

## CASE STUDY

### City of Bristol College Money for LiFE project/Money week

***"The College is now looking forward to building on the experience gained this year... Money management skills are a great thing to have."***

The National Skills Academy for Financial Services (NSAFS) was selected by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) as the England delivery partner for the FSA strand of development for financial capability in Further Education because the NSAFS has developed programmes of activity to maximise financial capability and to provide personal money management skills to learners in Further Education colleges.

City of Bristol College, who is a National Skills Academy for Financial Services (NSAFS) training provider, took part in *Money Week* with the aim of increasing financial capability amongst its students as part of the *Money for LiFE* project funded by the Financial Services Authority (FSA).

City of Bristol College's *Money Week* gave all of its students the opportunity to engage in a range of activities designed to develop their awareness about personal money management through engaging them in fun interactive activities.

Gary Mullen, Student Liaison Manager at the College explains more: *"There were four key activities that the College launched as part of Money Week, the 'Workplace Uniform Challenge', the dedicated newsletter to students, the 'Pastoral Curriculum' and guest speakers."*



City of Bristol College student Kirsty picks out her budget uniform

The Workplace Uniform Challenge saw two City of Bristol College first year students Kirsty and Ashley, demonstrate good money management and budgeting skills when they were tasked with buying uniforms for their work experience on a £20 budget.

Gary said *"Both students went to Tesco to buy their uniforms. Kirsty did her work experience at the 'Children's Society' and Ashley at 'Somersetfield' and both received praise from managers for their appearance."*

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*"This was such a success that the Student Services Manager who set this up is planning a 'Fashion on a Budget' fashion show for next year's Money Week, based on the success of this year's workplace uniform challenge. The students found this challenge great fun and both had successful work experiences!"*



A copy of the City of Bristol College newsletter's special Money Week edition

The College targeted students and staff to raise their awareness of Money Week via a special publication of the college's bi-weekly student newsletter. The newsletter, normally used to highlight student liaison activity, was instead completely dedicated to Money Week focussing exclusively on financial capability.

The front page carried a brief report from the two students who took part in the *Workplace Uniform Challenge* with the second page of the newsletter containing a variety of money saving tips for the not so savvy student and also useful website links including the FSA's *What about Money* and [moneysupermarket.com](http://moneysupermarket.com).

Gary comments *"The newsletter was distributed around the college (in cafes and other public areas) and sent to tutors to display in teaching rooms with an online copy also available on the intranet. The use of student newsletters seems to provide a real opportunity to reach significant numbers of students and is also a very useful way of publicising Money Week events and on-going financial capability opportunities in the college."*

The *Pastoral Curriculum* activity saw the College circulate a variety of lesson plans from the *Money for liFE* CD to tutors who were requested to try to include some inputs during money week.

The feedback from tutors was positive, especially from literacy tutors who were pleased that the college was addressing personal money management and financial capability and appreciated the support of the CD materials that had been supplied.

Held over four days, *Money Week* at City of Bristol College was a success having engaged its staff and students with financial capability and personal money management with over 100 students alone attending the most popular *Guest Speaker* activity which featured talks from the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Gary concludes *"The College is now looking forward to building on the experience gained this year and is hoping to extend the range of activities next year as well as working more closely with Faculties to include elements of financial capability during Money Week. Money management skills are a great thing to have and City of Bristol College with the NSAFS are looking forward to supporting this important initiative next year."*