

Kent Business Update

Making a good impression

STUDENTS at Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School were recently excused from their lessons to find out what a job interview is like.

More than 140 Year 11 pupils were interviewed by 30 employers after a series of morning workshops teaching them about creating a positive first impression, the benefits of volunteering and their internet presence on websites such as Facebook.

Clare Hamilton, director of brand strategy and design company The Hamiltons, said: "The girls I met are a credit to the school."

"Their overall approach and demeanour is what I have experienced with degree level students."

Employers from subjects as diverse as veterinary medicine and fashion and textiles interviewed each pupil for 20 minutes.

Head of careers Isaac Taylor said: "We really value the contribution that employers make to our Careers Education programme here at SLGGS."

Peacocks proud to bring us good value fashion



The new Peacocks shop on the Stour Retail Park in Canterbury

Picture: Chris Davey PD1671133

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A MAJOR fashion retailer is coming to fill the empty space in a Canterbury retail park.

At a time when unemployment is at a 15-year high, Peacocks is flying into the city, bringing with it 33 jobs.

The chain promises to deliver the 'hottest trends' for ladies, men and children and offers bargain fashions which respond quickly to new styles, with between 30 and 50 new womenswear lines arriving in the store every week.

The grand opening of the shop in Stour Retail Park, Stour Crescent is on Thursday, February 18. It will join more than 550 Peacock stores in the UK, including

locally at Ashford, Folkestone and Westwood Cross. The chain employs more than 5,000 people nationwide.

Regional manager Steve Owen said: "We're delighted to be opening our new store in Canterbury, offering customers the latest looks at great value."

"With fashion changing so quickly it can be a challenge to keep on top, but with more than 30 new lines landing in our new store each week it should be easier for customers to step out in the latest fashion and not break the bank."

"Whether it is the designer-inspired handbag or the elegant mid-heel, customers can be assured of keeping on top of the season's hottest trends."

Campaign to get debts cancelled

OLD tax credit debts dating back more than four years should be written off, Canterbury District Citizens Advice Bureau has said.

It is taking part in a national Citizens Advice campaign calling on the government to wipe the slate clean to reduce hardship for families on low incomes and restore confidence in the system.

Tax credits can help lift low-income families out of poverty, provide valuable extra income and ensure people are better off in work.

But since they were launched in 2003, overpayments have also pushed millions of families into thousands of pounds worth of debt.

The national Citizens Advice network argues there is a strong case for writing off tax credit debts from the first two years (April 2003- April 2005) when the system was new, complex and difficult to understand.

At the moment only a small percentage of the overpayments from this period are being written off and success depends on the claimant appealing against the debt or disputing the recovery. The CAB says this process takes too long, is unfair, and is a drain on the tax credit office's resources. If you need assistance ring 01227 452762.

You choose what you eat...

THE Lord Mayor of Canterbury, Cllr Harry Cragg, was on hand to cut the ribbon of a new restaurant in the city. Chom Chom in Burgate Lane opened to a fanfare with more than 300 guests joining in the inaugural celebrations which featured dancers and live music.



The Lord Mayor, Harry Cragg, opens the restaurant

The restaurant offers customers the opportunity to pick their own ingredients and pass them to chefs in the open theatre kitchen.

Manager Carmen Easterbe said: "From Italian to Indian, we have something for everyone."

"We pride ourselves on being able to cater for a variety of tastes."

"Canterbury was the ideal location for us to start up the business as it has a rich history and lots of students and tourists. Residents also really appreciate good food."

To find out more about the restaurant visit www.chomchom.co.uk



Chom Chom restaurant in Burgate Lane, Canterbury celebrating its official opening

Innovation staff to go to work by bus

STAGECOACH is offering free bus travel for a week to employees at the newly-opened Canterbury Innovation Centre at the University of Kent.

Since it opened, 100 people have begun working for specialist companies and centre manager Jo Clark said encouraging staff not to use cars would complement the centre's green credentials.

For the very latest jobs and business news go to www.kentishgazette.co.uk

Entry deadline 19.3.10

Do you believe your business is the best in Kent?

KEiBA is an awards scheme for business which is staged and produced by Kent County Council and The KM Group, the county's leading media provider, and has been set up to recognise and reward excellence in business within the Kent and Medway region.

www.keiba.co.uk

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