NEW YEAR, NEW LEVY

Employers and local providers learned more about the new levy when they gathered for The Changing Face of Apprenticeships event.

Questions were answered at a business breakfast by the college’s Director of Development & Innovation, Simon Griffiths, and the Think Sandwell Area Employment Team and Business Growth Team, to help people get to grips with the changes to apprenticeship funding.

The changes include extra payments for some employers but a new levy on others. Under the old system, training for apprentices aged 16-18 was fully funded, and apprentices aged between 19 and 24 had half their training costs covered by the government, with the employer paying the rest.

The new system will mean that all apprentices are funded at a minimum of 90%. Additional payments are available to some employers and young people, such as apprentices leaving care or with special educational needs. There will also be a new levy on companies that have a wage bill of more than £3m.

Non-levy paying employers will benefit from a minimum of 90% Government support; with all employers having more control over funding their apprentices. Additional payments and incentives are available to some employers and young people, especially for 16-18 year old, people leaving care or with apprentices with special educational needs. Funding can be used to support new staff, retrain existing staff or upskill staff to higher skill levels.
Emma Venables was crowned one of the UK’s very best hairdressing students, after winning in this year’s Britain’s Best competition.

Britain’s Best, run by the National Hairdressers’ Federation, attracted talent from across the country and a record number of entries across the 11 categories.

Level 3 diploma student Emma beat off tough competition to win in the Glamorous Night on the Town category, with her 17-year-old model Jade Meachem, who is also studying hairdressing.

Level 2 Hair and Media Make-up student Jasmeen Kaur was also runner-up in the Bridal Make-up category.

NHF president Agnes Leonard said: “For Emma to win in her category was an amazing performance and she should be very proud of what she achieved.”

Sandwell College’s apprenticeship success rates at 77.2% are well above the national average of 70%.

Former apprentice Georgina Richards completed her Level 3 Pharmaceutical Science Diploma two years ago, and she now has a successful career as a pharmacy technician. Employed by Sidhu’s Pharmacy in West Bromwich, Georgina manages the supply of medicines – preparing and dispensing - and is working towards further advanced qualifications.
West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) promoted 300 student paramedic opportunities at a careers event held in conjunction with Sandwell College and Job Centre Plus.

Sandwell College Principal, Graham Pennington, said: “We are delighted to be working in collaboration with WMAS and Jobcentre Plus for such an important careers fair, and proud to have hosted at our dedicated careers college campus, which prepares students for the world of work in the healthcare sector with its state-of-the-art facilities and simulated hospital ward.”

For more information call our Employer Team on 0121 667 5018
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