

## A NEW ROUTE INTO DENTAL CARE

More young people are getting the chance to start careers in dental care in Scotland with a new course at Edinburgh College that is widening access to the industry.

The Dental Care Assistant course is the first of its kind in East Scotland and offers an introductory course at a level suited to a wide range of abilities and backgrounds. Previously, applicants who were interested in working in the dental care profession would have to be turned away from the existing courses due to a lack of experience or qualifications. The new course gives them a route into further study and valuable experience for the workplace.

Tom MacGregor, curriculum manager for Health and Veterinary at Edinburgh College, said: "The college sector is

committed to providing opportunities for learners across all ages, backgrounds and academic abilities. This course fits perfectly with our vision and the current cohort of learners is now ready for work experience in dental practices across Edinburgh and the Lothians."

Students on the Dental Care Assistant course learn about the importance of caring for their own teeth, an awareness of the dental environment, the instruments and equipment used and the importance of effective infection control. The programme is designed to be an excellent foundation for them to progress onto to the college's SVQ Level 3 in Dental Nursing, National Diploma in Dental Nursing or further study whilst in practice.

There are no formal entry requirements but applicants are expected to be well-presented with an interest in oral health and good interpersonal skills.

Tom said: "Many of our Dental Care Assistant

students joined the course in August with a lack of confidence and found teamwork and interacting with others a challenge. This course has developed them into confident individuals who can make positive contributions to their team as well as working well independently. The dental nursing team and I are very pleased with their progress. They now show self-belief, have more job-ready skills and feel comfortable presenting themselves and their work."

The students wear smart raspberry coloured scrubs in college, and are going out to engage with other college students and college staff to offer simple oral health messages in the wider college community. They are currently working on an awareness project to highlight the dangers of hidden sugar found in every day drinks and foods.

The next Dental Care Assistant course started in January and runs for 18 weeks. [www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk](http://www.edinburghcollege.ac.uk)



Dental Care Assistant students in raspberry uniforms, with Dental Nursing students in turquoise and teaching staff in blue

## NEBDN LAUNCHES ITS 'GUIDE TO SUCCESS' ONLINE SUPPORT FOR DIPLOMA STUDENTS

To support all candidates studying for the NEBDN National Diploma in Dental Nursing qualification, the National Examining Board for Dental Nurses has joined forces with Healthcare Learning to create an online examination guidance programme entitled 'Guide to Success'.

This innovative and easy to follow programme offers step by step guidance to students to help them prepare for both the Written section and the Practical Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE).

In a simple staged format, the NEBDN Guide to Success offers robust

advice on a range of topics from how to prepare for an examination, and what to expect in the examination room, to techniques for remaining calm under stress and creating an effective revision plan.

Although the programme is rich in educational content and offers a mine of valuable information for candidates it is not intended as a learning resource. The content of the National Diploma curriculum can only be learned through accredited training providers.

The programme, which is delivered through Healthcare Learning's online

platform, is available direct to students and dental nurses who are interested in refining their skills.

To view a trailer of the Guide to Success visit [http://clients.healthcare-learning.com.s3.amazonaws.com/nebdn/student/trailer/nebdn\\_student\\_trailer\\_edit.mp4](http://clients.healthcare-learning.com.s3.amazonaws.com/nebdn/student/trailer/nebdn_student_trailer_edit.mp4).

To purchase the Guide to Success click <http://www.healthcare-learning.com/learning/detail/view/productId/88>.

