



U-Net Newsletter

Issue 8, August 2009

<http://www.unionlearn.org.uk/unet>

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Support

Could centres please use the support e-mail and telephone number as a first line helpdesk. Email unet@tuc.org.uk Tel 0191 227 5580

Diary Dates

August	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
	3	4	5	6	7
	10	11	12	13	14
	17	18	19	20	21
	24	24	26	27	28
2009	31				

28th August – final submission of centre SAR to U-Net

Karl's Bit

As you may know, the Government has designated October as the month in which the country will enjoy a 'Festival of Learning'. The idea behind the proposed festival was set out in The Learning Revolution White Paper, which said 'the festival will host a wide range of national, local and virtual events focused on engaging more and different groups of learners. We will work closely with partners to design and deliver this festival, encouraging everyone from broadcasting organisations and grassroots community groups to get involved.'

The festival will coincide with several learning activities already in place, including Black History Month, National Poetry Day on 8th October and Get Online Day on 24th October.

This is a great opportunity for U-Net learning centres to engage with local communities and encourage people to broaden their interests. If you're not already involved, have a word with your USO or contact your regional unionlearn office.

Ufi are providing training on the 'Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults'. You

will have received an e-mail from Liz Noble with regards to booking a place on the course. U-Net is committed to providing a safer learning environment that promotes well being and security for all learners and all staff. With this in mind it is of great importance that all centres have staff trained in this area. If you haven't booked on the course please contact Liz by Friday 28th August. The next Partners' meeting will take place in London on 11th and 12th November. For those of you new to U-Net, these meetings impart vital information on current issues and also provide a great networking opportunity. Accommodation and meals will be provided, including dinner on the Wednesday evening. As always it's essential that all learning centres are represented at the meeting. If I don't see you before, then I look forward to seeing you all there.

Karl Schofield, U Net Strategic Coordinator

SAR Timetable

SAR dates reminder

The deadline for submitting your final SAR to your USO is 28th August.

28 August 2009 – Final version of centre SAR submitted to USO

8 September 2009 – National SAR writing day

11 September 2009 – First submission of National SAR to Ufi

A Good Practice Guide to Setting Accurate End Dates

To support the introduction of Programme Based Learning Ufi have published a Quality Improvement Guide: "A Good Practice Guide to Setting Accurate End Dates". The programme success rate target is 80%. Ofsted and the LSC are increasingly focusing their attention on timely success which makes the setting of accurate end dates for all our programmes a priority for all Providers. Further information on the calculation of success rates is available from Providers Portal.

Whilst there is no simple formula which will create 100% accurate end dates, the use of certain tools and careful questioning make it possible to agree an accurate end date for the majority of learners.

For more information go to

<http://providers.learndirect.co.uk/bulletin/previousbulletins/20090817/20090817enddates/?folder=20090817>

Get to grips with numeracy

Looking for new ways to engage learners? The NIACE 'Maths Takes You There' website has entertaining activities to inspire learners and help them get to grip with numeracy. You can also order free supporting materials from the site.

To access the website visit

<http://www.esilverchair.co.uk/index.html>

Skills for Life and Family Learning events

“Get Together - Discover More!” is the theme for Family Learning Festival this year. The Family Learning Festival will run from 17-31 October 2009.

Informal and one-off events such as Family Learning Festival activities are ideal opportunities to support Skills for Life learning, because they aim to be non-threatening, relaxed and fun. Family learning activities that involve Skills for Life can give parents/carers confidence to help their children with their homework and can help motivate them to continue learning and improve their skills.

It's a winner!



The U-Net WinWin campaign has to date recruited almost 200 new learners! You may remember the campaign which was launched by U-Net last year. The idea was to reach out to new learners and raise the profile of union learning centres, the incentive being a free 1GB memory stick for the learner and the recruiter.

We have some memory sticks left so if you'd like to get involved email emailenable@tuc.org.uk

Useful Links

The summer holidays are in full swing and the pressure is on to keep the kids entertained.

Why not make the most of two FREE online storybooks from learndirect to help you all enjoy your time together and have fun whilst learning?

http://www.learndirect.co.uk/newsfeatures/features/all/2009/august/read_together_storybooks/

Challenge the kids to a journey of fun and discovery with The Legula Adventure. You may even brush up on your own literacy and numeracy skills at the same.

To access the site visit <http://www.wheredidtherivergo.co.uk/>

Brush up on your typing skills with Tom's Crazy Shooting Gallery on the BBC raw site. The kids can have a go too!

To access the site visit <http://www.bbc.co.uk/raw/computers/yourcomputer/keyboardgame.shtml>