

Boston College

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DGM GROWERS**Background to the initiative**

The College Mission: 'Boston College: a learning organisation raising aspirations and meeting the skills needs of individuals, communities and employers through high quality education and training'.

Delivering this mission was a challenge for a College judged to be the third most rurally isolated in the country and recruiting from an area where high employment masks low skills, low wages and low aspiration.

The Skills for Life department actively set out to expand the provision of workplace basic skills by promoting basic skills as part of workplace development, offer discrete basic skills provision to employees on site, offer contextualised workplace basic skills and to offer the National test on site. Really taking learning to the learners and encouraging employers to see the benefit of a better skilled workforce.

Description of the Organisation.

One of the first companies that we worked with was DGM Growers in Spalding, a food processing business. The work is seasonal; the employees are a mix of both full time and temporary contract workers.

How the learners were identified and recruited

The learners were identified through meetings with the Operations Manager and posters around the factory

Specific Training Requirements

The specific training needs are ESOL –English for Speakers of Other Languages.

There have been two learners who completed and achieved a Numeracy level 2 certificate.

What kind of publicity was given?

We will be holding a Presentation Evening in May at the College and all the learners are invited to attend where they will be presented with their certificates. We invite the local press along.

Learner progress/achievement/outcomes/qualification

Two learners achieved a level two Numeracy qualification.

Five learners achieved Speaking & Listening certificate, two at higher intermediate and three at intermediate.

Quote from Shane Tyler, Operations Manager, DMG Growers

“As an employer of a low skilled workforce, with 40% of our workforce being migrant workers, the support by Boston College has enabled us to develop and expand the team.

Whilst employees attend the course and their confidence and self esteem grows, the development of their sense of achievement, pride and morale is immeasurable”.
