

February

Achieving Excellence Monthly Newsletter

New Year, New Growth

BY MIKE AUSTIN (DIRECTOR)

As we start a New Year, many of us will look at ourselves and set resolutions designed to develop ourselves and help us grow in different areas of our lives. As I thought of new growth it brought back a memory from a number of years ago.

I was fortunate enough to be able to have the opportunity to drive through one of the most beautiful parts of the US. However, despite the beauty of nature all around, one sight impressed upon me more than any other as I journeyed through Yellowstone National Park. Vast swathes of pine trees that had been, seemingly, devastated by forest fires back in 1988. For miles and miles there are “petrified” trees standing as a testament of this natural phenomenon. Most amazing though were the many thousands of new trees growing in between the old grey remains of their ancestors. These young pines, contrary to popular belief, had not been planted by the park wardens, but had naturally grown from the devastation of those few years before.

The reason for this is that most of those trees destroyed are “Lodgepole” Pines. As with other varieties of pine they drop cones or pods to the ground containing the new seeds for future growth. The difference with this tree is that those cones are sealed shut and the seed cannot take root and begin its development. Only one thing will open these pods and allow the new tree to start its life. And that is the intense heat of a forest fire. Every one of those cones has, within it, the potential to grow into a magnificent Pine tree, but until it feels the searing heat of a fire that potential remains locked away.

As I think about the many learners we have undertaking Apprenticeships with us this coming year, I think about the devastation of the Pandemic we have been experiencing, but I also think about the massive potential within you all. Each of you have within you everything needed to grow and develop this year. Whether it is increasing your knowledge and skills, becoming better more effective employees or managers, that potential is there just waiting to be unleashed.

So, what will provide the “fire” to enable you to reach that potential. We at Achieving Excellence UK Ltd, both management and tutors, can fan the flames as we support you. But the real heat comes from your own personal commitment and dedication to achieving your qualifications! Your personal drive to get the most out of this learning journey.

With your commitment and our support, out of the devastating pandemic you will see real growth in 2022 that can continue into the coming years. I and all the team look forward to growing with you!

Mike Austin
Director



Safer internet day - 8th February 2022

Safer Internet Day 2022 will be celebrated on 8th February with the theme 'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online'. From gaming and chat, to streaming and video, young people are shaping the interactive entertainment spaces they are a part of. Safer Internet Day 2022 celebrates young people's role in creating a safer internet, whether that is whilst gaming and creating content, or interacting with their friends and peers.

It is important that we keep ourselves and others safe whilst accessing online content, this could include educating children in how to use the internet in a safe way, ensuring that they know who they are talking to. To ensure the safety of children and young people when they are on the internet it can be a good idea to have computers or game consoles in a communal area within the home so that adults can observe what children are accessing and talking to them about how to stay safe online.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/> has great resources to support e-safety.

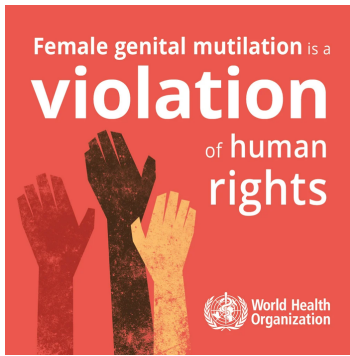


Living under the Rule of Law

The laws in this country are put in place to help us live and work in a happy, safe and secure environment. Abiding by the laws set in place through democratic processes is in our best interest if we wish to remain safe.

The UK has laws that are protected by services such as the police force, but your own company may have specific laws and guidelines that you have to follow to ensure that you and those you work with are kept safe from harm, these will be outlined in your policies and procedures and a failure to follow these could result in dismissal from your role.

More information about the Rule of Law can be found: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/assemblies-ks1-ks2-british-values-the-rule-of-law/zc2bsk7>



FGM International Awareness Day - 6th February

According to figures from the UN, an estimated one in 20 girls and women in the world have undergone some form of FGM (Female Genital Mutilation).

This BBC article looks at the four different types of FGM – please be aware this contains some upsetting images – visit the BBC website at www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-47131052.

FGM often happens to young children, as seen with the first woman to be convicted of FGM in the UK in 2019 who carried out the practice on her three year old daughter, FGM causes physical and emotional distress for the child and can have long term impacts on the child including reoccurring infections.

FGM is illegal in the UK and many other countries and if you suspect FGM has occurred it is your duty to report this.

LGBT History Month



LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) history month aims to celebrate diversity and inclusion by educating and discussing the LGBT community and how discrimination still occurs due to someones sexual orientation.

Only half of lesbian, gay and bi people (46 per cent) and trans people (47 per cent) feel able to be open about their sexual orientation or gender identity to everyone in their family.

LGBT communities have faced years of trying to achieve equal status as those who are heterosexual, it was only in 2013 that gay men were given the same rights with being able to consent to sex at age 16 and were able to show their relationship in public.

During LGBT history month we celebrate love between every gender and acknowledge the discrimination that those who are part of the LGBT community have faced.