

News in brief

Writtle College CASTLe Project goes online

A video case study outlining the 12-month journey of the Writtle College CASTLe Project is now on the RSC Eastern Media Centre.

The project was part of the JISC Building Capacity Programme 2010. The main aims of the project were to collate and make more accessible learning and teaching quality documentation within the college and to improve learning and teaching through the provision of a dynamic web presence, with access to all related resources for staff, students and externals.

The college received advice and assistance from HE experts and JISC RSC advisors during the course of the programme. You can view the video case study at <http://bit.ly/castlecs>

Bedford College highly commended at Green Gown Awards

Bedford College was highly commended for its courses at the Green Gown Awards, which took place at the Grand Connaught Rooms, London on November 3rd.

Now in its seventh year, the Green Gown Awards recognise the exceptional initiatives being undertaken by universities and colleges across the UK to become more sustainable.

They provide the sector with benchmarks for excellence and are well respected by governments, funding councils, senior managers, academics and students.

Essex ACL and ACER awarded for equality using technology



JISC TechDis has announced that **Adult Community Learning (ACL) Essex and ACER** have won the **JISC TechDis OASES Award for Institutional Progress on Equality using Technology**.

There were six organisations that demonstrated an exemplary approach to embedding accessibility into institutional policy.

The JISC TechDis judges were particularly impressed by the Eastern submission, which was entitled, 'Inspire staff development take-up'.

The judges said: "It is normally difficult to get any sort of coherent policy effected in ACL but they achieved it, strong on tutors sharing practice."

Since July 2010 the team, which includes Essex ACL's Maria Neary, and ACER's Bob Read, pictured with the award, have worked to develop and deliver a one day training course 'e-Learning for LLN Teaching'. The core content was an introduction to Xerte Online Toolkits.

After the success of the pilot course they offered an event to LLN tutors from across the Eastern region. The course was

oversubscribed and received excellent evaluations. One participant, a manager from a training centre in North Norfolk, was so enthused by the e-learning opportunities he had explored on the course that he worked over his Christmas holiday to set up his own Moodle.

The course has had a massive impact on various providers around the region:

- Literacy tutors have reported feedback from learners with dyslexia who really value the facility in XOT to change background and fonts to meet their needs.
- Skills for Life tutors have found the use of XOT beneficial in delivering learning materials in small chunks for their learners to work through at their own pace.

Bob and Maria were pleased to receive the accolade: "We are both really delighted to win the OASES award. It marks a positive collaborative project involving our two organisations. In the last year we have offered a series of teacher training courses and workshops that have had benefits for Skills for Life tutors and their learners in numerous providers all across the region."