



# CENTRE FORWARD



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Welcome to the October 2011 issue of our newsletter.

## In this Issue

- ❖ [Apprenticeships and Work Based Learning](#)
- ❖ [New Course at the Centre](#)
- ❖ [The Plasma/Laser Project](#)
- ❖ [Installation of the 3D Loom & Preparations for Use](#)
- ❖ [DNA and Anti-Counterfeiting](#)
- ❖ [Anti-Counterfeiting at Première Vision](#)
- ❖ [Careers Day Update](#)
- ❖ [A 'Knowledge Platform' for the Textile Industry](#)

## The Textile Centre

- ❖ [About Us](#)
- ❖ [Technical Support](#)
- ❖ [Training](#)
- ❖ [Conferencing](#)
- ❖ [Incubator](#)
- ❖ [Projects](#)
- ❖ [Membership](#)
- ❖ [What's New](#)
- ❖ [Links](#)

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## How to Find Us

- ❖ [Find Textile House](#)

## Apprenticeships and Work Based Learning

The Textile Centre of Excellence is committed to securing funding to subsidise training for members and the wider industry. Based on employer need, the Centre's training team submits bids for financial support that can offer a significant reduction in cost for staff development and training.

During 2011, the Government's comprehensive spending review resulted in a number of important changes to funding. However, the Centre has been successful in maintaining a contract with the Skills Funding Agency for 2011/12 and can confirm that funding is still available for eligible learners.

Under the 2011/12 contract, the Centre will continue to offer fully funded/part funded apprenticeships and workbased national vocational qualifications (NVQs).

The Centre has also received approval to continue to subsidise and deliver the following qualifications:

- ❖ NVQ Certificate in Customer Services (at Levels 2 and 3)
- ❖ NVQ Award in Business Administration (at Levels 2 and 3)
- ❖ Train the Trainer Learning & Development Award (Level 3)
- ❖ ILM Level 3 Award in First Line Management
- ❖ ILM Level 4 Certificate in Management

Please note that any learners aged 16 – 18 can receive **FULL** funding for a wide range of apprenticeship training programmes. Learners aged 19+ can also receive **FULL** or **PART** funding based on prior qualifications and experience.

The Centre currently offers apprenticeships and vocational training in the following areas:

### [NVQs at Level 2](#)

- NVQ Certificate in Manufacturing Textile Products
- NVQ Certificate in Manufacturing Sewn Products
- NVQ Certificate in Warehouse & Storage Skills
- NVQ Certificate in Business & Administration
- NVQ Certificate in Customer Service
- Certificate in IT User Skills (ECDL Extra)
- NVQ Certificate in Team Leading

### [Apprenticeships at Level 2](#)

- Intermediate Apprenticeship in Print & Printed Packaging
- Intermediate Apprenticeship in Fashion & Textiles (Textiles)
- Intermediate Apprenticeship in Fashion & Textiles (Apparel)
- Intermediate Apprenticeship in Warehousing & Storage
- Intermediate Apprenticeship in Business & Administration
- Intermediate Apprenticeship in Customer Service

### [NVQs at Level 3](#)

- NVQ Diploma in Manufacturing Textile Products
- NVQ Certificate in Apparel Manufacturing Technology
- NVQ Certificate in Logistics Operations
- NVQ Diploma in Business Administrations
- NVQ Diploma in Customer Service
- Certificate in IT User Skills (ECDL Advanced)
- ILM Award in First Line Management (VRQ)

### [Apprenticeships at Level 3](#)

- Advanced Apprenticeship in Print & Printed Packaging
- Advanced Apprenticeship in Fashion & Textiles (Textiles)
- Advanced Apprenticeship in Fashion & Textiles (Apparel)
- Advanced Apprenticeship in Logistics Operations
- Advanced Apprenticeship in Business & Administration
- Advanced Apprenticeship in Customer Service

**Are you looking for an apprentice?**

**Are you looking to train your existing staff in any of the areas detailed above?**

If so, please contact Martin Jenkins or Angela Keenan to discuss options for recruitment, training and funding.

Email [martinjenkins@textile-training.com](mailto:martinjenkins@textile-training.com) or telephone 01484 346500.

## New Course at The Centre

### Fire Marshall/Warden Training

Following recent demand from our members, the Centre is pleased to announce the re-introduction of a Fire Marshall/Fire Warden Theory training course. This course has been redeveloped based on employer feedback and supports those individuals that have specific responsibility for control of fire safety.

Course Content:	Fire law, the threat of fire, chemistry of fire, fire behaviour, fire action routines, understanding which fire extinguishers to use, fire prevention, housekeeping, the role of the fire marshal/warden
Dates:	Available on request
Venue:	Textile Centre of Excellence and on client premises (details available on request)
Duration:	½ day theory programme
Cost:	£99 per candidate + VAT to attend the Centre's generic programme £400 + VAT (maximum 10 candidates) for bespoke on site programme
Contact:	Sian Patrick or a member of the Commercial Services Team

## The Plasma/Laser Project

To date, 19 textile companies have identified over 75 product tasks that will be of benefit to their business using our new Plasma/Laser technology.

The Plasma/Laser machine is undergoing extensive acceptance tests at the Centre, which are drawing to a successful conclusion, and the first full trial is in production at press. The machine is designed to run a two-metre wide piece of material at speeds of up to 25 metres



per minute and the current run of acceptance tests has demonstrated enhanced hydrophilic and hydrophobic properties to the dyeing process. Work continues to refine the processes to achieve maximum advantage.

Smaller laboratory samples of material treated for enhanced antimicrobial and fire retardant properties using the Plasma/Laser process have also been tested with some exciting results. Most recently, seven different fabrics have been treated to enhance their fire retardancy with a reduction in chemical usage.

Independent laboratory tests have confirmed the efficacy of the antimicrobial treatment which was carried out without the use of any chemicals. Simple lighter tests on materials treated for fire retardancy showed that even combustible materials, such as silk and polypropylene, were difficult to ignite and burn. Printing of aramid materials has been achieved using purely the Plasma/Laser technology to produce camouflage patterns without the use of inks or dyes.

A schedule of work is being drawn up to prioritise the tasks required and enable participating companies to detail their exact requirements – a critical element for a successful outcome.

Meanwhile, Charlotte Catmull has joined the Plasma/Laser team and is working in the laboratory taking samples and analysing the results. Charlotte has worked previously in a UKAS accredited analytical laboratory which provided results for the Coroner's Office to take to court.



## Installation of the 3D Loom & Preparations for Use

There has been a slight delay in the commissioning of the 3D machine over the past few weeks. After initial installation and alignment of the weaving machine and jacquard, slight problems arose with the air extraction system for filtering carbon fibres from the air, resulting in potential health and safety issues which needed to be addressed. Further delays were caused due to problems with the network connection serving the machine's computer terminal – now resolved.

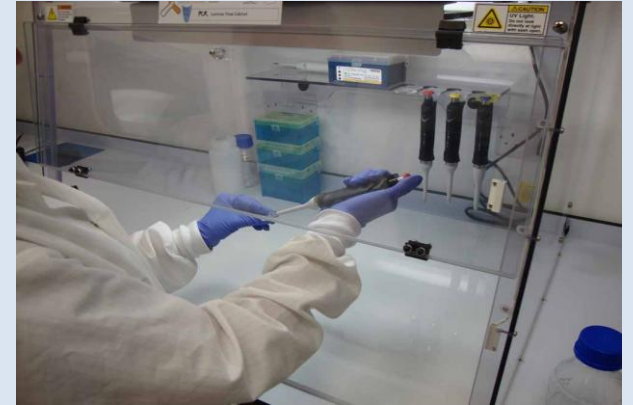
With solutions to these problems implemented, The Centre is aiming to have the machine fully operational by mid-October in order to start work on producing components for Jaguar Land Rover. To be used in their Lighter Vehicle

Programme, the components are to be woven from Aluminium oxide infused with Aluminium, giving the strength and stiffness of steel with only a fraction of the weight.

Future clients are expected to be leading aerospace companies commissioning components from carbon fibre and carbon oxide yarns. Future challenges will centre on development of new software to configure components for a machine that has tremendous commercial potential.

### DNA and Anti-Counterfeiting

Counterfeit goods are estimated at being between 7 – 10% of global trade with fake apparel in the athletics market estimated at 20%. Various methods to defeat the counterfeiters have been used; most, if not all, of which can be circumvented by the more persistent fraudsters involved.



Currently, most of the fabrics have been treated at the finishing process with successful results. However, work is ongoing to prepare a new and stronger DNA binder at the yarn impregnation stage to widen the opportunities for DNA impregnation – ultimately – right down to the unscoured wool from a single region and, potentially, single farm.

### Anti-Counterfeiting at Première Vision

The first commercial stage of the 'Yorkshire Signature' programme involved a presence at the world's premier fabric show, **Première Vision** in Paris, between September 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Centre showcased the DNA technology on the stand hosted by UKFT. This was complimented by founder members of the 'Yorkshire Signature' brand programme, including Holland & Sherry and Taylor & Lodge, showing samples of 'DNA' fabrics on their stands too.



Walid Batich, Middle East Director of Holland & Sherry, speaking from the group's new offices and showroom in Dubai, said: "Sadly this region is rife with fake goods with firms having little recourse to quick commercial justice in the courts. DNA proof of origin, easily demonstrated to consumers, will significantly assist all in this market who seek to provide genuine quality."

Edward Waterhouse of Taylor & Lodge, a weaver of fine worsted cloths in Huddersfield and part of the Bulmer & Lumb Group, a founder member of the 'Yorkshire Signature' programme, said: "UK wool fabrics are enjoying unprecedented growth in demand in Asia, as ever more discerning consumers are seeking assured quality as opposed to disposable fashion. We actively protect our brand and trademarks worldwide and we warmly welcome the DNA programme which will give forensic support to our efforts in safeguarding the Group's intellectual property."

The branded stands featured samples of DNA impregnated cloth which the companies supported and promoted as a technology they will be using to safeguard against counterfeit goods globally, especially in foreign markets such as China and Japan where high end customers are demanding proof of origin. The samples exhibited provided DNA at both the yarn and finished cloth stages.

### Careers Day Update

Our first 'Textile & Fashion Careers Day' on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2011 was hailed by the Huddersfield Examiner as a resounding success and two more are planned, between October 2011 and April 2012, as a result.

The Examiner praised the work of the Centre for addressing the sector's skills gaps and improving the employment choices of individuals. Over 100 people attended the Careers event to discuss options for employment with local textile manufacturing businesses.

Of the companies who exhibited on the day, a number have recruited young people into the industry. Of those

recruited, ten have been signed up onto Apprenticeship Programmes. A number of others are undertaking a trial period before commencing their Apprenticeship.

### [Apprenticeship Recruitment](#)

We are able to assist in your recruitment of an apprentice by offering the following service:

- ❖ Advertising your vacancy on the National Apprenticeship Service Online System
- ❖ Screening applicants
- ❖ Conducting initial interviews at our premises which includes colour-blindness test and explaining the apprenticeship programme
- ❖ Referring only suitable candidates to you
- ❖ Arranging interviews for you at your premises with your chosen candidates
- ❖ Arranging second interviews if necessary
- ❖ Informing unsuccessful applicants

Following successful recruitment, and usually after a trial period, a Training Officer will arrange an appointment to meet the learner and supervisor or manager. A Health & Safety pre-vet of the company will be undertaken and an initial assessment of the learner will take place. Relevant documentation will be completed and then the programme of learning can begin. The Training Officer then visits regularly at pre-arranged dates and times to guide and assist the apprentice through their programme of learning. On completion of the apprenticeship, the apprentice and supervisor or manager will be invited to celebrate this achievement at our Annual Awards Presentation towards the end of the year.

Please contact Angela Keenan if you wish to take up the above offer or need further information.

Email [angelakeenan@textile-training.com](mailto:angelakeenan@textile-training.com) or telephone 01484 346500.

[Click here](#) for a list of current apprenticeship vacancies.

### [A 'Knowledge Platform' for the Textile Industry](#)

A Textile Innovation Knowledge Platform is being developed, in the form of an interactive website, which will provide a knowledge sharing facility for the industry. Several partners have already agreed to contribute to the development in terms of shared content and the new site will provide access to a wide range of information, intelligence and networks.

Once up and running, the new site will provide online newsletters, live feed webinars, information and case studies that relate directly to technical textile enhancement programmes. It will also help support collaborative research and development for the benefit of textile companies.

The technology partner responsible for building the site is Rippleffect, a full service digital communication agency, and work is expected to be completed in early 2012.

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