

# Adult learning in a deprived area

## Doncaster College South Yorkshire

Doncaster College is the largest provider of post-compulsory education in its region. This crucial institution provides the opportunity for many people in this area of high deprivation and unemployment to achieve and progress.

With an unemployment rate of almost 10%, there is high demand for practical adult learning solutions in skills for work. For the last eight years Doncaster College and vision2learn e-learning have been working together to provide flexible, cost-effective qualifications to distance learners.

Kerry Padley of the Doncaster Business Innovation Centre has first-hand experience of the service. She explains: *"We decided to work with vision2learn because we wanted to offer a different route to education to a wider cross-section of learners. We wanted to make adult learning more accessible to the unemployed, disabled and local business communities."*

Because the courses are vocationally-based, learners can gain qualifications in subjects such as Business and Administration, Equality and Diversity, and Essential IT Skills that are valued by employers. The content of the courses means that learners can gain skills to help them succeed in life and employment, as well as benefit from raised levels of aspiration and self-esteem.

One of vision2learn's key aims is to make education available to everyone, providing the opportunity to learn from anywhere with an internet connection. One learner at Doncaster College who is partially-sighted has already benefited from this



flexibility and functionality. Through the support of vision2learn's dedicated team – and the use of a screen reader function – he was able to complete and pass his course successfully.

Doncaster College has experienced an exceptional 92% pass rate for its Level 1 and Level 2 Essential IT Skills course, allowing learners to take practical steps towards moving their lives in a positive direction and gain a newfound sense of confidence.

Kerry said: *"A huge variety of people are attracted to the courses. We have trained everyone from solicitors to people who are looking for work through e-learning."*

*"Unfortunately we have a lot of people who come through the doors now who have been made redundant. I had one lady come to me telling me she didn't have time to complete her vision2learn course as she was too busy looking for work. I told her that at this stage in her career she couldn't afford not to finish the course – it could be the one vital element that gives her CV the edge."*

Doncaster College currently has over 225 students studying Essential IT Skills (Level 2), and 75 working on Equality and Diversity (Level 2). With numbers consistently rising, Kerry has high expectations for the future of the learners using the platform.

## vision2learn for colleges



Designed firmly with learners in mind, vision2learn includes an internal tracking system which helps monitor learner progress. This approach, coupled with the dedication and enthusiasm of our tutors, ensures that students gain as much as possible from their courses.

Vision2learn has worked with forward-thinking colleges like Doncaster across the country for over 10 years. The aim is to allow learners to succeed and grow, and for the colleges involved to be able to deliver innovative e-learning solutions whilst maximising cost efficiency and effectiveness.

Kerry explained: *“The customer service with vision2learn is second to none. I’ve been working with them for many years now and have found them a great company to work with. Whenever we buy a contract it’s always fulfilled; each year I have always hit my targets.”*

The relevance of vision2learn’s qualifications to a wide range of jobs, coupled with the popularity of our courses, means that Doncaster College looks set to continue using vision2learn extensively in future. This partnership will have a positive effect on helping unemployed and redundant learners to gain new skills and build positive futures in employment.

Tailored to meet the needs of the individual, the vision2learn platform can help people improve their job performance and progress their careers. It can also help people who are seeking employment to gain transferable and practical skills, which are useful for a wide range of jobs – making them highly sought after by employers.

Kerry explains why she feels it is so popular: *“Vision2learn is so easy to use, and so flexible. Learners can use it at home and log on anytime they want – day or night!”*

The flexibility of this approach enables learners to plan their study schedule around their busy lives. They are able to do the courses whilst working, or while looking for employment. The strong support of tutors allows learners to set their own pace in the confidence that someone will always be there to provide help.

Kerry said: *“As well as the extra credentials on their CV, I believe the secret behind the high rates of learner success with vision2learn is that students find the courses really relevant to their lives.”*

## Doncaster College

Doncaster College is a large general further education institution experiencing a period of intense change. The college has a large, two tiered learning resource centre with excellent IT facilities. In addition to its vision2learn courses, the College offers a wide variety of further education courses for adult learners.

### Contact us

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