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If you require this newsletter in an alternative format such as larger print, audio or different language please call us on 0844 815 0804 or e-mail info@prostartuk.co.uk

Welcome to the first 2010 edition of Natter.

We hope this newsletter continues to be a good source of news and information. Remember this news letter is for you, so if you would like to contribute to future editions please phone, fax or e-mail us (contact details above).

We hope you enjoy reading it.

Editor

HAPPY NEW YEAR
From everyone at Prostart

Employer of the month

Central Networks at Castle Donington has been nominated by Prostart as employer of the month. The members of staff there are always polite and professional to our assessors and they consistently ensure a desk is available and their hospitality is greatly appreciated.

The team leaders in the Call Centre support the assessors' requests for assistance and are keen to ensure that the learners complete their individual action plans before the next assessment.

Overall a great place to work where our assessors feel they now seem to be part of their virtual team in helping their call Agents/people develop.

NEWS

£2,500 Wage Subsidy for Employers to recruit 16-17 Year old Apprentices

Prostart Training are able to offer local businesses the opportunity to access a new grant to help employer recruit young people aged 16-17 onto an Apprenticeship programme.

Until the 31st March 2010 the National Apprenticeship Service will provide up to 5,000 Apprenticeship grants throughout England and Wales for Employers of 16 and 17 year olds. The grant of £2,500 is to enable employers to offer 5,000 new Apprenticeship places and take on unemployed 16 or 17 year old Apprentices immediately. The £2,500 grant is in addition to the costs of training which are already met the National Apprenticeship Service.

We particularly want to support small and medium sized employers who are interested in employing an apprentice for this first time, or who want to employ an additional apprentice over their traditional level of recruitment.

The aim is to support employers to offer new and additional places in support of young people. Therefore we are targeting those employers who would not otherwise have been in a position to recruit an apprentice at this point in time or who are able to offer more Apprenticeship places than they would otherwise have done.

Vacancies will be able to be advertised through Apprenticeship vacancies – our online service that matches candidates interested in an Apprenticeship with employers offering them.

Places are very limited and will be available on a first come first served basis. If your business is interested in recruiting a young person aged 16 - 17 onto an Apprenticeship programme, call Claire on 0844 815 0804 or e-mail clairebates@prostartuk.co.uk

Apprenticeship Awards

The regional and national Apprenticeship Awards 2010 are now open.

If you are an employer who is committed to Apprenticeships and can clearly show the direct benefits to your business or if you are an apprentice who is succeeding in your chosen career through your Apprenticeship then an Apprenticeship Award could be the perfect opportunity for you to shine.

The awards categories are:

Young Apprentice of the Year Award

Apprentice of the Year Award

- Apprenticeship
- Advanced Apprenticeship

Employer of the Year Award

- 1-9 employees
- 10-49 employees
- 50-249 employees
- 250-4999 employees
- 5000 plus employees

Entry to Employment (e2e) of the Year Award

Finalists from the East Midlands Award will be put through to the National Awards.

Please contact Claire Bates for a nomination form on 0844 815 0804 or e-mail: clairebates@prostartuk.co.uk

Completing the name and contact details on the nomination form does not constitute an application – as much more detail is required for the judges to be able to make a decision.

The closing date for entries is **Friday 26th February 2010.**



The Wall

The articles below were written by learners on the **E2E** programme.

Teenage Pregnancy – how it affected my life *By Melissa*

As a pregnant teen myself, I have decided to raise awareness by telling my story about how teenage pregnancy affected my life.

Falling pregnant at the age of 16 was the biggest life alteration I have ever experienced. Along with the worry and fright, pregnancy had affected me in the worst way when I had to decide whether I should keep the baby or not. Surely enough, my choice was to keep the baby as my boyfriend willingly agreed and numbers of obstetricians confirmed my pregnancy to be healthy and viable.

My emotions took the best part of enjoyment out of the whole of the first trimester, by the second trimester my emotional state had calmed but my physical state had become a little less desirable than I had imagined. With an excruciating painful back and arthritis in most of my joints, I found it much harder to walk around. Collapsing while out shopping and going faint if I stood for too long made me feel like I was so different from everyone else. Life changed so rapidly, it didn't feel the same – I wasn't even able to go out with my friends. The only things that kept me going was knowing I was going to give birth to a gorgeous baby boy at the end of it all and my very supportive boyfriend, Joe, without him I don't think I could have survived through it all.

I wish I could have foreseen what being a pregnant teen was like, to know what I was letting myself in for but at the end of it all I don't regret a thing.

I would like to thank Prostart for putting the social-butterfly back into me, I lost a lot of friends through being pregnant, but everyone at Prostart helped me to become a more confident girl again!

Holocaust Project *By Emma*

Every month we have a project we research and write information about various topics and produce posters to display on the notice board at Prostart training. In January the subject to be considered is the Holocaust. We researched information about the Holocaust on the internet, we looked up how many people were killed in concentration camps throughout Germany. These camps were found in mainly Germany and Poland where 11 million were killed, 6 million of which were killed. These largest concentration camp was Auschwitz where it is thought that 1.1 million people were killed. Life within Nazi concentration camps was terrible, prisoners slept 3 or more people per crowded wooden bunk with no mattress or pillow. Torture within these camps was common and deaths were frequent. Prisoners were forced to do hard physical labour and yet given tiny rations which led to prisoners starving to death. At a number of these concentration camps Nazi doctors carried out medical experiments on prisoners against their will. While concentration camps were meant to work and starve prisoners to death, extermination camps also known as death camps were built for the sole purpose of killing large groups of people quickly and efficiently. Prisoners transported to these camps were told to undress to take a shower. Rather than shower, the prisoners were herded in gas chambers and killed.

If you'd like your comments posted on '**The Wall**' please e-mail info@prostartuk.co.uk or visit Prostart's Facebook page and post a message.

Feedback

The Learning and Skills Council wants your opinion to count!

The LSC wants you to share your views in surveys and feedback. You may be contacted by telephone from Opinion Panel/ The Learner Panel in the next few weeks. The first TWENTY students from Prostart will be sent £4 in shopping vouchers for joining up. Find out more at: <http://www.learnerpanel.co.uk/fe/?c=106974&x=405371>

Accounts

The December 2009 exam results are released on 15TH February by Email & Post and the 16th February Online.

Important Dates: - **AAT exams timetable – June 2010**

	Monday 14 June	Tuesday 15 June	Wednesday 16 June	Thursday 17 June	Friday 18 June
am	PEV Contributing to the Management of Performance and Enhancement of Value Technician MAC Management Accounting Level 4 Diploma	BTC Preparing Business Taxation Computations Technician/Level 4 Diploma	PCR* Contributing to the Planning and Control of Resources Technician	DFS* Drafting Financial Statements Technician/Level 4 Diploma DFSL* Drafting Financial Statements (Local Gov.) Technician DNP Determining Net Pay Payroll Level 2 Certificate	PTC Preparing Personal Taxation Computations Technician/Level 4 Diploma CYE Completing Year-End Procedures Payroll Level 3 Certificate
pm	ECR Recording and Evaluating Costs and Revenues Intermediate/Level 3 Diploma	PLB Preparing Ledger Balances and an Initial Trial Balance Foundation IAC Introductory Accounting Level 2 Certificate		FRA* Maintaining Financial Records and Preparing Accounts Intermediate/Level 3 Diploma	
All papers are 3 hours (plus 15 minutes' reading time). The morning sessions normally start at 0930hrs and the afternoon sessions at 1400hrs, local time. * Please note the temporary change to the normal exam timetable for the June 2010 exam sitting.					

Future exams weeks:

29 November to 3 December 2010 (NB: This week is only provisional at the moment (August 2009) as the Accounting Standards are currently under review.)

Quote

'We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future'.
 ~Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Health Corner

Chlamydia is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the UK. It's common in **young men and women under 25 years of age**. You don't need to have had lots of sexual partners to be at risk.

Most people with chlamydia have no symptoms, so **they may not know they have the infection**. If left untreated chlamydia can spread to other parts of the body and this can lead to long term health problems.

The ruClear? chlamydia screening programme provides lots of different venues for men and women under 25 to get tested for chlamydia.

If you're under 25 and have had sex, you can **easily get access to testing in a range of places** that are convenient to you-the **CONFIDENTIAL** test and any treatment you might need is **FREE**.

The National Chlamydia Screening Programme has discovered that **1 in 10 young people under the age of 25** who have had a test are infected.

ruClear? offer four ways for you to be contacted:

- Text message
- Call to your home telephone or other landline
- Call to your mobile
- Letter

For more information on where to get tested: - <http://www.ruclear.nhs.uk/>

Save a Packet on the High Street

Good News! All learners are entitled to sign up for the free UCAS card.

- Save a packet on the high street with your UCAS discount card.
- Information about the courses and universities you're interested in.
- Expert help from Giles, the UCAS adviser with all the reminders, hints and tips.
- Free copies of *The Independent's 'You Can'* magazine delivered to your door.
- Unlimited use of yougofurther.co.uk, the UCAS student network website.



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TOPSHOP

Register at www.ucas.com/ucascard

Thanks for reading!

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