

+ Maths takes
you there

Case Studies

Ben Richardson - Adult Learners' Week 2007, North East Regional Winner



Ben Richardson was brought up in a very strict community where he was denied mainstream secular education, and where Hebrew and Yiddish were the only languages spoken.

He had had little understanding or knowledge of English. Just before his 18th birthday he became determined to learn English and integrate into society.

'I wanted to broaden my knowledge and decided to study by improving my English and going on to GCSE and A Levels,' he says.

Ben had to learn to live independently, survive emotionally and gain qualifications to make himself employable.

He joined Adult Literacy, Numeracy and Computing classes – he did so well he soon found a job as a customer service adviser with BT. Soon he was juggling his part – time job with demanding academic study.

His initial studies gave him the confidence to take a distance learning GCSE course – he achieved five GCSEs after five months, then moved on to Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College.

He is currently in his second year, studying A – Levels in Economics, Maths, German and Physics – he is predicted to get straight As and has been offered a place to study Economics at Cambridge University.

His tutor Anita Blackburn said: 'He is an extraordinary young man.'

'For me adult learning is important for giving me a chance to study and have the same opportunities as anyone else, despite the fact that I came from a different background and was older than most students.'