

College backs Government plan

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A VOCATIONAL college is backing the Government's campaign to increase the number of apprenticeships for school leavers.

The Government believes apprenticeships are more important than ever, especially in the current economic climate.

Research by the Learning and Skills Council shows for

some youngsters, apprenticeships provide vital help into gaining employment.

Prospects Colleges, based in Southend and Basildon, is a key provider of engineering and construction apprenticeships in south Essex.

Neil Bates, chief executive, said: "Apprentices are critical to ensuring businesses have the skilled work-

ers needed to ensure market competitiveness now and when the economy recovers.

"Currently one in 18 school leavers takes up apprenticeship places. It is planned that this will increase to one in five by 2014. This is an achievable challenge which needs employer commitment from the outset."

Echo

Friday 27 February 2009