

Postgraduate Bulletin

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BRING BACK THE CANE!

Most older persons will remember the days of corporal punishment at school and the remedial (or not) effect on hapless culprits. A brief glance at the picture above might suggest the beginnings of a return to this form of retribution...? But No! This harmless bamboo cane is being used pragmatically to highlight the value of teamwork. The photo was taken at Exchange Place, Warwick, during a recent group training workshop provided for students enrolled on the Advanced Apprenticeship in Business Administration (AABA) course. The huge money-saving advantage of these newly available Apprenticeship courses means that, far from having to be press-ganged into enrolling (with or without using the cane!), students in their scores have promptly and willingly signed up for these Apprenticeship courses. This is understandable, because a free offer is a compelling force. This recent workshop at Warwick is just one example of the intensive support provided for students; two such sessions are likely to be held per each 12-month apprenticeship course. Other benefits include webinars, telephone calls and workplace visits. Babington College, the course provider, receives full Government funding for every student who finishes the course. It follows therefore that, through having to be constantly accountable for their progress, the students learn to become self-motivated and self-disciplined. This means that the cane can be reserved for fun activities rather than for imposing discipline!

FURTHER OR HIGHER?

In the interests of accuracy it seems necessary to explain the difference between further education and higher education. There are various definitions and opinions but the general position is that further education is post-16 and includes postgraduate courses up to Level 3, which is equivalent to 'A' Level, vocational and advanced apprenticeship courses. Higher education is post-18 and includes university and equivalent college degree courses. The table below sets it out:

Level	Qualification
3	Pre degree: 'A' Level, Access, BTEC, Diploma, etc
4-5	Foundation Degree: FdA/FdSc, HNC/HND
4-6	Bachelor degree: BA/BSc (Hons)
6	Bachelor Degree: BA/BSc (Hons) (top up)
7	Postgraduate Degree: PG Cert., PG Dip., MA/MSc

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ACCOUNTANCY

– THE BEST JOB IN THE WORLD

A recent survey of 5000 workers across 60 careers has shown that Accountancy, often denounced as dull and boring, is actually ranked as **the best job in the world**. This demonstrates that, once again, the valuable guidance given over 30 years ago that we need the best tax accountants we can get to get the best tax deductions we can get has fired our students to follow that guidance and equip themselves with valuable accountancy qualifications. "One of the best things is meeting a wide variety of people and getting involved with your clients' affairs and the area they work in", said one of the persons surveyed who works in accountancy. If you possess an accountancy qualification, the skills you have acquired will be used by thankful persons and you will be a respected member of the community. So, if you have not yet enrolled on a postgraduate course, let those words constantly ring in your ears – **'Every young person needs an understanding of Accounts, Tax and Law'** and email geoff.holding@ubteam.com for details of recommended courses.

JOIN THE FIGHT AND DO YOUR BIT

During an employer teleconference in Ireland last month, the call came from Australia for **more postgraduate students and more support for them**. A 100% commitment to postgraduate studies globally is the irrefutable proof needed to repel the appalling claim that we don't encourage tertiary education. So it's not only students that are necessary, but it's **SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS!** Word needs to get around that anyone with the desire and means to sponsor a student should do so. Many business owners and parents are already supporting generously, but will you do your bit too and join in the fight? Our young people need the stability of a lasting investment.

AABA STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

Impromptu student comments singing the praises of AABA -

'AABA is great! I have found this Apprenticeship course challenging but also extremely beneficial and very interesting. We started this course in May and I am now realising how little I knew about Business Administration 6 months ago! The topics covered are excellent and of use to any new employee. The assessor is enthusiastic, motivating and always positive. She has been a great support and is always willing to help. I enjoy her visits to the workplace and our regular meetings over the telephone. I thoroughly enjoyed the training day at Exchange Place recently. The venue was excellent, we learnt a lot, the activities were varied and fun and it was great to collaborate with students from all over the UK.'

'6 months into the course: I have found it very, very enjoyable and a great influence to the way I now think about business administration and the way I work. It's helped in vital areas that academic courses don't cover. I would recommend the AABA course to anyone who is hesitant about taking it up and would particularly recommend it to school leavers as it will help you to advance quickly.'

'The starting point of all achievement is desire. Keep this constantly in mind. Weak desires bring weak results.'