

To Whom It May Concern:

In October 2008 Gary Skyner was invited to come in to the college as a guest speaker, as part of our Equality & Diversity Week event. Gary delivered fascinating and entertaining presentations using his own personal experience of overcoming disability to demonstrate to learners that anyone can achieve their goals with sufficient motivation. Over the course of the day Gary spoke to over 280 learners, including 16-18 year olds and adult learners across four different campuses.

The event was a huge success, receiving very positive feedback from over 95% learners. The teaching staff were equally impressed by what Gary had to say.

Typical comments from learners included:

- **“Made me think about my life and I can do anything if I put my mind to it”** (IT level 2 learner)
- **“I found Gary very interesting, made me open my eyes to disabilities”** (A level learner)
- **“Changed my views on disabled people, because I didn’t know they could do all of the jobs they could do”** (A level learner)
- **“....made me even more determined to succeed not only for myself but for them, as an example of what you can achieve in life despite any circumstances or disabilities, with the right attitude and determination!”** (Access to HE learner)

We would be happy to recommend Gary to similar organisations, and hope to work with him again in the future.

Yours Sincerely



Ste Bailey
College Director (Student Services)

**Kingsway
Campus**

**Kingsway
Widnes
Cheshire
WA8 7QQ**

t: 0151 257 2800
f: 0151 420 2408

**Runcorn
Campus**

**Campus Drive
Runcorn
Cheshire
WA7 4RE**

t: 01928 508600
f: 01928 589481

**Cronton
Campus**

**Cronton Lane
Widnes
Cheshire
WA8 5WA**

t: 0151 424 1515
f: 0151 495 1891

e-mail: info@riversidecollege.ac.uk

website: www.riversidecollege.ac.uk



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Sellafield Ltd

Sellafield Site

Sellafield, Seascale
Cumbria CA20 1PG
Tel: +44 (0)19467 28333
Fax: +44 (0)19467 28987
www.sellafieldsites.com

29 October 2008

Mr Gary Skyner
22 Rosemont Road
Mossley Hill
Liverpool
L17 6BZ

Direct tel: 019467 75531
Direct fax: 019467 76822

Your ref:
Our ref: /let/bs/363

Dear Gary

Thank you for your excellent talks to our apprentices and their training teams.

It was wonderfully inspirational and heart-warming. We listen to many speakers who have achieved some great sporting success but all appear to have begun with every advantage which life can offer.

Your talk showed how personal courage and determination can surmount the most daunting of obstacles and result in success, respect and the admiration of all.

Thank you once again.

Yours sincerely

Barry Snelson
Managing Director
Sellafield Ltd

Lark Hill, Preston
Lancashire
PR1 4HD

Tel: 01772 460181/460183

Fax: 01772 204671

Email: admissions@cardinalnewman.ac.uk

Web: www.cardinalnewman.ac.uk

Principal: Stephen Pegg BSc

19th November 2008

Dear Gary,

We would just like to take this opportunity to thank you for participation on Newman Day. The day had a tremendous impact on students and staff and all of the feedback we have received indicates that the day was a worthwhile, enriching and enjoyable experience.

Your support and the contribution you have made to the day's success is greatly appreciated by the college community.

We will remember you and your work in our prayers.

Sincere Thanks,



Anne Russell

Chaplaincy Coordinator and Head of RE



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31 January 2009

Gary Skyner
22 Rosemount Road
Mossley Hill
Liverpool
L17 6BZ

Dear Gary

Thank you for attending our AGM in November. Your motivational talk was an inspiration to everybody who attended the event. Feedback from the delegates was very positive and supportive of your presentation.

Please find enclosed a copy of the evaluation from the day and also a copy of Skills for Care's newsletter which features an article from our event (even though it's on the back!)

Once again, thank you for your contribution which helped to make our AGM a success.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "C Haycroft". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C'.

Catherine Haycroft
Administrator

Tees Valley Social Care & Health Alliance

AGM - 26 November 2008 – Riverside Stadium

EVALUATION

35 Evaluation forms were returned

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion
The day was aimed at the right level for me (please tick ✓)	11	24			
The content was relevant to my situation	10	24			
The delivery methods were appropriate	12	22			
The presentations were delivered in a clear and understandable way	11	23			
Enough time was given for feedback and discussion	6	25	3		1
The day was well structured and organised	11	23	1		
The venue was suitable for the event	13	22			
The refreshments provided were satisfactory	12	21			
	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
I would evaluate this day overall as:	10	21			

What was the best feature of the day and why?

- Gary Skyner (20)
 - Funny and informative
 - Different perspective
 - Motivational and encouraging
 - Raised awareness about what can be achieved despite disability
 - Good – shame about the technical problems
 - Excellent (2)
 - Speech contained humour. Gary is a great inspiration and made me sit back and think – can I – Wonderful
 - Thoroughly enjoyed Gary
 - Being the best that you can be
 - Thoroughly enjoyed the speaker, Gary. Great outlook on life
 - Presentation given by Gary Skyner – a totally inspirational character
 - Excellent and very inspirational
 - Very interesting and motivational
 - Light hearted but serious messages delivered
 - Found Gary inspirational and enjoyable to listen to
 - Carpe diem – no such thing as “I can’t
- Information on how the Alliance works and up to date information on how this is progressing
- Wonderful mix of presentations
- Marian French (4)
 - example of partnership working
 - informative – necessary for change in practise
 - very good info
- Some good comments/info re legal issues
- Recognising the importance of the work the Alliance does and making contact with people
- Organisation encompasses people from a range of professions and looks very proactive
- Infection control (4)

- New policy document very interesting
- Useful overview from Skills for Care
- Good clear information from Bob Little on the future of Health & Social Care
- All aspects were relevant and very interesting
- Useful information, presented well, opened new avenues
- Excellent speakers – very informative
- Opportunity to network
- All day – well structured and interesting. All speakers delivered well
- Chance to network
- Market place/stalls
- Good accessible venue. The speakers were very good. Well organised day.

Any other comments

- All features were excellent. Would like more of same
- Many thanks to all who helped organise the day
- Too much detail about employment law for a session such as this. It was interesting but the aim was to give an overview.
- Infection control feedback – relevant and up to date
- Excellent informative speakers
- Enjoyed the motivational speaker (excellent reality check)
- Would be interested in being more involved in the Alliance
- Some speakers a little quiet
- Perhaps it would have been a good idea to end the morning with Gary Skyner – the positive/motivational angle of his presentation was diminished by listening to the lawyer – his presentation felt a bit like “teaching your granny to suck eggs!
- All presentations were of a good/excellent quality – informative and interesting
- Many thanks to Catherine, Kim and Christine (you did TVSCHA very proud)
- Thank you (2)
- I know Peter Millican subject not easy to deliver, though going through each piece of legislation and details of each act to the audience who attended today was very heavy and not delivered appropriately due to the knowledge and experience of each person who attended.
- Last speaker had little time and was under pressure due to timing and rushed through her slides a bit
- Comfortable venue – enjoyable event
- There was a lot of useful information available from the stands
- Worthwhile and interesting event. Thanks to organisers.
- Learnt some interesting facts with regards to employment laws thanks to Peter Millican, the whole day was interesting. Thank you!!
- As usual a well organised event and very beneficial & enjoyable
- Would like to see more training opportunities for staff offered – in line with Decha and Tyne & Wear Care Alliances
- Only that venue was cool for a while.

