

Spring is here!



"Putting people first"

ISIS Interactive

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Every Learner Matters

- Be Healthy
- Stay Safe
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve Economic well-being
- Enjoy and achieve through learning

In this Edition

- Austerity Update
- EMA replacement
- Minimum wage Increase
- How to stop bullying
- Save on Car Insurance
- A taste of Polish
- How to give a cat a pill!
- Live music in Lincoln

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ISIS Celebrates Success of their Learners at the Lincolnshire and Rutland Skills Awards 2011



Award winners Rachel Whitchurch (front row 3rd left) and Rachael Vamplew (Back row 2nd left)

Two of our learners were successful at the Lincs and Rutland Skills Awards held at the Lawn Lincoln, on 7th April. **Rachel Whitchurch** received the **Personal Achiever of the Year Award** and **Rachael Vamplew** received the **Apprentice of the Year Award** in the Business and Administration category.

Rachel Whitchurch suffers from ME, that affects her mobility and makes it hard for her to walk and stand for long periods and she also has a hearing impairment. She has had to push herself very hard and overcome lots of hurdles to meet the requirements of her Foundation Learning training course at ISIS Boston.

Rachael Vamplew is working towards her Advanced Apprenticeship in Customer Service, having already completed an Apprenticeship in Business Administration. Rachael is currently working as a Planning Information Officer at Boston Borough Council where her skills, knowledge and experience are highly valued by her employer.

Congratulations to the learner's and their respective Learning Advisors, **Tina Hassanali** and **Grace Clark**. ISIS Training has been very successful at these awards over the years and we are already preparing nominations for next years awards, where we hope to celebrate even more successful learners.

From the BBC Website

Reaction to Scrapping EMA

"A 15-year-old boy was given a standing ovation at a teachers' conference after his speech on the axing of the education maintenance allowance (EMA). Joe Cotton urged the National Union of Teachers to do all they could to keep education "affordable and accessible". The GCSE student, from Calder High School, Yorkshire, said scrapping the EMA did not make economic sense".

To read the full article and watch a video of Joe's speech, follow this link

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-13187600>



"The rate for apprentices will rise by 10p, for 16-17 year-olds by 4p and for 18-20 year-olds by 6p."



Austerity Update – How the cuts can affect ISIS and our Learners

New bursary scheme to replace EMA

By: Pip Whiteman

The Government has announced a £180m bursary scheme to replace the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) in England which closed to new applicants in January.

EMA was perceived by many as a key tool in helping minimise the number of young people classified as NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training). Under EMA, 16 to 18 year olds from lower income households could receive up to £30 per week to help stay on in education or training. Learners, for example, on the YPLA Entry to Employment (E2E) programme were eligible for EMA. The money could be spent on course fees, travel, books, food or other living costs. E2E began to be phased out last Autumn, to be replaced by Foundation Learning, which is intended to offer learners, including unemployed young people, a flexible route to Entry Level and Level 1 qualifications.

Originally there was a question mark as to whether Foundation Learning participants would benefit from the former EMA scheme, but the new bursary may present a genuine alternative. Under the new bursary scheme it is anticipated that up to 12,000 teenagers with the greatest need could benefit from up to £1,200 per year; primarily young people in care, care leavers and the severely disabled. The remaining bursary budget will allow colleges and providers to make discretionary payments to support low-income 16 to 19 year old learners, covering similar expense items as EMA. The key difference however is that colleges and providers will have a tighter and more direct handle on the purse strings. They will decide the scale of bursaries for each qualifying learner, how frequently they are paid, and whether payments are linked to behaviour or attendance.

The Government will now carry out an 8 week consultation on the scheme so that the detailed arrangements can be finalised in time for allocations to be made to learning providers for the 2011/12 academic year. EMA schemes in Scotland and Wales are continuing, albeit the allowances in Northern Ireland are under review.

Increase in the National Minimum Wage

The national minimum wage for adults will increase by 15p from October 2011 to £6.08 an hour, the government has said. The 2.5% increase was recommended by the independent Low Pay Commission (LPC). The rate for apprentices will rise by 10p, for 16-17 year-olds by 4p and for 18-20 year-olds by 6p.

Business Secretary Vince Cable said the changes would help more than 890,000 of Britain's lowest-paid workers.

The LPC was unanimous in its recommendations "despite all the economic uncertainties" according to its chairman, David Norgrove.

The complete set of changes are:

- over-20s: up 15p (2.5%) to £6.08
- 18-20 year-olds: up 6p (1.2%) to £4.98
- 16-17 year-olds: up 4p (1.1%) to £3.68
- Apprentices: up 10p to (4%) £2.60.

Equality and Diversity

A taste of Polish By Pam Bambridge



I was recently invited to a Polish language and culture taster evening which was very interesting. Poland is in fact a beautiful country. Points we discussed were the differences in culture, famous Poles (including Mr Marks from Marks & Spencer, Pope John Paul 11 Karol Wojtyla, Marie Curie, Lech Walesa and the founder of Tesco Stores Jack Cohen). Also what attracted Poles to the UK in the nineties and how Poland has developed since in the recent past few years?

We were taught a few useful words and phrases listed below which may be of use to all of us in both our work and social lives – again I apologise to Liz for any mispronunciations.

English	Polish	Pronunciation
Hi/Bye	Czsesc	Trescht
Hello	Witaj	Vitiae
Good Morning	Dzien Dobry	Gen Dobra
Good Afternoon	Dzien Dobry	Gen Dobra
Goodbye	Dobry wieczor	Dobry Vietro
Goodnight	Dobranoc	Dobranos
Thank you	Dziekuje	Genqueer
What is your name? formal	Jak sie Pan/Pani nazywa?	Yak shun Pan/Pani nazyva (male/female)
Sorry	Przepraszam	Shoprashon
How are you? formal	Jak sie Pan/Pani ma?	Yak shun Pan/Pani ma?
I am well thank you	Dobrze dziekuje	Dobgja Genqueer
Yes	Tak	Tak
No	Nie	Nieea
Please take a seat	Proscze usiasc	Prochan ushangedt
Good	Dobrze	Dobrsja
Very good	Bardzo dobrze	Bardzo Dobrsja
How can I help you?	Jak moge pomoc?	Yak moga pomots
One moment please	Proscze Poczekac	Prochan pochekac





What is Bullying?

Bullying is when someone intimidates or causes harm to another person on purpose. The victims of bullying can be verbally, physically or emotionally assaulted and are often threatened and made to feel frightened.

Useful Websites

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/bullying>

<http://www.bullying.co.uk>

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/HealthAndRelationships/Bullying>

<http://www.childline.org.uk>

<http://www.acas.org.uk>

"Many people don't consider bullies to be a problem past school. However, they exist everywhere and at every age. Bullies at work can be a real problem, making you want to avoid not only them but work in general"



Staying Safe



Every Learner Matters
"Stay Safe"

Girls' behaviour in class is 'deteriorating'

By Pip-Whiteman

This article was published on the BBC Website, www.bbc.co.uk/news on 18 April 2011

"Girls' behaviour in the classroom seems to be deteriorating as much as their male classmates, a survey of teaching staff suggests. A survey of teachers, heads and other school staff across the UK found that 44% believed girls' behaviour had worsened in the past two years. This compares with 43% for boys, says a survey of 859 members of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers. But 68% of staff in the survey said boys' behaviour is more difficult. Half of the surveyed staff thought boys' behaviour had got worse over the past five years, and 48% thought girls' behaviour was worse".

'Friendship problems'

One secondary school teacher who contributed to the study said: "Boys are more physically aggressive and usually to other pupils, with girls it is more name calling, less fighting." For girls, most staff said bullying such as isolating another pupil from a friendship group, spreading rumours, making snide looks and comments, were the biggest problems (44%).

A 34-year-old teacher from Reading said: "Girls spread rumours and fall-outs last a long time. Boys tend to sort it out fairly quickly." And a teaching assistant from Weston-Super-Mare said: "Girls are definitely getting more violent, with gangs of girls in school who are getting worse than the gangs of boys." A Department for Education spokesman said: "Teachers can't teach effectively and pupils can't learn if discipline is poor or there is continual low-level disruption." That's why we're giving teachers tough new powers and underlining their clear authority to crackdown on badly-behaved pupils."

What to do if you are being bullied



- First and most importantly don't keep it to yourself; there are lots of people out there who can help. Talk to someone you can trust like your Parents, Learning Advisor, Key Worker, a Friend or your employer if you are working. The bullying will most likely keep on going if you keep it to yourself.
- Keep a record of the incidents of bullying, where, when how and whom. This is especially important if it is happening at work. Get a witness if possible who will be prepared to stand by you against the bully.
- Speak to witnesses or other people that are being bullied as well and then report the bully or bullies jointly to the appropriate person who can deal with it.

Economic Well-being



Every learner Matters
"Achieve Economic Well-being"

What is the point of 'best before' dates?

By: Pip-Whiteman

Extracted from an article on www.bbc.co.uk/news - 18 April 2011

"Best before" dates on food could be reformed, the UK government has indicated. But what purpose do they actually serve? "Best before" labels are a familiar sight to every British shopper. But do you know the difference?

- **Best-before** is about quality not safety. Food should be safe to eat after this date, but it might not be at its best. One exception is eggs - because they contain salmonella.
- **Use-by** is the key date in terms of safety. Never eat food after this date. Found on cooked meats, soft cheeses and dairy-based desserts.
- **Sell-by** and **display-until** dates are for the retailer, not the customer and are mainly used for stock control purposes.

Incidentally, the article includes a claim by a third party that consumers can end up throwing away up to a quarter of their weekly food and drink purchases - worth about £680 a year to an average British household!

How to beat Rocketing Car Insurance Premiums

Cheap car insurance for young drivers basically does not exist and the promise of special rates and cheap premiums are very rarely realised. All you can do is search for the best rate and take the cheapest you can find. You also need to understand the facts about why young person's car insurance is so expensive. It is a fact that young inexperienced drivers are a higher risk to insure because:

- Newly qualified UK drivers are more likely to have an accident during their first year of driving than at any other time.
- Per mile of driving, the risk of an accident involving injury or death is about seven times greater for 17-20 years old than for those aged 40 or over.
- Young drivers under 21 are involved in 15% of all car accident deaths.
- New drivers make up just 10% of licence holders, but are involved in 29% of accidents.

To keep the cost down, here are some tips to help find a premium you can afford.

- **Take the Pass-Plus Driving Exam** - Taking the Pass Plus will cost around £150 but given the high cost of new driver's car insurance you should save more than this on your car insurance premium. Ask your driving instructor for details or visit: <http://www.direct.gov.uk> and search for "pass plus test"
- **Save up and pay** - Pay your insurance in a lump sum and avoid paying interest charges on the monthly instalments. Typical interest rates are between 15 – 30% of the actual cost of the policy.
- **Named Drivers** – Adding an older, experienced named driver can save up to 10% on your policy
- **Buy car insurance on-line** - Most insurers offer a discount if you buy your policy on-line.
- **Avoid speeding or driving offences** – Points on your licence means much higher insurance costs
- **Shop around and use on-line comparisons sites** – Some insurers charge up to 35% more for the same policy
- **Make sure your car is protected** – The more security like alarms, immobilisers etc, the cheaper the policy

ISIS Training offer Hospitality and Catering Qualification at levels 1, 2 & 3 in:

- Professional Cookery
- Food Production and Cooking
- Accommodation services
- Food and Beverage Services
- Food Services
- Beverage Services
- Food Preparation and Cooking
- Hospitality Services
- Front of House Reception
- Housekeeping
- Kitchen Services

For further details call 01522 532225 or Email: enquiries@isis-training.co.uk



The Foundation Learning team are.....

Colin Ashmore (Manager)

Foundation Learning Lincoln

Suzanne Chambers
Sarah Foster
Sophie Pateman

Foundation Learning Boston

Kayleigh Panton
Grace Clark
Marianne White

Foundation Learning Gainsborough

Vicky Mitchell
Hannah Parker
Flick Scott

Qualification News and Achievements

Waltham Tea Gardens Staff have the recipe for success!

6 members of staff from Waltham Tea Gardens in Grimsby have all achieved their various Hospitality and Catering Qualifications in 50% of the allocated times. The training was delivered by their Learning Advisor Allison Tofton, who is also the ISIS Lincoln WBL Manager. This is a tremendous achievement requiring hard work, effort and dedication. Congratulations to all involved in achieving the qualifications so quickly.



New E-Portfolio System for our Learners

ISIS Training are pleased to announce the launch of a new E-Portfolio system. EDI E-Portfolio has been developed by the awarding body EDI, to replace the ENVQ system we currently use. The ISIS Training team have been making themselves familiar with the new system, which all new learners will be using from April 2011. We think the new system is a great improvement on ENVQ with all the functions and menus being a lot simpler and easier to use, as well as much needed text formatting and spell check facilities. We feel this will enhance and improve the learning experience and meet the expectations of our learners regarding the use of technology to achieve their qualifications.

New Foundation Learning Qualifications Proving to be a Success

The new range of qualifications being delivered by our Foundation Learning Teams in Lincoln, Boston, Newark and Gainsborough are proving to be very successful with some excellent results and achievements beginning to come through. We are now seeing our FL Learners achieving excellent results in Functional Skills for Maths, English and ICT.

This has been a very steep learning curve for all of the FL Team, following the change from Entry-to-Employment to Foundation Learning, where they have had to learn to deliver a completely new range of qualifications using totally different delivery methods than they were previously used to. This has involved rigorous staff training and development sessions in addition to supporting their learners and their every day work at ISIS. Well done to all the staff, ably led and supported by the Foundation Learning Manager **Colin Ashmore**. A special mention must also be made to our Quality Manager, **Pip Whiteman**, who has supported and guided the FL Team through the entire process of making the change from E2E to Foundation Learning. It is fair to say Pip has gone the extra Marathon as opposed to the extra mile!

The ISIS Team

WBL Operations Manager

Mary Turnor

WBL Managers

Alison Toffon (Lincoln)
Vanessa Everington (Boston)
Nicky Bush (AAT)

Quality Manager

Pip Whiteman

E-learning Manager

Mick Gilroy

Foundation Learning Manager

Colin Ashmore

Admin Team Leader

Jean Robinson

IT Technician

Robert Edison

WBL Team Boston

Tina Hassanali
Collette Steadman
Frances Bradley
Daniel Atkin

WBL Team Lincoln

Sandra Portess
Helen Roberts
Sandra Gothorp
Meera Chauhan
Jacquie West

Learner Support

Liz Uden

Admin Team Lincoln

Helen Ward
Sarah Brown

Admin Team Boston

Gill Moon
Kirsty Beresford

Foundation Learning Lincoln

Suzanne Chambers (Team Leader)
Sarah Foster
Sophie Pateman

Foundation Learning Boston

Kayleigh Panton (Team Leader)
Grace Clark
Marianne White

Foundation Learning Gainsborough

Vicky Mitchell (Team Leader)
Hannah Parker
Flick Scott

Marketing Team Lincoln

Richard Appleton
Paul Farmer

Marketing Team Boston

Pam Bambridge
Andrea Young

Apprentices

James Hine (IT)
Danielle McKeown (Admin)
Amy Hinton (Admin)

ISIS Staff News

Arrivals, Departures and Movements

Since the last edition we have learned that our Support Tutor **Liz Uden** is about to leave ISIS Training for a new position teaching ESOL to Polish workers. Liz has done a tremendous job since she has been at ISIS Training, getting literally dozens of learners through their various Maths and English qualifications, as well as delivering ESOL Training. (See the learner comments below) and we all wish her well in her new job. We have one new arrival; **Amy Hinton** starting as an Admin Apprentice in our Boston Office, having successfully completed her Foundation Learning Course, we hope you enjoy your time with ISIS Amy.



More accolades for our Learning Advisors and Support staff

We continue to receive really positive feedback from our learners and employers regarding the training and support we provide. This was received from an employer following the completion of training.

Dear Allison,

I am an employee of Lincolnshire County Council and have just completed my NVQ level 3 in Management with ISIS Training. I just wanted to thank my ISIS learning advisor, Helen Roberts, for all her help and support throughout the course. She was a pleasure to work with and I couldn't have asked for a better tutor.

These comments were written on a card sent to our Learning support tutor, Liz Uden by a class of Polish learners, following completion OF their ESOL course, to demonstrate their new skills.

"We are to thank you for your patient and sacrifice with your help as we try to learn the English Language. It is very important to us, as it will make our life in England easier and more comfortable". (SIC)

This feedback came from Laura, one of Helen Robert's learners who has completed two management NVQ's including, the newly introduced level 5:

*"Helen, **THANK YOU SO MUCH** for all of your support throughout both of my qualifications, I could not have done them so efficiently without you! You are a great mentor and your guidance is much appreciated."*

And this one came from an employer who submitted a mid-term evaluation

"Regular contact with the learner - providing support and encouragement along the way. We have seen a huge change in confidence in our learner and that's all credit to ISIS."

Awards Nominations

We are currently preparing nominations for the Lincs and Rutland Learner of the year awards. This is a separate award to the recent Apprenticeship Awards and anyone currently in learning, irrespective of their age, is eligible to be nominated. If you know of anyone who deserves a nomination, speak to your Learning Advisor or contact any member of the ISIS Training staff (Details on page 11)

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How to Give a Cat a Pill (By Pip Whiteman, acquired from the internet)



If you have ever tried to give a cat a pill you know how difficult it is. The following instructions are fool proof!

1. Pick cat up and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right forefinger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding pill in right hand. As cat opens mouth, pop pill into mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.
2. Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.
3. Retrieve cat from bedroom, and throw soggy pill away.
4. Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right forefinger. Hold mouth shut for a count of ten.
5. Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Call spouse from yard.
6. Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, hold front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted by cat. Get spouse to hold head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously.
7. Retrieve cat from curtain rail, get another pill from foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered figurines and vases from hearth and set to one side for gluing later.
8. Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat with head just visible from below armpit. Put pill in end of drinking straw, force mouth open with pencil and blow down drinking straw.
9. Check label to make sure pill not harmful to humans, drink one beer to take taste away. Apply Band-Aid to spouse's forearm and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap.
10. Retrieve cat from neighbour's shed. Get another pill. Open another beer. Place cat in cupboard and close door onto neck to leave head showing. Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill down throat with rubber band.
11. Fetch screwdriver from garage and put cupboard door back on hinges. Drink beer. Fetch bottle of Scotch. Pour shot, drink. Apply cold compress to cheek and check records for date of last tetanus shot. Apply whiskey compress to cheek to disinfect. Toss back another shot. Throw tee-shirt away and fetch new one from bedroom.
12. Call fire department to retrieve the darn cat from tree across the road. Apologize to neighbour who crashed into fence while swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil-wrap.
13. Tie the cat's front paws to rear paws with twine and bind tightly to leg of dining room table, find heavy duty pruning gloves from shed. Push pill into mouth followed by large piece of steak. Be rough about it. Hold head vertically and pour two pints of water down throat to wash pill down.
14. Consume remainder of Scotch. Get spouse to drive you to emergency room, sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and removes pill remnants from right eye. Call furniture shop on way home to order new table.
15. Arrange for RSPCA to collect mutant cat from **** and call local pet shop to see if they have any hamsters.



Live Music comes to Lincoln!

This summer there will be a series of live concerts at the Lincolnshire Showground featuring a range of diverse artists. Beginning in May, there is a series of live outdoor concerts as part of the Midsummer Magic series of concerts presented by Chris Moreno.

First up on Saturday 14th of May are legendary rockers **Status Quo**, plus support to be announced. Tickets are £32.50 for adults and £15 for children (aged 5 – 15)

Next on Saturday 23rd July is the 80's Summer time special "Here and Now" tour, featuring **Boy George, Jason Donovan, Belinda Carlisle, The Real Thing** and **Curiosity Killed the Cat**. Tickets for this are again £32.50 for adults and £15 for children (aged 5 – 15)

Finally Sunday 24th July is TV Talent show act night featuring **Jedward, Stacy Solomon** and the ever popular ABBA tribute band **Bjorn Again**. Tickets for this are £30 for adults and £15 for children (aged 5 – 15). This night also features a spectacular fireworks finale. (Can you have an unspectacular fireworks finale?)

Gates open for all events at 6pm and the concerts start at 7:30pm. There will be the usual array of food, drink and official merchandise stands, but concert goers are invited to bring a picnic to enjoy on the various grassed areas of the Showground. Tickets are on sale at a variety of outlets around Lincoln and can be bought on-line, but be aware this will incur a booking fee of £1.20 or £1.50 depending where you buy them from. Further details can be found at: <http://www.midsummermagic.co.uk/index.html>

On Saturday 3rd September again at the Lincoln Showground, the Lincolnshire CO-OP are celebrating their 150th birthday with an outdoor concert featuring the rather bizarre combination of **Scouting for Girls** and **Lulu** (who will no doubt sing her one verse of Take That's "Relight my fire"). There will also be further support acts to be announced and a number of local bands. Tickets for this are £33.50 - £43.50 Standard price and £12.50 - £34.50 discount price, although it doesn't say how or who qualifies for the discount prices. Further information and ticket purchasing info can be found at: <http://www.lincolnshire.coop/birthdaybash>

Queen Guitarist to Rock The RAF!

On 16 July legendary Queen guitarist **Bryan May** and West End Music star **Kerry Ellis** will be performing an open air "Anthems in the Park" concert at RAF Cranwell, in aid of various charities including the RAF Benevolent fund. They will be accompanied by various military bands and the music apparently will be a mixture of Rock and classical. The evening will start with an Air Display and finish with a stunning (as opposed to spectacular) fireworks display.

Tickets are £25 for adults, £15 for children (5 to 17; under 5s free) and £65 for a family (two adults and two children aged 5-17). They are available at www.ticketline.co.uk or go to www.rafbf.org/cranwell or www.raf.mod.uk/cranwell
There is also ticket sales hotline on 0844 888 9991.

Gates open at 4.30pm, with a fly-past at 7.10pm, and the concert starts at 7.30pm. Concert goers are invited to bring a picnic and are asked to provide their own seating. For those who do not wish to bring picnics, food and drink is available to buy on the night – including Pimms, which is compulsory at Cranwell!



*A guitarist, playing anthems.
(Not Brian May!)*



Welcome to Nasty TV.....Entertainment or Humiliation?

The world of reality TV shows are becoming increasingly cruel and what were once quite entertaining and even educational programmes seem to be an object lesson in how to humiliate someone, or be as cruel, argumentative and spiteful as possible, all in the name of entertainment and attracting the so called target audiences.

Take talent shows like **X-Factor** and **Britain's got Talent**. In the early rounds a large amount of the contestants have no right be there and in reality should have never even got past the first audition stage, as it is blatantly obvious they have no talent whatsoever for singing, dancing, telling jokes or doing any amount of bizarre acts in the name of entertainment, even to the most sympathetic or unqualified of judges. However they are given their 5 minutes of TV humiliation in order to satisfy a TV audience with a lust for people humiliating and embarrassing themselves and also so the judges can show how cruel, unsympathetic and unkind they can be. Occasionally one of the poor untalented victims will fight back and argue, before being forcibly lead from the stage by the "security team" in a very carefully planned and scripted exit, to gasps, boos and abuse from the studio audience, all also carefully cued up and planned.

There are three TV reality TV shows that started off being quite entertaining, before descending into conflict, screaming, shouting and arguing more suitable to Bear-Baiting than a civilised 21st century TV Show.

The first of these started off as a show called **Holiday Swaps**, where families with completely different holiday styles and interests, swapped holidays and experienced a new and totally different type of holiday than they were used to. Most of them enjoyed the experience, got on well with the hosting family, it opened up new ideas to them and in the main all thoroughly enjoyed the experience, which they discussed and reflected on in a civilised manner over a drink at the end of the show. This wasn't good enough for the producers though, who increasingly began to totally mismatch the participating families until it was apparent they had nothing in common, had no interest in experiencing any other type of holiday than say their 2 weeks all-inclusive in Benidorm, or their week studying the architecture of Florence. This lead to a show consisting of 60 minutes of shouting, arguments and tantrums on the lines of "you are all posh snobs" or "you are all common council house chav's" and no-one showed the slightest interest in the other ones holiday experience. At the end they meet to viciously verbally abuse each other before storming off vowing never to have any contact again whatsoever, and the programme was aptly re-named **Holiday Showdown**.

Wife Swap followed exactly the same lines, beginning as a type of social experiment in experiencing different types of home lives, seeing how the other half lived and sharing experiences at the end, until again the producers decided to change the format. Again the contestants are now totally mis-matched to the point where they practically hate each other and at the end, take their venom out on the other contestants spouse or partner, whilst declaring their undying love for their own partner, no matter how bad their home life had been before the show, now it is suddenly all perfect! This also applies to the celebrity version of the show as well.

The shining lights in these two shows are the children, who in the main ignore all the adult arguments and generally get on fine with each other, no matter what their backgrounds etc are. They play happily together and willingly join in any activities, much to their parent's annoyance and even want to keep in touch with their new found friends.

The 3rd and final show beginning to go down these lines is the once perfectly innocent **Come Dine with Me**. This used to be 4 strangers selected to get together to show how well they could put on a dinner party, with the chance of a £1000 prize at the end. Again the contestants would be fairly compatible, get on well in general and they experienced different types of food, homes and other peoples sometimes radically different views of what a dinner party should be like. Normally the prize would go to the most deserving contestant who put on the best dinner party. Now it is going down the lines of Holiday Showdown and Wife Swap. Bizarre combinations of guests with little in common in terms of age, gender, interests etc. The standard group of 4 contestants is often replaced with 5, which invariable leaves one outsider who either gets shunned or picked on by the rest of the group, or the group divides into two pairs and one outsider. The little video diaries are becoming increasingly bitchy and the best host rarely wins, in favour of the most popular in the group or tactical voting to make sure the best host doesn't win. There are lots of arguments around the dinner table, which is most people's idea of the dinner party from hell and even the menus, which are previewed before the actual dinner party, are verbally ripped to shreds, before anyone has even tasted the food. Again, the same rules apply to the **celebrity version** of this show as well. Get 5 massive egos who hate each other and we have TV entertainment according to the producers!

Is this really entertainment? I would rather stick pins in my eyeballs than sit through any of these shows ever again. If I want to watch people shouting, screaming and hurling abuse at each other, I'll watch Prime Ministers Question Time, live from the House of Commons!

ISIS Training

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Visit our website at:
www.isis-training.co.uk



Putting people first

About ISIS

As one of Lincolnshire's leading and most respected training providers ISIS Training can provide fully funded or very low cost training for new and existing employers. Most of our qualifications are work based to ensure minimum disruption to your business and are all tailored to your specific needs and work practices. At ISIS we utilise a wide range of technology in all our qualifications including Electronic portfolios and assessment methods using digital cameras, voice recorders and laptop computers. These are enhanced with well proven traditional assessor visits and evidence gathering. We currently offer qualifications in:

- **Business Administration**
 - **Team Leading**
 - **IT User**
 - **Accounting**
 - **Customer Service Management**
 - **IT Practitioner**
 - **Legal Secretary**
- (Fees are applicable for Accounting and Legal secretary qualifications for AAT/ILEX membership and for further course materials)*
- **Hospitality and Catering**
A full range of courses from housekeeping and front office through to professional cookery and food and drink service.

Why take on an Apprentice?

Ask yourself if you would like any of the following?

- A full time employee on a trainee wage?
- An eager individual who is willing to learn?
- Employees receiving up to the minute relevant training:
- Training tailored around the needs of the business:
- A flexible and loyal individual?



Become a progressive employer – take on an Apprentice!

Recruitment Day in Boston

ISIS Training invites Year 11 students to the Foundation Learning Recruitment Day on Friday 6 May 2011 in Boston between 10am and 3pm

Young people can find out what Foundation Learning has to offer, the qualifications available and meet the team to discuss their career pathways and how ISIS Training can help them to get one step ahead.

If you decide that you want to apply to join, you can fill in an application form and have an informal interview on the day with a view to starting the course after leaving school this year.

Young people who have already left school are also welcome to apply – *places available now!*

There will also be information, advice and guidance available for Apprenticeships with ISIS Training. For further information contact our **Boston Office: 1205 354171**

Or email us at: enquiries@isis-training.co.uk