

### **Introduction**

Peterborough Regional College is a major college of Further and Higher Education, delivering high quality education and training to over 15,000 students annually.

### **The Challenge : To Integrate New Technology with New & Innovative Materials**

Part of Peterborough Regional College's strategy is to increase access and widen participation for all ages and use technology in the delivery of new and innovative programmes. This is mirrored in the college's commitment to creating greater flexibility, team work and collaborative partnerships. With continued investment in the college's learning environment and equipment, pursuing excellence in improved learning resources and high quality materials the AAT Bookkeeping Certificate (ABC) was an obvious choice. With increased access, support and investment in e-learning and business technology the college recognised the benefits of adopting the ABC package not only to students, but also to the tutors and college as a whole. Martyn Arnold, AAT Tutor comments "The College considered the ABC product a better and more comprehensive solution to introduce students to accounting concepts. Furthermore, the reporter facility that accompanies the software is a very useful feedback tool that reports on students' progress. To date this has worked well on the college intranet but we have had to overcome some issues when accessing via the VLE. At present the materials are used as a back up to classroom sessions in supplementing and enhancing the overall learning. However, the college is looking to expand by offering a distance learning option".

### **The Solution : Accessibility for all via the College Intranet and VLE (Moodle)**

The Student intranet is a website specifically for all students at Peterborough Regional College and is automatically loaded when a student logs into any of the student computers at the college. Students can now have access to the ABC Bookkeeping Certificate materials via a two-pronged approach with new technology at the core. In return it provides students with:

- The opportunity to access computer based learning in an innovative and interactive way.
- The flexibility to learn at a time and place convenient to them.
- The opportunity to study via open learning (with distance learning in the pipeline).
- Assessment facility on demand.
- The opportunity to gain a formal qualification and formal recognition of skills.

### **The Results : Recognition and Accreditation**

Peterborough Regional College has recently become registered as an Approved Assessment Centre for students wishing to sit the computer based AAT Bookkeeping Certificate. Tutor Martyn Arnold further comments "The certificate gives a comprehensive knowledge of basic accounting concepts and should aid students in their search for employment in an accounting environment. We have a regular intake of young students keen to make a career for themselves in an accounting environment. The ABC qualification is an excellent introduction into the accounting environment and will be a positive aid to students in gaining future employment. There is a global shortage of newly qualified accountants, and UK and Irish qualifications are the most coveted in the world, so studying for an



Tutor Martyn Arnold (second from right, front row) with group of ABC students.

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**The Integration of New Technology &  
Interactive Flexible Learning –The AAT  
Bookkeeping Certificate (ABC) at**

accountancy qualification is an excellent career move”.



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