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## WELCOME

This is the first of a series of new monthly e-bulletins. In each issue we will be bringing you news about qualifications, training workshops, events and profiles of our centres, along with new products and services that we are developing to help meet your needs. There will also be a useful news and policy round-up of what's happening in the education, training and charity sectors that are relevant to anyone involved in education and training at 16 plus.

Happy reading! We'd be pleased to hear your feedback.

*Jacquie Mutter, Chief Executive, OCN London*

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## CHANGES IN FUNDING RULES

There are big changes happening to the way that education and training is funded at 19 plus following announcements from the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) earlier this year. For 2016 to 2017, different types of provision are eligible for delivery through different funding routes which are in summary: **entitlement funding** for learners aged 19-23 (first full Level 2, first full Level 3 and up to Level 2 maths and English); **local flexibilities** funding for Entry Level, Level 1 and Level 2 (non-entitlement); and **Advanced Learning Loans** for learners aged 19+ for Level 3-6 provision. The good news is that our qualifications will still be eligible for funding under the new rules.

[Find out more](#)

**ocn**  
LONDON

### Bridging Skills for Higher Education

Helping people working in health and social care to progress

"Good hospitals and care homes are now unable to promote some of their best assistants into nursing. This is a waste of talent which must be overcome by urgently developing new bridging programmes."  
(Cavendish Report, 2014)

## FIRST OF OUR BRIDGING SKILLS LEARNERS GAIN PLACES AT UNIVERSITY

Our [Level 3 Certificate in Bridging Skills for HE](#) for the health and social care sector, launched last year, is already helping healthcare assistants to gain places at universities to study nursing. Four students from Bournemouth and Poole College have started their nursing degrees at Bournemouth University and two have started studying with the Open University. Other colleges, universities and NHS Trusts are showing keen interest.

[Find out more about our Bridging Skills for HE qualification](#)

[More about the Skills for Health Bridging initiative](#)



## NEW E-ASSESSMENT MATERIALS

We always listen when our centres make suggestions. One of them was to produce electronic assessment materials in order to make the whole assessment process smoother. These materials are offered FREE to existing OCN London members and other centres that join us as members. We currently have materials available for the [OCNLR Level 1 Award in Employability](#) and the [OCNLR Level 3 Certificate in Bridging Skills for Higher Education](#).

[More here](#)



## OUR ACCESS TO HE LEARNERS CAN BENEFIT FROM LSBU PARTNERSHIP

We're really excited about our new partnership with London South Bank University, set up in November last year. Students studying for OCN London Access to HE Diplomas will now have guaranteed conditional offers below the standard entry requirements. Six Schools at the University are participating.

[Find out more](#)



## WE AWARD QUALITY MARK TO EDUCATION CHARITY

Congratulations to IntoUniversity for gaining the OCN London Quality Mark. The charity provides local learning centres for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. The prestigious award recognises their commitment to delivering, education and training opportunities of a high quality.

[More about our Quality Mark..](#)



## CENTRE PROFILE - BROMLEY COLLEGE'S NIDO VOLANS CENTRE

The Nido Volans (Latin for “flying the nest”) Centre at Bromley College of Further and Higher Education, opened in 2013, provides specialist education for people with learning difficulties and disabilities. Regarded as a prime example of high-quality provision it has attracted much attention from across the UK and overseas. Read more about how our qualifications are contributing to its success.

[Read full story](#)



## CENTRE PROFILE - MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

Supporting individuals and families who are living with cancer carries huge pressures. We accredit a course for Macmillan Cancer Support that has literally changed people's lives. They include volunteers, family members, health professionals, benefits advisers, fundraisers and many others.

[Read full story](#)

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### News



# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

## THE BUDGET

What did the Chancellor have to say about education and training in the March budget? The headline news was that all schools should (or must) become academies, at a cost to the Exchequer of £1.5 billion. There was also a continued commitment to expanding apprenticeships and the announcement that employers will receive a 10% top-up to their monthly apprenticeship levy contributions to spend on apprenticeship training.

[Read a summary from Training Journal](#)

## WOMEN'S CHARITIES TO BENEFIT FROM 'TAMPON TAX'

In the Budget the Chancellor announced that £12m from a levy on [sanitary products](#) would be awarded to charities supporting victims of domestic abuse. [Other funds](#) will be awarded to a range of women's and health charities for projects that include work with women offenders, support for women with breast and ovarian cancer, women seeking an exit from prostitution and helping vulnerable women with parenting skills.

## APPRENTICESHIP REFORMS

More money is promised for apprenticeships, but the lion's share is likely to go to high-quality [16-18 apprenticeships](#), to run from August 2016 to March 2017. Meanwhile at the second annual Apprenticeship Conference we heard more about [the apprenticeship reforms](#) and how the proposed employer levy system will work. The big change is that providers will contract directly with employers instead of drawing down funding from the Skills Funding Agency. The bombshell was that only levy-paying companies will have access to the new funding system, to be launched in April 2017.

## NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK - KEY MESSAGES

Degree Apprenticeships will be increasingly important, according to a report from [Universities UK](#). But apprenticeships still have an image problem, says a [survey from the Association of Chartered Accountants](#). Awareness of apprenticeships is still weak with school pupils continuing to receive inadequate careers advice.

[Read more about the annual apprenticeship conference.](#)

## LIMIT TO FE STRUCTURING FUNDS

No more emergency funding will be made available for FE colleges once the government's restructuring fund to support the area review process has run out. [Skills Minister Nick Boles warned](#) colleges that they should take advantage of the additional government funding to pay for mergers and other structural changes now, saying "You're on your own" once the money has been spent.

## TEACHERS REJECT PREVENT ANTI-TERRORISM STRATEGY

[The National Union of Teachers has rejected the Government's anti-radicalisation strategy](#), known as Prevent, which requires teachers in schools and colleges to refer to police pupils they suspect of engaging in some sort of terrorist activity or radical behaviour. Their concerns were described as "a significant source of grievance among British Muslims, encouraging mistrust to spread and to fester".

### Upcoming events

#### INTRODUCTION TO ASSESSMENT AND MODERATION

**Tues 3 May, 10am-4pm**

This training day will prepare participants to deliver credit-based qualifications by looking at how to approach assessment, build learner portfolios and understand how the external moderation process works. [More details](#)  
[BOOK NOW](#)

#### DEVELOPING YOUR INTERNAL MODERATION SKILLS

**Weds 18 & Thurs 19 May, 10am-5pm**

This two day course enables Internal Moderators to develop their knowledge and practice. Successful participants will be awarded three OCN London bespoke credits at Level 3. [More details](#)  
[BOOK NOW](#)

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Click [here](#) to visit our website and find out more about our qualifications and bespoke accreditation options.

Contact us to discuss your needs on 020 7278 5511 or email us at [enquiries@ocnlondon.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ocnlondon.org.uk).



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