand-alone course.

Early Years Educator Level 3

We have limited places available under the Free Courses for Jobs offer for learners who are unemployed or who earn less than £33,796.80 per year. We also deliver this as an apprenticeship, which could be accelerated if the Early Years Professional Skills Bootcamp is completed first.

For information on any of these courses, please contact:

workplace.learning@derbyshire.gov.uk

Boost your wellbeing through Art – Free taster session



Discover the joy of creativity and self-expression in a relaxed, welcoming space.

Cotmanhay and Ilkeston ACE Centre
Thursday 28 August
4:30pm to 6:30pm

Whether you're a complete beginner or just curious, come along and explore how art can support your wellbeing.



Visit www.derbyshire.gov.uk/adulteducation

Or call **01629 531807** for more information

Class of 25! -Young learners celebrate success at the Move On Event

Young people who took part in **Get That Job, Keep That Job** celebrated their achievements at the Move On Event, held at Cotmanhay and Ilkeston Adult Education Centre on 30 July.

All learners successfully completed the **Level 1 Extended Award in Employability Skills**, gaining valuable knowledge and practical tools to help them move into and stay in employment.



Tutor, Anne Saint shared:

"All the learners have taken part in activities such as mock interviews and roleplays, demonstrating excellent customer service skills."

Rachel Lyne, a YES DWP worker who referred all the young people to the course, said:

"It's great to be able to refer our Universal Credit claimants to a course that builds their confidence, supports their aspirations, and equips them with the skills to get and keep a job." She added: "It's been fantastic to see their confidence grow as the course progressed. They've also developed strong communication and customer service skills, vital for their future careers."

One learner, Chelsea, reflected on her experience:

"It's definitely changed how I view people who run their own business. There's so much work involved in creating and maintaining one." She added: "The memories and the people who attended made it even better, and the teacher was kind and patient with us all."

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