

A progress report on the Vimto Academy...

It's hard to believe that three years have gone by since the Vimto Academy was set up! Originally intended to offer a unique management development programme for Nichols plc, the Academy has taken on a life of its own and now runs parallel schemes for external clients such as Northern Foods, Cott Beverages, Maxillin, Smithfield Murray and many more.

A combination of the best practice principles of Nichols plc and the training and development expertise of Instep UK (which runs the Academy) has created a highly successful approach to effective management development.

Academy General Manager, Cxxxx Fxxxx, is keen to point out that each external client programme is tailor-made:

"This is because each company has its own mission, vision, goals, operating procedures and business challenges," says Cxxxx. "By specialising in the food and drink industry, we are able to understand the context and challenges facing professionals within the sector."

A company which is currently benefiting from working with the Vimto Academy is Northern Foods subsidiary, Trafford Park Bakery. Human resources Manager, Rxxxx Rxxxx is enthusiastic about the results so far:

"The support we've received from the Vimto Academy has enabled us to put in place our vision of people management," Rxxxx explained. "In partnership with the Academy, we are translating the skills taught in the training room to benefit our manufacturing-led workplace."

(Sub-head)

'Membership Scheme' shares know-how

In addition to its management development programmes, the Academy has launched a 'Membership Scheme'. This enables like-minded food and drink sector organisations to share knowledge, solutions and best practice. Organisations gain

'membership' status once they become involved in development activity with the team.