



Students love their new learning environment

An innovative project which sees Havering Sixth Form College business and secretarial students learning and studying in an office environment right in the heart of Romford, was officially opened on Thursday (December 3).

The students, who are studying for professional ILEX (Institute of Legal Executives) qualifications, and the Executive PA and Legal Secretaries Diploma, are now based on the fourth floor of Morland House, an office building in Eastern Road, Romford, rather than at the College site in Wingletye Lane, Hornchurch.

Tutor Ann Vann said: "The students really like it here as it is a more adult environment. We have found they are more focused and get on with their work just as if they were employed in an office. The whole experience of moving here has been very beneficial."

The building contains a reception area, three separate classrooms set up as real offices, and a flexible learning/social space where the students can eat lunch, socialise and use computers.

Students Louise Stephenson, Chanel Gamon, Katie Sharod and Rachel Huckstepp all agreed they prefer the new set-up. Katie said: "We really like it here as it feels just like being in an office. We work better and get more done. We're more motivated and it feels different to being in a college classroom."

At the opening ceremony a short film was shown about how the College is making links with local businesses, before Deputy Mayor Cllr Melvin Wallace gave a speech to officially declare the new facility open.

In the New Year, the College will be offering adult learners the chance to take some short courses in business and secretarial skills at Morland House, which will greatly improve their employability.

Principal Paul Wakeling said: "Havering Sixth Form College has always had highly successful business administration and legal secretarial courses. Now, thanks to the hard work of staff these courses are taking place in a genuine office environment in the heart of the Romford business community.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for both our students and local businesses to work together for mutual benefit."

Business and Administration Subject Sector Leader, Leo Cole, who helped find the offices and set up the facility, said: "Morland House has enabled us to create a simulated office working environment in which more contextualised teaching and learning can take place. The flexibility of the open area in particular has also provided the opportunity to be innovative and flexible in approaching the delivery of the programmes."