



Carpentry

Richard Rice is our Carpentry tutor, having joined the team in December 2009. Carpentry became a full course from January and even though it has only been running for a short time some of our students are already working towards a Level One standard of work. They have already built a wide range of items including Chairs, Welsh Shelves, Bird Houses and they have even built a Toy Box for one of our members of staff who is on Maternity Leave.

"The students have come a really long way in a short time. When they started there was very little experience in Carpentry in the group and now everyone is producing a good level of work, with some outstanding work from several of the students."



Summer 2010



Newsletter

Check out our video at www.merlinventure.co.uk



Motor Mechanics

Our newest course began when Mick Newton joined in March this year, transforming our ground floor from warehouse to motor garage with a number of cars, bikes and engines ready to be worked on. So far our students have been taught how to completely rebuild an engine and how to run an MOT test and service inspection. As well as working on standard mechanics we have also special projects including building a Hover Craft and Radio Controlled Plane.



"Our students have achieved an excellent quality of work and I know that many of them will do really well in mechanics, several students have already secured a place at college for when they leave."

Welcome to the 2010 Merlin Training Newsletter

Merlin Training has now been running Key Stage 4 courses from our new base on Erdington Industrial Park for just over a year now. During these last twelve months we have seen the centre grow dramatically, and as we have increased the number of learners we have also extended our range of training courses to include mechanics, electrics, plumbing, carpentry, painting and decorating and art.

We would like to thank and acknowledge the organisations that have supported us throughout our first twelve months by referring students to us and working alongside us to provide an exceptional life experience for our students. Thank you to Pupil Connect, Behaviour Support, North Area Network, East Birmingham Sharing Panel, Youth Offending Team, The International School, Castle Vale Performing Arts College, John Wilmott School, Fairfax School and all of the other Schools who have referred students to us during the last twelve months.

Star Students

As well as competence in their practical work, we think it is just as important for us to recognise good behaviour and attitude in our students. Each month the tutors nominate a student who has stood out amongst the rest of the group through outstanding achievement, positive change or just good old fashioned hard work. Every issue of the Merlin News includes our latest Star Student and we reward them with shopping vouchers so that they can choose their own prize. This year's star students have included Troy Gayle, Ezron Scott, Blake Smith and James Markland.

We will continue rewarding our star performers who will be featured in future newsletters. All of our past newsletters can be found on www.merlinventure.co.uk

Contact Us

If you would like more information about Merlin Training and any of the services that we offer, you can contact us on:

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Merlin Training

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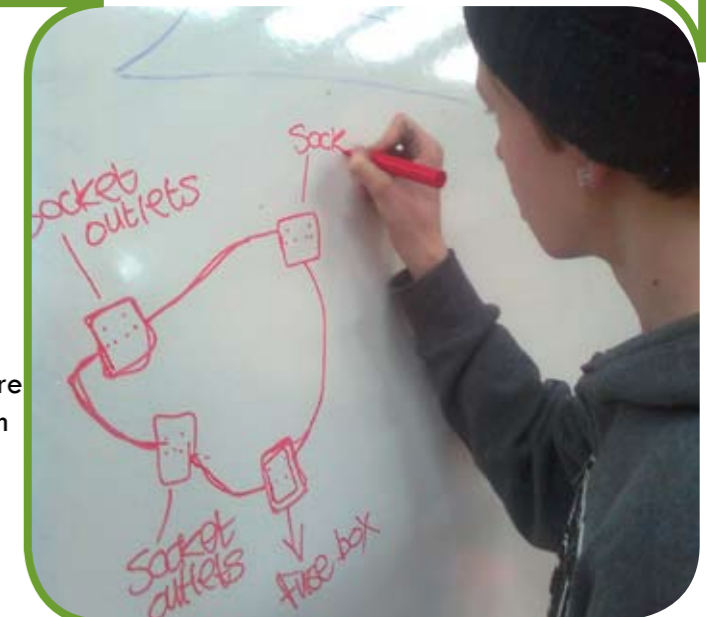


Electrics

Jason McCabe joined Merlin in September 2009 and has worked with several groups of students. His students have already covered Basic Circuit Design, Electrical Formulae, Safety, Radial Circuits and Ring Circuits. The students have worked really well attaining a level 2 standard which is what is generally expected at college.

"What has impressed me most about our students is that they are really picking up the maths side of electrics which is letting them see that they can understand maths when it means something to them."

Next term we will take our students through fitting consumer electronics including Electric Showers and Cookers.





Bassman Brought The Art of Noise

Birmingham's own MC Bassman came to pay a visit to our students. The Drum and Bass legend gave a talk about growing up in Birmingham when there were plenty of times that he could have and in fact did make the wrong decisions, but it was his passion for being an MC that helped him to build a successful career. Having performed across the world he is now working towards becoming a full time mentor, providing kids who are coming to a crossroads with a view of the real world and how important it is to think about what they want to achieve in the future.

"This type of centre didn't exist for me when I was younger and it's really giving these kids a chance to make something of themselves. It's great to talk with them and share my experiences and help them avoid some of the mistakes that I made." Bassman, MC.

Art Wall Project

This year's students have also benefited from having professional artist Anthony Butcher as part of our team of Training Assistants, leading students through a range of projects to help to develop their creative side. The big project that they have worked on this term has been air brushing a full size mural onto one of our walls.



Turning ringtones into a business

For once we actively encouraged our students to let their mobile phones ring loud when we worked alongside Urban Genius Ltd to promote business and enterprise with our students.

Taking place over several weeks our learners produced and recorded their own Merlin Training ringtone, which has been uploaded to the website www.ringblingring.com where the tone is on sale for £1.50, with all of the proceeds going towards a trip out for the students.

"This was a really interesting project for our students to take part in covering various aspects of business and helping them to learn that they could, if they wanted to, set up their own business from home"

John Lewis, Business Engagement Manager.



Plumbing

Jason McCabe took over as plumbing tutor last year, alongside his electrics classes. This term our students have continued to perform better than expected working at a practical level two, completing plumbing projects which are helping to improve their maths too.

"Our students have really come a long way since September, developing not just in a practical way because working with their hands is really helping them with maths using protractors and angles."

Next year we will be moving their knowledge onto fitting household appliances such as Thermostatic Showers and Heating Systems as well as working with heating systems.



Training Assistants

Throughout the year we have been fortunate to be able to welcome a number of training assistants who have assisted the tutors and provided extra support for the students. We have been able to bring in a really diverse range of dedicated people who have been willing and able to share their different skills and experiences with the students.



Painting and Decorating

Colin Glenn joined us in October 2009 and has been teaching his students a range of essential skills for use in painting and decorating. Having already covered the basics of room preparation, filling, painting and wallpapering, we have been able to move forward and introduce plastering to the course.

"The work that they are creating is so good those that are motivated really could have a career ahead of them with their abilities and the skills that they are learning. I have really been impressed with the standard that they have achieved."



Preparing our students for the Future

To help prepare our Year 11 students for life after Merlin Training we have a team of Employment Training Advisors on site who specialise in helping people to find training or employment. Towards the end of their final year all year 11 students have one to one advice and guidance sessions working on CV's and Application forms to help prepare them for what they will have to complete themselves when they leave the centre. Even when our students leave they can continue to come back to us for more help whenever they need to.

"It is our intention that all of our students are able to go on to better things when they have finished here - we want to help them find work or get onto a course at college." Jackie Elston, Senior Employment Training Advisor.

Merlin JETS Cast a Spell over Their Opponents

With 11 games won, 1 draw and 144 goals scored, celebration was in the air as Merlin JETS claimed victory in May in the first ever Pupil Connect Empowerment League tournament, winning their final match 21-7.

The League, part of Pupil Connect's 'supporting the youth' initiative, provides a high level of enjoyment and empowerment for the young people, encouraging them to think about the challenges and gains the game can bring. The Empowerment League runs parallel with other academic aspects of the project and is one of the first leagues of its kind.

"We are all proud of the youngsters who have participated in the football squad. They have shown a high level of commitment and skill, and have always behaved in an exceptional way. They are a credit to themselves, their coach and Merlin Training." Robert Brown, Chief Executive.

POS	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTs
1	Merlin JETS	14	11	1	2	144	77	67	34
2	Sporting Edge	14	11	0	3	123	52	71	33
3	CUL	14	8	1	5	111	89	22	25
4	Northwest	14	8	0	6	92	117	-25	24
5	Pathway	14	4	2	8	59	67	-8	14
6	Future First	14	4	1	9	55	79	-24	13
7	Aston Manor	14	2	1	9	66	74	-8	10
8	Archway	14	1	0	10	56	109	-53	9

