



# CASE STUDIES

## ADULT LEARNING



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# LOCAL GOVERNMENT APPRENTICES

**Earlier this year, more than 100 local government apprentices came together to compete for the title of Local Government Apprentice of the Year 2021.**

During this national event, apprentices faced six online activities, in teams of people they had never 'met' before. The activities were based around a variety of disciplines, such as networking and enterprise. The day was designed to be fast-paced, action-packed and challenging to observe performance under pressure both individually and within teams.

Huge congratulation to Thomas, Project Officer Apprentice at Essex County Council, for being part of the winning team. Thomas recently spoke to us about his Apprenticeship experiences and how it has positively impacted his career.

## **Why did you choose to do an apprenticeship?**

I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do when I left college, I applied for multiple apprenticeships and even thought about university, I finally found a role in Trading Standards as an Apprentice Intelligence

officer, I spent 12 months in this role before moving to a Buy With Confidence Project Officer Apprentice in Trading Standards.

## **What impact has the apprenticeship programme had on your career?**

I've gained a variety of new skills as well as improving some skills I already feel I had. I've also met a great group of people who have supported me throughout my career and taught me a lot of what I need to know within my job role.

**I've gained a variety of new skills as well as improving some skills I already feel I had. I've also met a great group of people who have supported me throughout my career...**

## **Why would you recommend apprenticeships to other people looking at career options?**

Apprenticeships are a great way for people to get a feel for a workplace and gain experience in a job role that could be a deciding factor in someone's career. It also gives the apprentice the opportunity to meet people with large amounts of knowledge and experience in certain roles and build up contacts that could be incredibly helpful in the future.

## **Why would you recommend ACL as an apprenticeship provider to other employers?**

ACL are a great apprenticeship provider and have multiple ways for apprentices to learn and gain knowledge through college days, blended learning, and enrichment sessions. The support provided by tutors is great and they are always available if needed.

## **What has been your highlight as an apprentice so far?**

Taking part and being a member of the winning team during the apprentice of the year event is a massive highlight and gave me an insight into other apprentices' situations across the country. Working in Trading Standards is also a massive highlight and is a great place to work with great colleagues.

We offer apprenticeships at intermediate, advanced and higher levels. To find out more about how an ACL apprenticeship could help your business visit our website.



## **OUR OFFER:**

Our apprenticeships are perfect if you're leaving school or college, looking for a change of career or already in work but requiring new skills to support a promotion or change of job role.

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**ACL are a great apprenticeship provider and have multiple ways for apprentices to learn and gain knowledge...**



# EARLY YEARS APPRENTICE - ABBI

## Why did you choose an ACL Apprenticeship?

I chose an ACL apprenticeship as I wanted to gain valuable workplace experience in the child care sector before continuing on to university to study for my degree which I will be starting later this year.

## Can you tell us about your experience on your apprenticeship so far?

I have loved every second of my apprenticeship so far, from the moment I joined my setting I have felt supported and formed great relationships with the staff and children. I can always talk to my manager and colleagues when I have questions and I feel as though I have been supported greatly by these individuals.

## What is your role, the business you work for etc.?

I currently work for Little Stars Nursery, in the first year of my apprenticeship my role was to act as a key person for a small group of two years olds, in this time I learnt how to provide intimate care, create a safe environment and meet the wants and needs of the children in my care. Continuing into the second year of my apprenticeship I am now currently working as a Special Educational

Needs support practitioner in which I make sure that the children with SEN are provided with the supporting care that they need to be able to achieve and experience nursery life the same as every other child.

## What do you hope to achieve from your apprenticeship?

The one thing that I hope to achieve from my apprenticeship is valuable knowledge and experience of what makes a good Early Years Practitioner and how I can have a positive impact on young people's lives.

**I've gained a variety of new skills as well as improving some skills I already feel I had. I've also met a great group of people who have supported me throughout my career...**

## What is one thing you are proud of that you have achieved whilst completing your apprenticeship?

One thing that I am proud of from my apprenticeship is speaking on behalf of my setting during a Multi-disciplinary assessment for a child's Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis. It was very insightful being able to talk to a panel of Paediatricians and I received some great feedback for the information I contributed.

We offer a range of apprenticeships for you to enrol on. If you would like to find out more our offer or current apprenticeship vacancies, please visit our website.

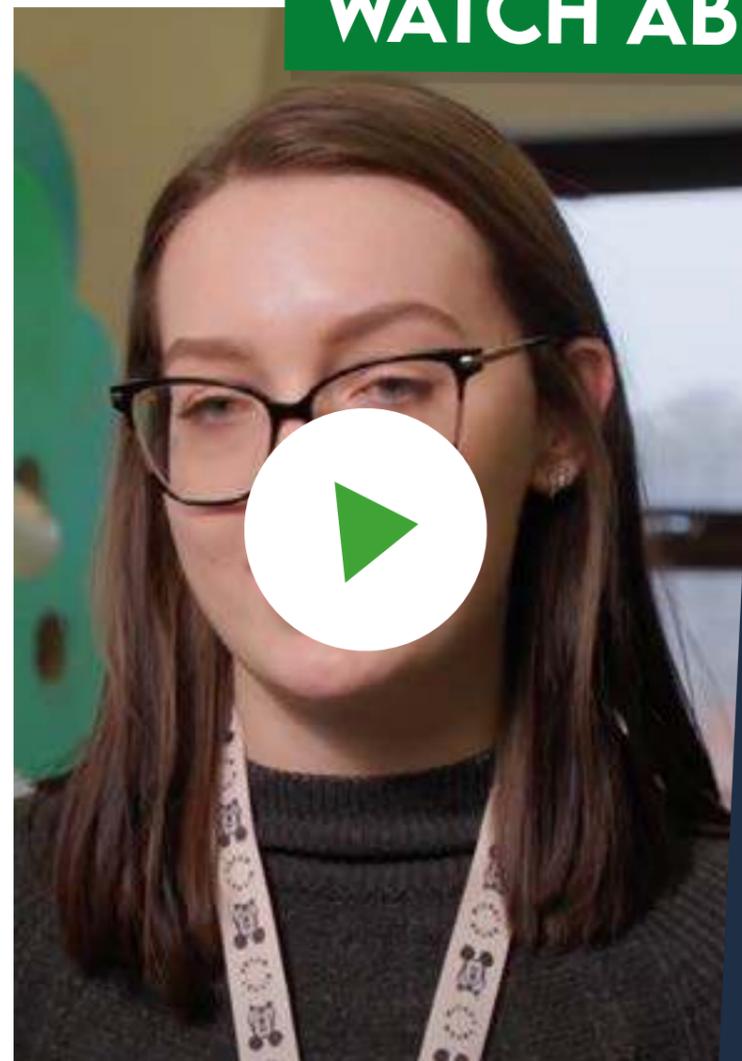
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## OUR OFFER:

Our apprenticeships are perfect if you're leaving school or college, looking for a change of career or already in work but requiring new skills to support a promotion or change of job role. We have a range of early years & education apprenticeships such as: Early Years Practitioner Level 2, Early Years Educator Level 3, Teaching Assistant Level 3 and Coaching Professional Level 5.

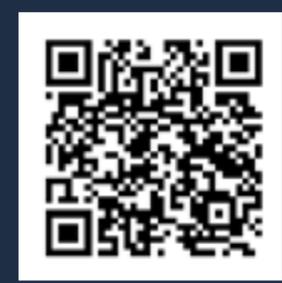
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## WATCH ABBI'S VIDEO



We got the opportunity to speak to Abbi and film her in her apprenticeship.

If you would like to learn more about how Abbi is finding her early years & education apprenticeship, please scan the QR code below to watch her video.



**LEON**

I really am enjoying my time here and I can't wait for us to grow even bigger and create more successful stories as a community...

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### Leon joined the ACL Commercial team in October 2020 as a Business Administration Apprentice

He has been supporting the Business Development team to engage with businesses, learners, and organisations to promote ACL opportunities.



**LEON**

We recently caught up with Leon to see the progress he has continued to make in his career journey.

#### What new projects have you been working on since you started your apprenticeship?

I have been given the freedom to help others and work on different projects and areas within ACL. From managing very significant employment paperwork for apprentices, to promoting marketing content via the ACL LinkedIn channel. As part of my apprenticeship, I have to create and implement a specific project. I chose to focus my project on Health & Safety.

Overall, I have been involved in a range of different projects and enjoyed collaborating with new people (internally and externally) with the overall aim of improving our services. I have developed hugely from taking on an apprenticeship with ACL; I have gained skills, knowledge and self-confidence.

#### Can you tell us a little bit more about the Health and Safety project?

The objective of this project is to deliver a health and safety process to evidence that our apprenticeship provision is meeting both Health and Safety requirements as outlined

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by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

I want to ensure the safety of all our learners and the process will enable me to keep a live, up to date system which can now tell all staff members at ACL when an employer will need to renew and update their Employer Liability Insurance and their Health & Safety/Risk Assessment details. This new system allows ACL to be compliant with the legal responsibilities from the ESFA and the Healthy and Safety Act. If we have any inspections from Ofsted and they want to see how this particular process works within ACL, we can show them all the records that every learner and employer is up to date and has a safe and secure place of employment.

#### Have you taken on anymore responsibilities?

I have taken on a lot of responsibilities. Colleagues and external stakeholders rely upon my hard work to make sure we get as many apprenticeship starts as possible. I am now responsible for creating, promoting and managing all apprenticeship vacancies for ACL. I do this on the official government apprenticeship website and promote on our social channels.

#### Have your career goals changed?

When I started my apprenticeship with ACL, I wasn't sure which area to pursue for my future career. This apprenticeship has allowed me to get a taste for some work in each department to see what a future role could entail. I am still very happy currently

working as a Business Administrator for Essex County Council. During my apprenticeship, I have seen how varied and diverse the council actually is with a wide range of employment routes and roles to support the residents and businesses of Essex.

I have been given the freedom to help others and work on different projects and areas within ACL...

#### Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?

I truly have had an amazing apprenticeship experience with ACL. I have developed from someone who was shy, didn't have many skills or experience, to a levelled up team member. I have also gained a full time job opportunity and I couldn't be more thankful for my line manager believing in me and teaching me new skills to succeed. I really am enjoying my time here and I can't wait for us to grow even bigger and create more successful stories as a community.

## OUR OFFER:

Our apprenticeships are perfect if you're leaving school or college, looking for a change of career or already in work but requiring new skills to support a promotion or change of job role.

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- > [aclessex.com/employers](https://aclessex.com/employers)

**HOLLY**

I really am enjoying my time here and I can't wait for us to grow even bigger and create more successful stories as a community...

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**Holly started with Impamark in September 2017 and completed the Level 2 Business & Administration Apprenticeship in September 2018 with Distinction.**

She then started her Level 3 in January 2019 and completed it in March 2020, again with Distinction.

We recently caught up with Holly to see the progress she has continued to make in her career journey.

**What new projects have you been working on since you started your apprenticeship?**

Since completing my apprenticeship with ACL, I have been offered plenty of opportunities to further my development. I have completed 2 further qualifications within the promotional merchandise industry, attended events and exhibitions with the sales team and have been very involved with the production of our brand new website.

**Have you taken on anymore responsibilities?**

My responsibilities since completing my apprenticeship have grown massively. I now manage all of the social media accounts, create all the content for the business, taken charge of all admin jobs in relation to order processing and data input, update our secondary sites (PPE & regimental) and have more recently started to use social media to gain new leads for the sales team.

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**Have your career goals changed?**

I still want to stay within an admin role and the level 2/3 apprenticeships with ACL have most definitely given me the foundation to do so. With these qualifications under my belt, I feel confident that I will excel within my career.

We would like to congratulate Holly on her continued success. We wish her all the luck and success in the future.

## REASONS TO TAKE AN APPRENTICESHIP

1. You have recently started a new job role and want to learn on the job.
2. You want to improve your skills and your confidence in your current role.
3. You would like to earn a wage while also working & learning at the same time.
4. You would like to gain a qualification while you are working.
5. You want to gain the skills to go onto a higher level job role.

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## OUR OFFER:

Our apprenticeships are perfect if you're leaving school or college, looking for a change of career or already in work but requiring new skills to support a promotion or change of job role.

We offer apprenticeships in a wide range of areas so there is something to suit everyone! Apprenticeships are a great option for everyone no matter your age or previous experience.

Our apprenticeships go from level 2 to level 5.

We also offer inclusive apprenticeships for those with learning difficulties/disabilities.

If you would like to learn more about our offer, please visit our website.

> [aclessex.com/apprentices](https://aclessex.com/apprentices)  
> [aclessex.com/employers](https://aclessex.com/employers)

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**HOLLY**

**GRAY**

# CASE STUDY VIDEOS



## WHO IS GRAY?

Earlier this year we were invited to Arma Karma, an insurance company based in Colchester. They recently recruited Gray, who is completing their Level 3 Business Administration apprenticeship.

“It’s really nice to see the suggestions that I make being implemented, and seeing improvements based on that. I didn’t think that I would be the sort of person interested in insurance but I can’t stop talking about it!”

Gray’s manager Chris couldn’t be happier with the progress that Gray has already made in their role.

## SCAN HERE



To find out more about Gray’s story, please scan the QR code.

## WHO IS HARRISON?

Harrison is completing his Business Admin Level 3 apprenticeship at Chelmer Foods Ltd and has become an invaluable member of the team.

“I’ve gained a wealth of knowledge about working in a business and developed a host of new skills but I mainly feel I’ve grown as a person. I feel more confident in myself and I feel confident I made the right choice to kickstart my journey in the workplace.” We wish Harrison every success in the future!

I’ve gained a wealth of knowledge about working in a business and developed a host of new skills ut I mainly feel I’ve grown as a person...

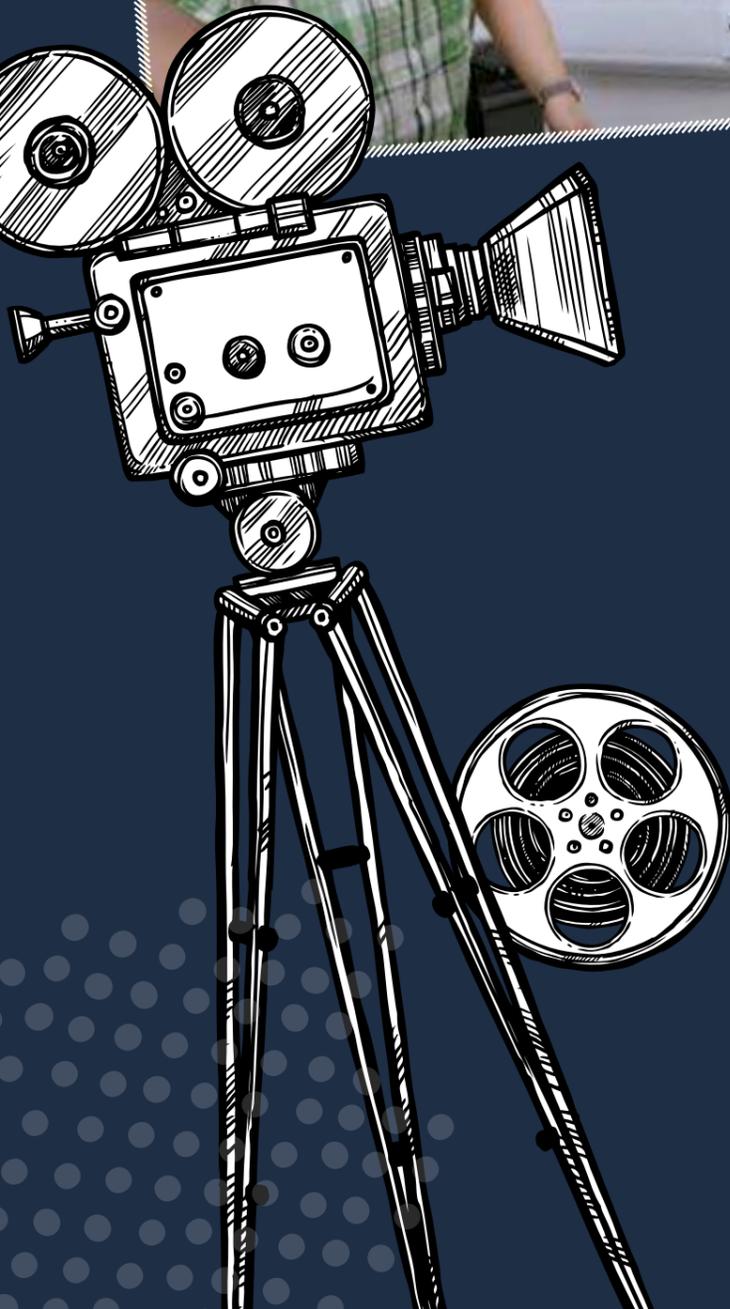
## SCAN HERE



To find out more about Harrison’s story, please scan the QR code.



**HARRISON**



# WHAT OUR CREATIVE LEARNERS SAY...

The tutor led the session with a great deal of enthusiasm, ensuring that all learners were involved in the lesson. The pace and challenge work well with the group, allowing all learners to participate and make progress with their Spanish skills.

The pottery for all class is great fun and I learnt loads. The lecturer was lovely and helpful but let you explore your ideas and try things.

I also feel that because of the relaxed and informal delivery of the course material I would have no hesitation in undertaking another course to further my knowledge and skills in photography

Summer scenes was as enjoyable as Spring scenes with such a variety of subjects to choose from. It was fun to try out different mediums and to follow your helpful instruction sheets.

My Italian tutor Maria is a true inspiration to not only myself but I know to the rest of my classmates. She is an amazing teacher who makes each lesson informative, educational & fun.

## OUR OFFER:

Discover something new with our creative courses, we have a wide range to choose from!

- ▶ Art & Crafts
- ▶ BSL & Makaton
- ▶ Creative Media
- ▶ Creative Writing
- ▶ Floristry
- ▶ History & Philosophy
- ▶ Languages
- ▶ Music
- ▶ Photography
- ▶ Pottery
- ▶ Woodwork
- ▶ Silversmithing



**CLICK PLAY**

To view our recently published video showcasing creative courses.



# A CREATIVE WRITER'S JOURNEY



**In my twenties, I took my first short story class. Meeting other writers and getting their feedback was invaluable. I loved every minute of it.**

A few years later, after I'd had my second child, I went on another creative writing course. This time, it had the bonus of some me time. On this course, we were encouraged to write a variety of different genres. It was great to try out new ways of writing. From this course, my little writing group was formed. We have been meeting for over ten years now. Following that, I started writing a story which was originally intended to be short but then it kept going and turned into a novel.

That first novel was a bit of a mess, I have to admit, as I didn't plan it and it lost its way. The story ended up being far too

complicated but I learnt a lot from writing it and most importantly I had fun. It was then I started a new novel. But towards the end, I found I was struggling a bit. When I saw the 'progressing your novel' course at ACL in 2020 I was delighted. This was just what I needed. Unfortunately due to lockdown, we had to go online after a few weeks. Knowing that I was debating how to end it, the tutor, Emma, suggested that I write a synopsis for each chapter. This gave me a clear sense of direction.

*"When I saw the 'progressing your novel' course at ACL in 2020 I was delighted. This was just what I needed..."*

During the first lockdown, I was able to finish writing it. During those stressful and uncertain times, it was good to have a distraction. In August 2020, after being spurred on by a friend who read my novel, I plucked up the courage to send it to some publishers. I was amazed when a month later one of them said he was interested.

Originally the novel was written from three points of view, two sisters and their mother. The publisher pointed out that I seemed to be aiming at two different markets, he suggested I cut out the mother's point of view. This required a lot of rewriting but it was something I was happy to do to make it better.

Rewriting my novel got me through lockdown two and the dreary winter months when

Covid seemed like it would never end. Since then the novel has gone through huge changes. If anyone had told me I would be editing this novel about six hundred times I wouldn't have believed it. It has been a long process but I am so proud of the finished product.

I would advise anyone to go on a creative writing course because it helps you to discover your style and genre as well as be inspired by other writers.

My novel, Powerless, will be available to buy on Amazon from November 12th, 2021. Follow me on Twitter (VickyBall3), Instagram and Tik Tok (vickyballauthor) for book updates.

## OUR OFFER:

**Has Vicky's story inspired you? Why not enrol on a creative writing course:**

- ▶ Creative Writing Getting Started
- ▶ Creative Writing Making Progress
- ▶ Creative Writing Refining
- ▶ Creative Writing Poetry
- ▶ Creative Writing For Mindfulness

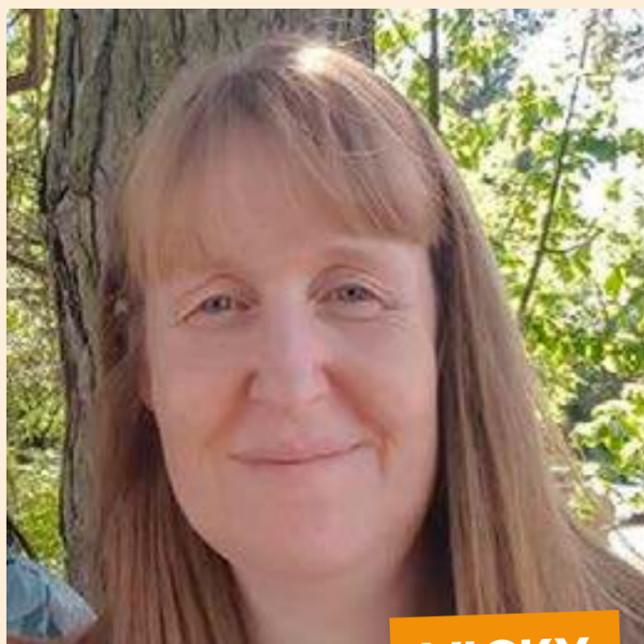


**I would advise anyone to go on a creative writing course because it helps you to discover your style and genre as well as be inspired by other writers.**

## OTHER CREATIVE COURSES:

Would you like to do something creative but are not so into writing, don't worry we have a wide range of courses to suit you, including: arts & crafts, pottery, woodwork, photography, creative media, languages and much more! To find out more about our courses, please visit our website:

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**VICKY**

# MY CREATIVE EXPERIENCE

## ART & DESIGN LEARNER CLAIRE



### OUR OFFER:

Want to learn a new skill, simply fine-tune your talents, or enhance your career prospects in the creative industry? We have a wide range of creative courses to help you to achieve your goals. To find out more, please visit our website.

- ▶ Art & Crafts
- ▶ BSL & Makaton
- ▶ Creative Media
- ▶ Creative Writing
- ▶ Floristry
- ▶ History
- ▶ Languages
- ▶ Music
- ▶ Photography
- ▶ Pottery
- ▶ Woodwork
- ▶ Silversmithing

Over the past year, many of our classes moved online. In the comfort of their own homes, our creative learners were able to flourish and explore their talents. Level 1 Creative Art & Design learner Claire recently shared her experiences with us.

“Each week my tutor, Abbie, delivered carefully planned lessons which incorporated

many different art and design skills in a fun and practical way.

Abbie made us feel at ease with her friendly nature from the initial assessment, through to the last lesson. There were lots of opportunity to develop your own ideas and if you were struggling then Abbie and the other learners on the course were happy to give you ideas.

The learners on the course were very friendly too and often came up with tips, ideas, and artists that I had never thought of myself. Even though part of this course was during lockdown, Abbie adapted the resources we needed to things that we had available at home. This made the course very cost effective.

A few of the skills we learnt were line drawing, implied texture, experimenting with textures, using watercolours and pastels, 3D work, working with shapes, looking at artists, sculpture, colour mixing and many more. I really enjoyed pointillism, painting

to different music and blind drawing which were all things I had never tried before. We used these skills to develop our final outcomes. I really enjoyed this course and would thoroughly recommend it to anyone who would like to develop their creativeness.”

If you would like to find out more about our creative courses, please visit our website or scan the QR code below:

> [aclessex.com/creative-cultural-learning](https://aclessex.com/creative-cultural-learning)



Abbie made us feel at ease with her friendly nature from the initial assessment, through to the last lesson. There were lots of opportunity to develop your own ideas...

# ITALIAN SUCCESS STORY - JENNIE

Just over twenty five years ago Jennie Johnson, 53, from Colchester was an English teacher with a love of Italy; each summer she'd take a group of students over to Florence and together they'd spend their days studying Italian.

Jennie became really good at the language but as the years went by her recall of the language slipped, keen to get back up to speed, she signed up to ACL Essex in Colchester for an Italian speaking course.

She says: "I'm really enjoying the classes, they're very structured and are great at helping me pick-up what I knew, as well as learning new words too. My aim is to get up to the next level in Italian and be able to travel to Italy and converse fluently. Italy is my favourite country, I love the language, culture and food!" Jennie is also enjoying the social

and wellbeing benefits of studying on the course. She explains: "Pre Covid-19 I ran a health and beauty business in the town centre, but due to the pandemic and rental rates I decided to close. This decision meant I had more free time and I was determined to do something with it. I had signed-up to sewing and cookery courses with ACL Essex in the past, but these courses were always in the evening. I'm now studying during the day, and it's helped me have a focus, given me a reason to get out of the house and meet other people."

She continued: "I really enjoy the lessons it's not like being at school the classrooms are relaxed, everyone has chosen to be here. ACL tutors offer good support and if you have a learning disability, they are always on hand to give extra help. The courses are also very reasonably priced and allow people to follow an interest outside work. I'd definitely recommend ACL Essex and my advice to others would simply be just do it - learn something new!"

## OUR LANGUAGES COURSES:

- ▶ French
- ▶ Italian
- ▶ Greek
- ▶ Spanish
- ▶ BSL
- ▶ Japanese
- ▶ German
- ▶ Makaton
- ▶ Lip Reading



> [aclessex.com/languages](https://aclessex.com/languages)



# MAKATON SUCCESS STORY - JUDITH

Huge congratulations for Judith for being awarded Highly Commended Creative & Cultural Learner of the Year 2021. Judith is using the skills learnt in her Makaton classes to develop her charity - Mindfulness Miniature Donkeys.

### Why did you sign up to this course?

I did a few of the online courses and found it quite easy to be online. I prefer it to in person learning as I get quite anxious. The courses were easy to sign up to and the tutors were very helpful. I was able to progress my makaton learning through these courses.

### What was your motivation behind doing this course specifically?

I'm in the process of setting up a charity at the moment called Mindfulness Miniature Donkeys. I have 2 miniature donkeys and we are hoping to work with children in hospice care and learning difficulties. Learning

makaton was a way of being able to access a different language and teach it to the donkeys as well (believe it or not!). If the donkeys came across a non speaker adult or child, the donkey would be able to respond/ understand simple signs.

### What did you enjoy most about the course?

My tutor Celia was very good and the group was full of similar, like minded people who wanted to achieve similar things. We all had a good laugh even when things went wrong!

### What does it mean to win this award?

I'm in shock! I feel like I have imposter syndrome, I don't feel like I should be here. There's so many worthy people who should be receiving awards and I'm incredibly grateful. I was just gobsmacked! It's nice to be appreciated and recognised.

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# FASHION & TEXTILES COURSE...

## ACL LEARNER'S EXPERIENCE

Having never taken a course like this before, I was unsure if I could keep up, but I shouldn't have worried. Everything is explained thoroughly, and nothing is rushed. It's been great to be able to develop my skills and perfect techniques that I wouldn't have attempted before...

As a class we are all ages with various skills and experience. It has been a pleasure to listen to and share tips with each other as a friendly group, united in our enthusiasm for the subject, but each with our own special interests...

When I started the Fashion Textiles Clothes making course, I couldn't thread the sewing machine! Since being on the course, Debra has enabled me to grow in confidence. I now have a new passion...

## OTHER CREATIVE COURSES:

Would you like to do something creative but are not so into textiles, don't worry we have a wide range of courses to suit you, including: arts & crafts, pottery, woodwork, photography, creative media,, languages and much more! To find out more about our courses, please visit our website:

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# WHAT OUR ESSENTIAL SKILLS LEARNERS SAY...

Joining maths course added more positive impacts in my daily routine, like shopping smartly, measuring stuff correctly, understanding better my payslip and many other things...

This course has been brilliant, emails are answered promptly and direction given where needed. There was an actual interest shown in my progress & I found this encouraging...

Thank you for all those amazing lessons in maths. Now I feel quite confident continuing my accounting course at upper levels which is really good for my career and job interviews...

I'm a senior citizen and felt like I needed to brush up on using files and manage them. So, I've learnt how to open, rename, erase and move files into folders...

## OUR OFFER:

Improving essential skills can bring huge rewards such as, achieving a nationally recognised qualification, opening doors to employment and further education, feeling more confident in your everyday life and supporting your children with their school work. Our courses include:

- ▶ English
- ▶ Maths
- ▶ Digital Skills
- ▶ Microsoft Office
- ▶ Science
- ▶ ESOL

To find out more please visit our website - [aclessex.com](http://aclessex.com)



**CLICK PLAY**

To view our recently published video showcasing Essential courses.



# ESSENTIAL DIGITAL SKILLS INTERVIEW...

**Our new Essential Digital Skills courses (accredited by Gateway Qualifications) are specifically designed for adults with little or no digital skills, who want to join the digital world by learning digital skills for life, their work or for use in further study.**

I met up with Joanne, Norma, Audrey, Ola and Carolyn who started their course in late March 2021 at ACL Harlow to find out about their experiences of the course so far. What I found out was that with the help of their tutor Catherine Kelly, these learners felt empowered, and were confident and excited about how they will use their newly acquired skills to make accessing the digital world so much easier for them.

## Why did you want to join the Essential Digital Skills course?

**Norma:** I wanted to feel more confident in using the computer. I was afraid to touch it, afraid to go on the internet to buy something and to research things but now I can buy

things and I don't need to depend on other people to help me. I joined because I was doing English and maths lessons online and it was really hard if I didn't have my son around me to help but not anymore!

**Carolyn:** I'm a senior citizen and I felt like I needed to brush up on using files and how to manage them. So, I've learned how to open, rename, erase, and move files into folders. It's quite useful for me and if you don't use it, you lose it!

**Joanne:** I joined because I wanted to get my head around actually going on a computer myself and trying not to use every single family member as my Alexa. I want to be independent and perhaps get a better job and catch up with the rest of the world. I felt like I was stuck in a tower away from everybody else. Everyone around me was buying clothes and new home stuff and I didn't have a clue.

**Audrey:** I joined this course to learn digital skills. I've only had the internet at home

for a week so it's still really new. I still have a little trouble finding my way around my smartphone, but everything is moving online like banking and shopping. You know, all the sorts of things we need especially as an older person. It was 95-year-old father who brought me into the 21st century with my first smartphone!

## What are you enjoying most about the course so far?

**Ola:** I've enjoyed moving my files around on the USB drive. I'm learning to be a DJ and it's been really difficult for me to use the USB drive so now I can create a file and move my songs. It's been so much fun, and I can have all my music on one little device.

## What are the more challenging aspects of the course?

**Joanne:** I think finding websites like using WWW and using @ buttons, it's always scared me but there are easier ways and we are learning how to find something on the internet without having to put the whole address in.

**Ola:** I think it's about remembering how to go about stuff. For example, I have learnt that you can always use the back button. When I'm stuck and thinking that a search result has disappeared, I remember that I can use the back button.

**Norma:** My challenge was when I needed to move documents from one folder to another or to rename the folder but I'm happy I can do it now.

**Audrey:** We've been using LearnMyWay and it's very good. It's self-explanatory really and you just follow the instructions.

## Would you recommend the course to others who would like to develop their digital skills and build their confidence in those skills?

A resounding yes from the whole group!

## OUR OFFER:

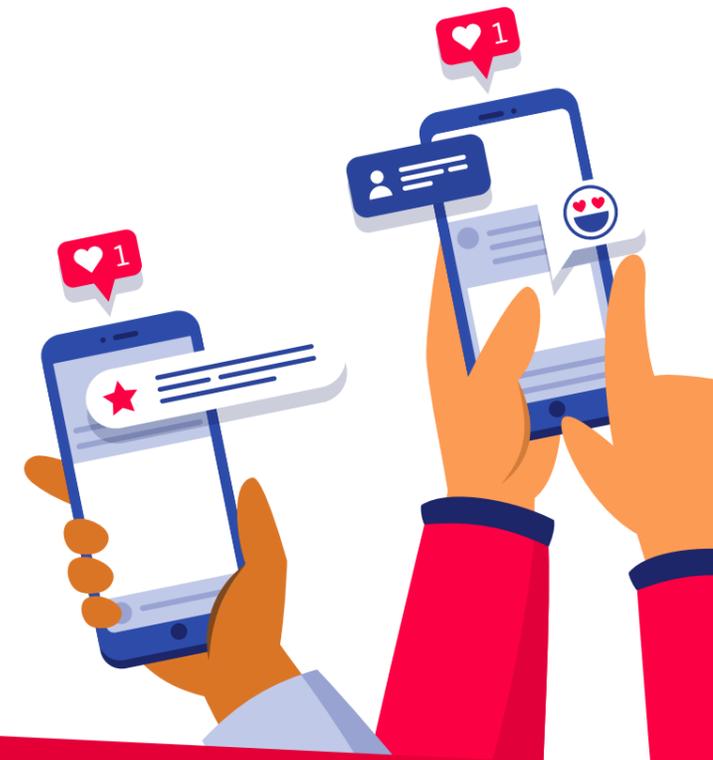
Our Digital Skills courses are great for those looking to navigate the online world, improve work and technical skills, and get the guidance you need to feel more comfortable on your device.

Our digital offer includes: let's get digital, essential digital skills, Microsoft Office courses, digital qualifications such as computer science, cyber security & IT apprenticeships.

I wanted to feel more confident in using the computer. I was afraid to touch it, afraid to go on the internet to buy something and to research things but now I can buy things and I don't need to depend on other people to help me...

To find out more, please visit:

> [aclessex.com/digital](https://aclessex.com/digital)



# QUALIFICATIONS LEARNERS FEEDBACK...

I learnt so much in 5 hours and Joanne was such an amazing tutor she explained it perfectly in a way that everyone understood. I had a really lovely time, thank you...

I just wanted to say a massive thank you for the past year. I have achieved something I don't think I would have ordinarily achieved if I'd have stuck to the 'conventional' routes to university...

I'm coming to the end of my access to higher education course & my tutor, Emma, has been a God-send with helping me complete this course. I'm now going to university in the hope of becoming a paramedic...

## FUNDING

You may be able to get funding support, to find out more about the support we can offer, please visit our website.

Gain the skills & qualifications to:

**FIND YOUR FUTURE,**

## OUR OFFER:

Whatever your goals, you'll discover a great range of accredited courses at ACL Essex. From turning a passion into a career or business to land that dream job or enter higher education we can help!

- ▶ Access to Higher Education
- ▶ Accounting & Finance
- ▶ Beauty Therapies
- ▶ Business & Management
- ▶ Counselling
- ▶ Creative Qualifications
- ▶ Early Years & Education
- ▶ GCSEs
- ▶ Hairdressing & Barbering
- ▶ Health & Social Care

## CLICK PLAY

To view our recently published video showcasing Qualifications courses.



## SCAN HERE

If you would like to see our full range of qualifications courses, please scan the QR code or visit our website.

# BEAUTY THERAPY LEARNER - STACEY

In summer 2021 I sadly lost my husband to Cancer. It was very sudden and unexpected. I was now a single Mum of 3 children and had only ever worked in retail. A job I enjoyed, but after my loss, I lost my passion for the job. I needed a career change. I had learnt life is short so don't put off until later, what you can do now. I found ACL online and enrolled onto Beauty Therapy Level 2.

I have always been interested in Beauty Therapy so felt this was the right direction for me to go. I found ACL had sessions that I could work around my family. Level 2 was the first step to access possible future opportunities. This was a completely new skill for me to learn, but my tutor was excellent and showing through all the steps. Explaining the theory and showing the practical. There was always extra support when needed. From completing level 2 I have successfully applied for and been offered a job at Bannatyne spa. An opportunity I only came across on a spa day organised by ACL tutors. I am due to start in July.

Continuing, I have already enrolled onto Beauty Therapy Level 3 at ACL to further my new skill and training.

I have found by learning this new skill and having the opportunity to change my careers in my 30s has really helped me see a new clearer future and has shown me its never too late for change.

**You may be able to enrol on a beauty therapies course for free! For funding information, please visit: [aclessex.com/funding-support](https://aclessex.com/funding-support)**

## OUR BEAUTY SALONS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

We offer a range of treatments at a reasonable rate at one of our Beauty Rooms. We have Beauty Rooms within our centres at Brentwood, Clacton, Chelmsford Colchester, Harwich, Maldon and Witham (Maltings Academy) at different days and times to suit you. Treatments include the following:

- ▶ **Make Up**
- ▶ **Waxing**
- ▶ **Eye Treatments**
- ▶ **Artificial Lashes**
- ▶ **Facials**
- ▶ **Manicure/Pedicure**
- ▶ **Sports Massage**
- ▶ **Reflexology**
- ▶ **Indian Head Massage**
- ▶ **Body Therapies**
- ▶ **Tanning**

**This was a completely new skill for me to learn, but my tutor was excellent and showing through all the steps. Explaining the theory and showing the practical...**

## OUR OFFER:

Our professional Beauty & Complementary Therapy courses take place in working salons within our centres. Whilst learning new skills, you will be introduced to the importance of customer service, client interaction and how to run a successful professional salon.

> [aclessex.com/beauty-complementary-therapies](https://aclessex.com/beauty-complementary-therapies)



**JACK**

I have suffered with mental health problems and this course has given me the skills to become more confident in interacting with others...

## AAT SUCCESS STORY

Huge congratulations for Jack Parsons for being awarded AAT (Accounting) Learner of the Year 2021. Jack has gained his ECDL and Level 2 AAT qualifications, and is currently studying for his Level 3.



**JACK**

### Why did you choose ACL?

I initially signed up for the ECDL qualification with the intention of developing my skills and gaining employment as I was on state benefit at the time. I then enrolled in the AAT as a result of that. I love a spreadsheet so it seemed a natural progression for me!

### What was great about the course?

The structure. I tried to do a bookkeeper course on my own through distance learning but it didn't work for me. Having a tutor available to me, through ACL, gave me the kickstart I needed. I have now secured a finance job in a property management company.

### What other skills have you learnt?

I have suffered with mental health problems and this course has given me the skills to become more confident in interacting with others.

> [acsessex.com/accounting](https://acsessex.com/accounting)

### What does it mean to win the award?

It feels fantastic. The real award is gaining the qualification, this is just the cherry on the cake. It's nice to be recognised for the achievements but it's only been through the opportunities of ACL that I've been able to do so well, so thank YOU.

## WHY TAKE AN AAT COURSE?

1. You will be gaining the skills and qualifications that employers want.
2. You will be ready for success if you start your own business by understanding accounts.
3. You will be increasing your earning potential.
4. You will find it easier to manage your own finances as you learn new skills.
5. Your decision making skills will improve as you learn to analyse data.

> [acsessex.com/accounting](https://acsessex.com/accounting)

## OUR OFFER:

Our accounting courses will teach you the skills needed to start a new and exciting career. We deliver Introduction to accounting and AAT foundation intermediate and professional levels.

There are many career pathways that an accounting qualification can take you down, to learn more about this, please visit our website or the national careers service website.

If you would like to learn more about our offer, please visit our website.



I then enrolled in the AAT as a result of that. I love a spreadsheet so it seemed a natural progression for me!

# HAIRDRESSING LEARNER - DANIELLE

Huge congratulations to Danielle Nolan who won a Pivot Point competition with these gorgeous hair styles. Her entry was amongst others from fully qualified stylist and her natural ability secured her the win.

“Our tutor Natalie recommended some great social media hairdressing pages to follow. There was a competition through the Pivot Point Facebook page where we had to recreate a look inspired by Sheree Thompson’s tutorial on a knotted updo. I used styles I had learnt with Natalie during the online classes whilst adding Sheree’s knots into the up do and won the Madi Mannequin competition prize.”

Danielle is currently studying Hairdressing NVQ Level 2 at Witham, whilst being a parent/ carer to her 2-year-old daughter who has Down Syndrome. Despite the

challenges that COVID presented, Danielle developed her skills during lockdown with support from her tutor Natalie, “I am so super proud of her, her work, her dedication to the course and her ability, even during the time when she contracted COVID-19.”

We asked Danielle what words of encouragement and advice she would give to anyone thinking of signing up to a course, “I would recommend ACL and the Hairdressing

NVQ Level 2 course to anyone considering signing up. I have a lovely tutor and great group of class mates. As a class we have a couple of social media groups where we can support and help each other. Not only has the course given me the opportunity to learn again, it has enabled me to meet new people, be creative and hopefully find a career which could help me work around family life. I have really enjoyed the course and would say go for it!”

What a fantastic result for Danielle and her tutor, Natalie.

I am so super proud of her, her work, her dedication to the course and her ability, even during the time when she contracted COVID-19...

I have a lovely tutor and great group of class mates. As a class we have a couple of social media groups where we can support and help each other...

## OUR OFFER:

Our professional hairdressing and barbering courses take place in working salons within our centres. Whilst learning new skills, you will be introduced to the importance of customer service, client interaction and how to run a successful professional salon.

> [acessex.com/hairdressing-barbering](https://acessex.com/hairdressing-barbering)

Gain the skills & qualifications to:

**FIND YOUR FUTURE,**



# WHAT OUR SUPPORTED LEARNERS SAY...

Our supported Learning courses have been created specifically for those with learning difficulties and disabilities. Please visit our website to find out more [aclessex.com/supported-learning](https://aclessex.com/supported-learning)

## OUR OFFER:

▶ Art & Crafts

▶ Cooking

▶ Dance

▶ Drama

▶ Employability

▶ English & Maths

▶ Gardening

▶ Gentle Exercise

▶ Health & Beauty

▶ Home Baking

▶ Jewellery Making

▶ Mindfulness & Yoga

▶ Music & Movement

▶ And Many More...



**SCAN HERE**

If you would like to see our full range of supported learning courses, please scan the QR code or visit our website.



I've had fun in Tracy's class, I've had Tracy for 7 years now & enjoyed every moment, Tracy let me have my comfort toys & music in class. Tracy you are one brilliant teacher, don't ever leave...

I really enjoy college it is very good, and the tutor is nice and very helpful. I enjoy getting out and meeting new people. My favourite activities are colouring and baking...

I've learnt how to look for jobs online, learning digital skills, working in teams and I have enjoyed doing the posters for the wall. This is the best class in college...



**CLICK PLAY**

To view our recently published video showcasing Supported Learning courses.

# WHAT OUR WELLBEING LEARNERS SAY...

I thought the tutors were knowledgeable & I was able to make small but significant changes in my resilience and self care. People were very friendly & respectful...

I have learnt the importance of maintaining a work life balance, to make time for meditation & to take care of myself and the benefits of a self care plan/approach & a healthy diet. Thank you!

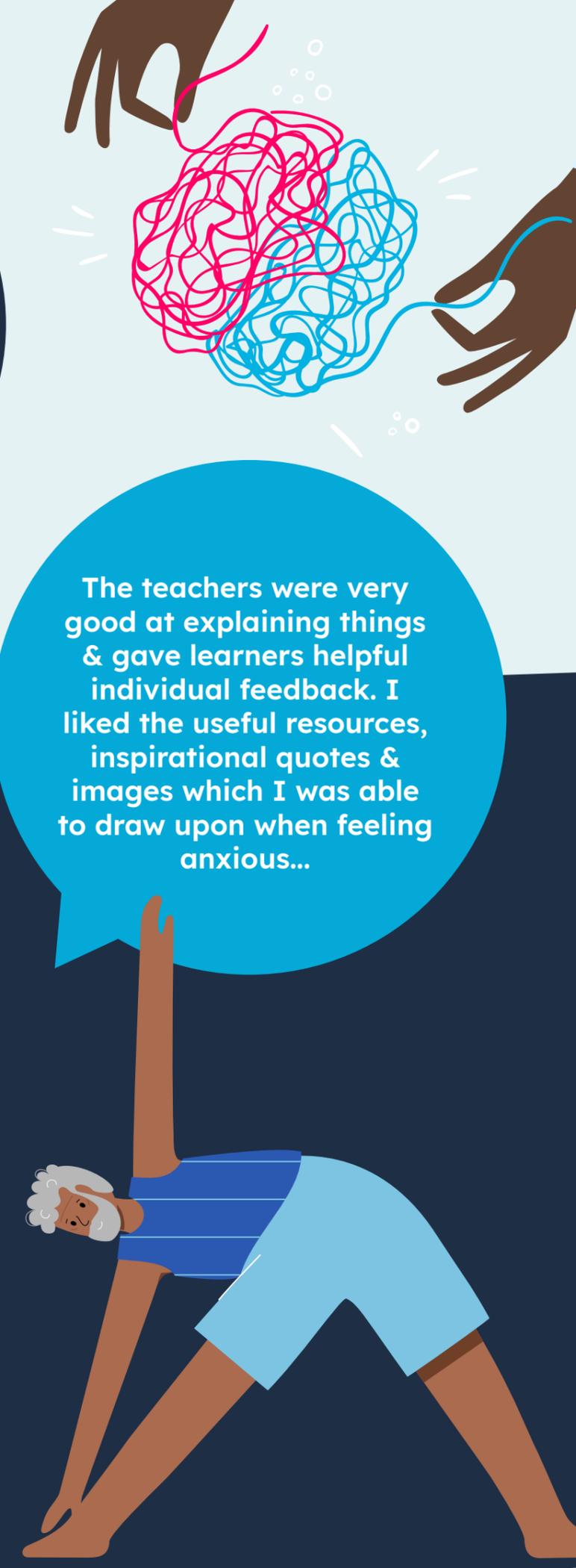
I have gained a lot, it has been a kind of support mechanism and encouraged me to move forward with little valuable steps in my resilience...

The teachers were very good at explaining things & gave learners helpful individual feedback. I liked the useful resources, inspirational quotes & images which I was able to draw upon when feeling anxious...

## OUR OFFER:

We offer a space to explore new ways to improve your wellbeing and gain valuable tools to help you navigate your daily life.

- ▶ Managing Anxiety
- ▶ Goal Setting for Wellbeing
- ▶ Building Self Confidence
- ▶ Mindfulness
- ▶ Navigating Uncertainty
- ▶ And Many More...



# WHAT OUR FAMILY LEARNERS SAY...



These courses show that I am not the only one going through this with my child/children. It's nice to hear other ways of doing things...

Great tutors who involve everyone which is great for encouraging participation, fantastic course with some really valuable information...

It's been a pleasure being part of your course for the past 4 weeks. You are amazing teachers and I've learnt a lot and gained confidence...

If you are a parent, grandparent or caring for a child or young person living in Essex we have support for you.

These courses have been very useful for me and my family. They have been part of my recovery journey for the past 5 years now and I don't think I'd have come this far without them...

**ACL**

**PARENT AMBASSADOR**

Making a difference to families

ACL's Parent Ambassador programme aims to improve the lives of families living in Essex. Parent Ambassadors will volunteer in schools and community venues, whilst developing new skills to support others.

To find out more or to sign up to become a parent ambassador, please visit our website.

> [acessex.com/parent-ambassador](https://acessex.com/parent-ambassador)



**CLICK PLAY**

To view our recently published video showcasing Parent Ambassadors.

## OUR OFFER:

We offer a space to explore new ways to improve your wellbeing and gain valuable tools to help you navigate your daily life.

- ▶ Wellbeing
- ▶ English & Maths
- ▶ Early Years
- ▶ Specialist Workshops
- ▶ Parenting
- ▶ And Many More...



**ACLESSEX.COM**

