



PDT Training is on the move

After seven years in Shepherd's Bush the training department is moving to Westminster. This September staff and some classes will move to the popular Stowe Centre in Harrow Road.

While the move may not affect learners who study entirely online, it has a number of advantages. The Stowe Centre is a bright modern building next to a park and near the canal. It is on good bus routes, is disability accessible and has permanent reception and front of house staff. One big plus is that the training team will now be sharing space with the employment team and their qualified careers advisers.

"Moving to the Stowe will bring studying, qualifications and careers advice together in one place," says Hoss Malek, Head of Skills Training. "The new site will also provide classrooms for those who want to mix face-to-face learning with online. We are sure our learners will like it there."





What you told us... and what we did about it

In July PDTT ran a series of focus groups with learners to find out what YOU thought about our service. The results told us a lot and we have made several changes based on the suggestions we received.

You told us you love your tutors (Great to hear, thank you) and you think they go out of their way to support you both in your course work and in your personal life. Also, you (and Ofsted – see below) think your teachers know their subject areas very well.

However, there were suggestions for improvement in the overall service...

One of the main comments was that the mix of beginner and more advanced students did not work well. This was a point Ofsted, the Government Inspectors of Education, also made when they visited last December. Some students were also finding the pace of learning a bit slow. Using this feedback, we have streamlined our entrance criteria so participants will be on a more similar level of knowledge at the start.

Again, you agreed with Ofsted when you said some students needed better English to get the most out of their studies. So, this year there will be more emphasis on learning good English both during your classes as well as through additional English sessions. Tutors are sending a strong warning this year though – English (and Employability Training) is not an 'extra'. If you need it, you have to attend the classes. If you feel like you need some extra support with your English, please speak to your tutor.



Some in the focus groups wished they could continue to study at PDTT, going on to higher level courses. We will be providing more courses this year, and some at higher level, but the difficulty is that those with Level 3 qualifications cannot study higher courses for free. There is, however, a loan scheme – if you would like to know more, please get in touch.

We also discovered that some students from overseas did not know about EHIC – the service that tells you what your home qualifications equate to in the UK. For more about this – refer to the student handbook.

We'd like to say a big thank you to all who participated in the Focus Groups – you help make things better!

CASE IN POINT – MONA YAHYA



“I had started to forget myself until I heard about PDT.”

These are the words of Mona Yahya, one of last year’s graduates, who thanks PDT for

helping her to rebuild her self-confidence and enabling her to rediscover her direction.

Having moved to the UK from Sudan, Mona a busy mother of four children, found herself struggling to navigate the big differences between the two cultures in terms of language, lifestyle, education and law.

Sadly, she found herself shrinking back from socialising and sinking into isolation, focusing solely on her children and homelife. She became very shy and withdrew from trying to interact with new people and did not feel she had the courage to engage with her new culture and surroundings.

Mona studied Economics in her home country, so when she moved to the UK it felt natural to try to pursue a career and further education in this field. So, she enrolled on courses in English language and Accountancy, however, unfortunately did not reach the level she hoped to.

“My dream was to become an Accountant, but thanks to my tutors at PDT they helped me to see other targets and directions that would be more appropriate to my circumstances. I was really excited when I heard about the Childcare and IT courses

offered at PDT, so I joined them.

“I wish I did Childcare sooner! I learnt so much, and many things which help me raising my own children too. I have also learned a lot about UK law and policy regarding childcare. During my course, I did a work placement as a Teaching Assistant, this really helped me develop my skills and learning, as well as build my confidence.”

Achieving qualifications in IT and Childcare has not only enabled Mona to progress professionally, but PDT has been invaluable in helping her rediscover herself. She has been able to become the ambitious, brave and motivated woman she wants to be. Mona now dreams of setting up her own childcare business.

Mona expressed a lot of gratitude towards her tutors for the encouragement, advice and support they offered throughout her time at PDT.

“The tutors were always happy to help - in the classroom, in one-to-one sessions, even over the phone during the holidays, and throughout my work placement. They were patient and took their time to help me to understand and learn, giving me support with writing my CV, learning new skills and in opening my eyes to available opportunities.

“My tutors provided me with enough encouragement and confidence which led me to believe in myself.”





PDT welcomes

Dawn Duval-Macsporrán

Dawn joins us as **Curriculum & Quality Manager**. She will be working with us to make sure that our students get the best possible service from us. Alongside this, she will be carrying out other activities to ensure PDT is well prepared for an Ofsted inspection.

Dawn brings both curriculum and quality experience to PDT, having recently helped another provider go from Insufficient Progress to a Good Ofsted in all aspects of its provision. She says; "I am collaborative and enjoy working with people, and I always put the student at the heart of everything I do. The students will see some positive changes, enhancing the delivery of their courses and with initiatives, for example you said, we did."

Prior to joining us, Dawn has worked for two other large colleges, as well setting up the first Apprenticeship programme (City & Guilds) for Bermudians whilst working in Bermuda for two years. She has managed



curriculum – in various subjects – for over 10 years and has worked specifically in Quality for around eight years.

In her free time, Dawn enjoys art galleries, running and travel both in the UK and abroad.



Courses we offer



- **Childcare** Level 2
- **Childcare** Level 3
- **Childcare** Level 4
- **Adult Care** Level 3
- **Teaching Assistant** Level 3
- **IT Users** Level 2 Award
- **IT Users** Level 2 Certificate
- **Functional Skills** (English)
- **Employability Skills** Level 1
- **ESOL**

Safeguarding:

It was good to learn from the Ofsted inspectors found that: "PDTT learners feel safe. They have a reasonable understanding of how to keep themselves safe online. They receive detailed information (about safeguarding) at the start of their course."

Remember, if something is not feeling right to you or you have concerns about someone close to you, let us know. Issues that can come under safeguarding are: abuse (sexual, financial etc), bullying, sexual harassment, radicalisation (people being drawn into beliefs that can be a danger to themselves or others), grooming, forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM).

PDTT has safeguarding officers who will know how to support you.

PDTT Designated Safeguarding Lead: Semin Archidiacono

PDTT Deputy Safeguarding Officer: Mayette Esdicul

PDTT Main Safeguarding number: 020 7266 8242, **Email address:** safeguarding@pdt.org.uk

Out of normal working hours: 07791 044579 / 07501 004156 / 07852 319919

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Funding Agency

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development trust

training

We have space on the courses listed above - please contact us to find out more.

Please tell your friends about PDTT courses.