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Spring is finally here!

Welcome to the March Newsletter from DistanceLearningcentre.com.

We hope you are enjoying the more clement weather (though some of us did have a freak snow storm a week ago!) and we hope that any mum learners were suitably spoilt on Mother's Day.

Although we are sending you this newsletter every month we do post items of interest, throughout the month, on our various social media channels so if you haven't already, follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

Regards

The DistanceLearningCentre.com



EASTER BREAK

Just a reminder to all Learners that our tutors will be on their Easter break from

Monday the 10th April until Tuesday the 18th of April.

During this time, your tutor will be unavailable for tutorials and will not be answering any phone calls or emails that you send. All learners will need to make sure that they have the codes they will need for the week that the tutors are on holiday. Your tutor will contact you beforehand and should provide you with what ever code you are working on plus the next assessment or materials code you are due to have next.

We apologise for the inconvenience this may cause but please remember, unlike a traditional college who are shut for up to twenty weeks a year, DistanceLearningCentre.com only close down at the Easter and Christmas periods for a total of three weeks each year.

The main office, including Student Services, will only be closed Friday the 14th and Monday the 17th of April and will be on-hand, whilst the tutors are away, to answer your enquiries as usual.

Have a good break and don't eat too much chocolate!



COURSE UPDATE



Online GCSE & IGCSE

Although we specialise in Access to HE Diplomas, we also offer GCSEs and IGCSEs (International GCSEs) which are both graded UK qualifications: we offer IGCSEs in some subjects because they can be completed without the need for coursework. The level of the qualification is exactly the same.

All of our GCSEs are studied entirely online with support from our GCSE administrator and our specialist subject tutors. They can be started at any time during the year and generally take 9 months to complete.

Exams are taken in May/June each year and for all subjects, except Mathematics, they can also be taken in November.



For our list of GCSE/IGCSE subjects we currently offer please click [HERE](#)

We do not arrange your GCSE/IGCSE exam for you so you will have to contact a local exam centre and paying for it is your responsibility. We will, of course, give you all the support you need in finding a suitable exam centre if you need help.

For the subject you study you will be taught everything that you need to know to achieve A*- C grades through the learning materials. Your tutor will also be on hand to support you over the phone, in our GCSE forum, and via email. Throughout your studies homework, assignments and mock past papers will be marked with feedback on how to improve, and how to achieve the highest grade possible in your exams.

Breaking news: From September 2017 we will be extending our range of GCSE courses by offering a **Dual Science IGCSE**

MEET THE PEOPLE

This month the face behind the voice and emails is Sue Smith, our GCSE administrator.

Sue is a relatively new member of staff, joining DistanceLearningCentre.com in February 2016.

In that short time Sue has become the go to person for all things related to our online GCSE and IGCSE's and is on-hand to advise of exam dates and centres.

As part of Student Services she is also involved with the student forum and answering enquiry emails and phone calls.

Before joining DistanceLearningCentre.com, Sue worked in the NHS for over twenty years and British Telecom for eight years. In her spare time she runs a children's Gymnastics Club with her husband and when not involved with tumbles, handstands and cartwheels, she enjoys walking, cooking and spending time with her two granddaughters.



STUDENT HANDBOOK

New Student Handbook now available.

We would like to advise all current Access to HE Diploma learners that there is a new Student Handbook available.

Written from a student point of view, the aim of this handbook is to give you guidance throughout the duration of your course and it is an important document to refer to during that time.

This new version, in particular, gives you revised information about using Turnitin as well as information regarding tutorials.

We ask you to discard your older version and from your Learner Account download and read the new version as soon as you can.

EXTRA CURRICULUM



Many of you will know **Nicky Leeth** as your tutor for Education and Study Skills on your Access to HE Diploma, however, on the 4th of March she took part in the Forest of Bowland Hedge Laying Competition.

Nicky belongs to the Lancashire and Westmorland Hedge Laying Association whose aim is to conserve hedgerows for wildlife and maintain the ancient rural skill of hedge laying.

According to Nicky, 35 people were in a very muddy field for 6 hours but reported that Hotpot was on hand, at the end of the day, to warm them all up.

If you have any issues accessing the new handbook please email [Student Services](#)



FACEBOOK



When you follow us on Facebook change your news feed preferences to **See First**.

That way you will always see our updates as soon as we post them.

FAB 5 AWARD 2017



We are starting to receive nominees for the the 2017 FAB 5 Award which will be presented to five learners in September 2017.

All nominees will receive an official letter which we hope, should you not be one of the lucky winners, will still be of use to you when applying for university or a new job as it could be shown as proof of how proud we are of your achievements as a DistanceLearningCentre.com learner.

For terms & conditions of the FAB 5 AWARD please click [here](#).

Don't despair if you have not received a letter yet, nominations for the FAB 5 Award don't close until after the June moderation and remember selection of winners is not just based academic excellence, we also reward learners who help others via the [Student Forum](#) so it's not too late to do your bit, get nominated and get the chance to win your course fees back.

HAVE YOU APPLIED FOR YOUR NUS CARD?

Did you know that as a Learner with DistanceLearningCentre.com you are entitled to apply for an NUS Extra card?

What is it?

NUS Extra is a student discount card, giving you over 200 UK student discounts and comes with 1 year FREE ISIC which unlocks over 42,000 international discounts.

With an NUS Extra card you can make savings on travel, eating out, entertainment, music & technology, supermarkets, fashion & beauty, finance and health & fitness.

For example currently you can get the following discounts with an NUS Extra Card

20% off at Vision Express

20% off at Frankie & Benny's

26% off with National Express

Choose from a 1-year card for just £12, a 2-year card for £22 or a 3-year card for only £32. Many discounts are online only so you can't get them without an NUS Extra card.

How to apply

- Go to <https://cards.nusextra.co.uk/>
- Type in your email address and press "Buy or renew your NUS extra card now".
- Enter the place of study as DISTANCE LEARNING CENTRE.
- Enter the details of your course.
- Select the length of NUS Extra card you wish to purchase.
- Upload a photo of yourself.
- Enter your personal details, address* and your student ID number.**
- Check all the details, then confirm and pay



* Has to be a UK address, however this does include BFO postal addresses.

** Your student ID number is on your studies page of 'mydlc' and starts with STU.

Put in the format they have specified so DLCxx (first two letters of your student ID), then a hyphen, then the remaining letters or numbers of your student ID e.g. DLCST-Uxxxx