

sms 4 EU Project

Feedback from the questionnaire for the 3 key questions: Question 3; 6 and 11. I interviewed fourteen students who are on a training course for adult returnees to work at Yale College of Wrexham and discussed the findings from these 3 questions with the following feedback:

Question 3: What are the main barriers in access to education for you?

Family commitments: This was a concern but the students were helped with this by being able to place their children into the college crèche if they were under school age. Also to help students who have children of school age, classes did not start until 0930 and finished at 1500 to enable parents to collect their children from school.

Fear: There was a very interesting response to this question. It is often assumed the 'fear' is returning to education after being away from the environment for a number of years, however it was stressed that this fear also comes from worries and concerns about everyday living, financial issues; family problems/commitments etc.

Money: This was a major barrier as there was limited finance available to students who were studying in a full time capacity. This was more of a concern for students who had previously been in employment and were now finding it difficult to manage on limited financial support.

Time: As with most things time was a concern, however it was felt that educational establishments were addressing this problem well by offering courses during the day {to fit in with childcare arrangements} and also night classes.

Question 6: What learning methods do you prefer?

Lectures: Students found these to be useful for the initial information to prepare them to move on to researching and producing information.

Interactive Learning: Students found this to be a good method of learning; there are a number of interactive I.T. packages available so students can move forward at their own pace.

Group Work: This was another popular method of learning, students felt it was useful to work in small groups and utilise the knowledge, skills and experience of their colleagues when producing materials and evidence.

Learning by Doing: The most popular method of learning, however students did stress that it was important to be able to do the basics before progressing with this method of learning.

Question 11: If you are currently participating in training, is it a reason to:

Continue with further education: Students believe that they need to continue with their further education to focus on their basic skills and develop new skills and qualifications as the general opinion was that without recognised qualifications it would be very difficult to gain any employment.

Withdraw from your educational efforts and find alternative training or work. There was a very low response to this question however students told me that were happy to continue with their academic studies until the summer break when they were hoping that the additional training and qualifications they will have gained will put them in a stronger position in the job market.

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On behalf of the Wales sms 4EU Team
5th March 2009**