

Press Release

1 November 2011

Getting fit for purpose

Adult Education College Bexley has reviewed all aspects of its service including staff, current courses and premises in order to ensure the College is placed on a sound financial footing while causing as little disruption to learners as possible.

As part of the scrutiny of its premises, the College has taken the decision to relocate the courses it currently runs from Crayford Manor House to its other two sites. This will take effect from January 2012.

Bexley's Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration, Cllr Linda Bailey said; "The College reduced the number of courses held at Crayford earlier this year following a review of its costs and refurbishment requirements of the building.

"Unfortunately the Manor House is not suitable for disabled access and is expensive to run. In these difficult financial times we understand that the College must do what it can, within the resources available, to maintain the best possible service for its users.

The site is currently used for one day per week and four evenings. From January courses will be held at one of the Colleges two main sites at Brampton Road in Bexleyheath and Alma Road in Sidcup, fully utilising these centres.

To reflect these changes the new spring course brochure will be available at the beginning of January, with new courses starting at the end of that month.

"Despite these tough times the College has an integral role to play in engaging the people of Bexley" said Rosie Eaglen, the Colleges Head of Curriculum. "Our record of achievement including 100% pass rate in all GCSE and A-Level exams this year speaks for itself."

"There may be more changes to come including changes to fees to bring the service in line with Government directives, but the College is a valuable asset to the community and we are determined to ensure its viability into the future".

The Council owns the Crayford Manor House site and its use will be reviewed under Strategy 2014.

Along with some course changes, the College has taken further action to ensure good value for money by re-structuring its management team.

Ends