

# Many are already reaping the benefits

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ESSEX students and employees are already signing up to free skills training – but thousands more places are available.

Southend Airport is just one of many employers taking advantage.

Terminal manager Anna Syrett said members of her team were carrying out NVQs in Customer Service and IT skills.

“This has proven to have a positive effect for both the business and our staff,” she said.

Margaret Hockey, 50, who is a teaching assistant at Grovewood Primary School, has benefited too.

She returned to education after a gap of 34 years. An part-time NVQ Level 2 Teaching Assistant course, as part of Train to Gain, at South East Essex College has seen Margaret, 50, from Rayleigh, gain confidence and get a job.

“I’ve been offered a position as a direct result of doing this course which is amazing,” she said. “I never thought that I would have the confidence to do it but I have been given so much support from staff and family.”

Youngsters too are benefiting from the many vocational places available.

Jack Varley, 17, has just secured a job with PGM Carpentry Ltd. He enrolled on a vocational



**ON THE JOB: Jack Varley (above) and Anna Syrett (inset).**

Main picture by Mark Cleveland

course called Future Builder in September 2005, attending Prospects College two days a week and three days studying GCSEs at Cecil Jones.

“Prospects College is a brilliant idea because I had the opportunity to learn a trade at school,” he

said. “The tutors have already been in the trade and teach you the skills you need to know for a building site.”

For more on vocational learning visit [www.thamesgatewaytraintogain.co.uk](http://www.thamesgatewaytraintogain.co.uk) or [www.prospectscollege.com](http://www.prospectscollege.com)

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