



Online College opens its Virtual Doors for Adult Learners' Week



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Edinburgh, Scotland, 24 April 2006 — The New Curiosity Shop, an innovative online college based in Scotland, breaks new ground by hosting a virtual Open Week (20th – 26th May 2006) for online learners as part of Adult Learners' Week and Silver Surfer Week.

Visitors to the website at www.newcurioshop.com are invited to 'meet' the tutors, try some online learning activities and explore the courses the The New Curiosity Shop offers – all online.

“Although online learning is expanding in the schools and universities,” said founding partner Noel Chidwick, “it is still a bit of a mystery to most adult learners. This Virtual Open Week is a great opportunity for potential learners to get a taste for online learning, and find out how much fun it can be – it will be a chance to show that online learning can be a sociable experience.”

As part of Adult Learners' Week, visitors to The New Curiosity Shop website will be able to chat with tutors to ask questions about their courses, either through text-based live chat sessions, or by chatting over a live Internet phone connection.

Visitors will also be able to try a selection of online learning activities specially devised for the event, and they will be able to explore a sample of the courses, with subjects including Archaeology, Forensic Psychology (ideal for Cracker or Rebus fans), Scottish History, Literature and Family History.

There will be a virtual area for visitors to mingle and meet, and there will be a free course called 'How to Learn Online' which is designed to reassure the nervous online learner and provide some valuable tips on learning – this will be especially welcome to anyone who has taken a long break from formal education.

What was the thinking behind the Virtual Open Week? Founding partner Dr Arthur Chapman explained: “Traditional colleges and universities have been running Open Days for

years – it’s a good way to attract new students and to show off what they can do – we just thought it was about time that virtual colleges such as ours did the same. We are expecting visitors from all over the world as well as the UK to register, and join us for what should be a fascinating week.”

“Kids have all the fun at school nowadays,” said Associate Partner and Astronomy Tutor Dr Mark Toner. “We think adult learning should be fun too, and online learning is a great way to learn at your own pace – we call it ‘learning for grown-ups’ ”.

For additional information on the Online Open Week at The New Curiosity Shop, please contact Noel Chidwick or visit the website at www.newcurioshop.com.

THE NEW CURIOSITY SHOP
Online learning with the personal touch



About the New Curiosity Shop

The New Curiosity Shop is a virtual college which provide online courses in a range of subjects. We are based in Edinburgh, Scotland the home of the enlightenment. No conglomerates or multi-million dollar industry backing here: the New Curiosity Shop is the brain-child of two Edinburgh educationalists, Noel Chidwick and Dr W Arthur Chapman, who have a passion for learning, an appreciation of the technology and a desire to change attitudes in a world moving far too quickly for its own good.

Our reach is world wide: we have tutors in Scotland, Wales, England, Italy, France and USA and in the short time we have been operational we have had students from the UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand and mainland Europe. It’s online learning with the personal touch.

Contact:

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