

Echo

Wednesday 17th September 2008

Parents' Guide

DUE to technical difficulties with yesterday's Echo, the profile for Prospects College did not appear in our Parents' Guide supplement.

Good prospects for all students

NEIL Bates, chief executive of Prospects, commented: "Our centres in Basildon and Southend have seen a 65 per cent increase in apprenticeships in the past year.

"This is for courses such as mechanical and electrical engineering, bricklaying, carpentry and joinery, fabrication and welding, and aircraft maintenance.

"The next phase of development on the site is a response to increased demand for skills from the construction industry.

"It will make a significant contribution to the Government's ambition of ensuring that one in five school leavers is able to secure a high quality apprenticeship.

"Prospects College has excellent relationships with local businesses, which are keen to employ young people who have the skills they need.

"We offer a wide range of apprenticeship programmes and play a key part in the provision of skills along the

Thames Gateway. We are always encouraging young people to apply for apprenticeships, and employers to offer them.

"With the work we do in the field, supported by the huge amount of Government backing, I feel confident it won't be long now before apprenticeships become a mainstream option for young people in this area.

"Thanks to recent investment Prospects Colleges in Southend and Basildon – plus the new building at the Futures Community College Thorpe Bay site – are ideally placed to provide opportunities for young apprentices in Essex and along the Thames Gateway."

Prospects College will be holding open evenings for Years 9-11 between 5pm and 8pm on October 8, at Crompton Close, Basildon, October 15, at Fairfax Drive, Southend, and October 22 at Pegasus House, Bentalls, Basildon.

Parents Guide

FACTS AND FIGURES

Name: Prospect College

Address: Prospects House, 10 Fairfax Drive, Southend, SS0 9AR and Crompton Close, Basildon

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Chief executive: Neil Bates

Number of students (July 2007):
Boys (994) Girls: (56)

Number admitted September 2007: 1,050 (over three campus sites)

Number admitted September 2008: 1,200

Average number per class (11-16): 15

Provision for special needs: Standard provisions – basic skills tutors

Key features: Specialist college in construction and engineering, offering vocational courses to learners aged 14 and over

Notable extra-curricular activities: Construction trade school, young engineers club

Top three achievements 2007/2008:

1. Engineering overall success rate 78% against national average of 62%
2. Basildon schools careers programme achieved 100% success in bricklaying
3. Matrix accreditation attained for information, advice and guidance