

# adult success stories



## Paul Tweddle

**Paul, 39, has used Access courses to develop his career and is considering university as a long term goal.**



After 20 years of working in the steel fabrication industry, I really needed a change of career. I took an interest in the growing demand for energy efficiency and started training to work as an Energy Surveyor. It was then I realised that I lacked the confidence in some of the essential skills needed for the job and decided that I would hugely benefit from studying some of the more academic type subjects.

Having read the Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form evening prospectus and being aware of their very good reputation I decided to go along to college for a chat with an adviser and learn more about the Access programme. Not really knowing much about the education ladder at that time, I was delighted to realise that within two years I could be in a very strong position to advance into higher education.

Having not enjoyed secondary school much at all and coming from a background where attending sixth form was very rare and university not for people like me, I was obviously very nervous and had doubts about the challenges that lay ahead.

These uncertainties were quickly overcome after lessons started and I soon built confidence mainly due to the great atmosphere throughout the college, the high standard of teaching and great fun shared with fellow students that took away the feeling of isolation that can be felt if you're not spending time with people who have similar aims.

As a mature student I found that it does not matter if you have been out of a classroom for a number of years. No matter how you have spent your time, you will have gained valuable experience that will contribute to you putting together strong pieces of work. I am also sure, especially in my case that if I had carried on education after secondary school my interests would have been focused away from the classroom and failure would have been highly likely.

Since leaving the college I have started to work as an Energy Surveyor and my Higher Education Foundation Certificate which consists of English Language, Business Studies and Law will give me the option to advance as my job advances being in an industry where the sky is the limit.

