

Supported Learning at the Café



Abergele Youth Action Café

The Abergele Youth Action Café started life in a former pub in Conwy. Now it's an Internet Café and community resource, offering courses to help young people who are at risk.

Now OCN are getting involved, accrediting an IT course for a group of students for whom school just isn't working. And the work may well be extended to provide choices in the new 14-19 Curriculum currently being rolled out.

The course offers learning in a relaxed and informal setting, which is attractive for those at risk of being excluded from school. One student said: "The course here has helped me to finish school and to keep out of trouble. I've got a qualification in IT I wouldn't have been able to get at school."

Students take Level 1 and 2 OCN units in Word Processing. It's hoped the Café will extend the range to include Internet and e-mail applications,

and digital photography and imagery – all of which will appeal to their target of young people who have, for whatever reason, become excluded from mainstream society.

The students seem to like the support they're able to get at the Café too. One commented: "I know where I can go for help, not only with computers but with other things like finding a place to live and looking for jobs."

The flexibility of OCN accreditation also allows the centre the opportunity of offering extra support in the form of counselling and career support – and the OCN qualifications they achieve can be used to work towards a brighter future they didn't think possible.

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