



JANUARY NEWSLETTER

www.micomputersolutions.co.uk

Happy New Year and welcome to our newsletter!

In this newsletter, you can read about our past celebrations and future intentions, read an interview with one of our apprentices and their mentor, learn how to create a LinkedIn profile and much more.

Read below!

Follow us on social media!





Happy New Year & a Warm Welcome to 2026! 🌟

As we step into 2026, we want to extend our warmest wishes to all our learners, partners, funders and incredible staff. The start of a new year is the perfect time to reflect on the impact and achievements we've made together and set inspiring intentions for the future.

Celebrating 2025's Successes

Last year was truly remarkable, marked by the dedication and hard work of our community and staff. We are immensely proud of what we achieved together:

- **Enrolment & Reach:** We welcomed **1,187 learners** onto our courses, continuing our long-standing commitment to supporting over **21,000 individuals** since 2004.
- **Job Outcomes:** A remarkable **225 learners** secured **Good Work Job Outcomes** in the last year. Furthermore, **100% of learners** on our highly effective **Skills Bootcamps** gained Good Work Job Outcomes (earning at least the London Living Wage) or In-Work Progressions.
- **Qualification Achievement:** Over **90% of our learners** successfully achieved their qualifications.

- **Social Impact:** Our courses go beyond skills; **95% of learners** reported increased **social outcomes**, including improvements in health & wellbeing, social integration, and self-confidence.
- **Inclusivity:** We remain committed to serving our diverse community, with **90% of our learners** coming from a **Black, Asian or Multi-Ethnic background**.

Our Commitment and Goals for 2026

Building on this momentum, our vision remains clear:

"To continue to be a responsive, supportive, sustainable, and forward thinking community provider, building a community of learners across all provisions, promoting wellbeing and career opportunities of our young people and adults through inclusive lifelong learning across all Local Authorities."

For 2026, we are focused on achieving excellence by committing to:

- **Learner Success:** Continue to increase the number of learners who achieve qualifications and progress into positive outcomes, including employment.
- **Exceptional Experience:** Deliver an Exceptional Learner experience for individuals and as a community.
- **Wellbeing:** Actively support the wellbeing of all learners and staff.
- **Workforce Excellence:** Maintain a confident and highly qualified workforce with a strong culture of transparency, trust, adaptability, creativity, and innovation.
- **Partnership & Delivery:** Strive for Excellence in the delivery of Contracts, including Partnerships.
- **Sustainability:** Working towards the long-term sustainability of our organisation.

Continue to Transform Lives: Our Mission for the Year Ahead

Our motivation for 2026 is driven by our Mission:

"To transform lives through providing inclusive and lifelong learning that improves the long-term career, employability and wellbeing of learners and the sustainability of SME businesses."

This year, we will continue to embody this spirit, Transforming Lives, by offering you the best possible opportunities to learn, grow and

succeed.

A Heartfelt Thank You

None of this success would be possible without the incredible support from all of you.

A special and heartfelt thank you goes to our **funders and partners** for believing in our mission and enabling us to make a real difference in people's lives. Thank you also to our dedicated **staff** for their unwavering commitment, professionalism and passion.

And finally, to all of our **learners** - past, present and future - thank you for choosing us, for your hard work and for inspiring us every single day. You are the reason we do what we do and we look forward to supporting your journey to success in 2026!

Let's make this a year of continuous learning, growth, and transformation!

New Year, New Skills

Three Simple Steps to Start Your 2026 Journey

January is the perfect time for a fresh start. Let's focus on powerful resolutions that will change your life: **getting the skills you need for a better career.**

Your commitment to your future is your biggest asset. We are here to help you turn those New Year wishes into actual measurable skills and qualifications.

Here are some steps you can take to start the new year on the right foot:

1. Review Your Foundation

Look back at your learning journey. Did you finish your foundation (English, maths, digital skills, ESOL) courses last year?

- **If Yes:** You have the confidence to tackle specialist courses. You are ready for a Vocational Course (like Childcare or SIA) or a Skills Bootcamp.
- **If No:** Why not commit to mastering your English, maths or I.T. as these are key skills that will help unlock every other qualification and job.

2. Choose Your Destination (The Goal)

You need a clear target to aim for. Which industry is calling you?

- **High Demand:** Do you want a job where you are needed every day? Look at Health and Social Care or Construction.
- **Quick Start:** Do you want to be job-ready in a few months? Look at our Skills Bootcamp courses.
- **Digital Future:** Is your goal to work in an office or a technical role? Focus on Business IT for Office or Computer Engineering skills.

3. Build Your Timetable

A goal without a plan is just a wish. Create a simple plan for the next six months.

- **Set Weekly Study Time:** Even 2 or 3 hours of focused learning a week makes a huge difference.
- **Talk to Us:** Our advisors can show you the exact progression path from your current skills to your goal job. We can help you pick the right course and manage the application process.

Imagine where you could be in six months: with new skills, new confidence and new opportunities. The first step is simple: start learning.

Mentorship Matters: Real talk with a mentor and a mentee

Our National Mentoring Month celebration interview

January is the National Mentoring Month, a time dedicated to celebrating the power of mentoring. Being January a great time for new goals, what better way to reach those goals than with the support of a great mentor?

To celebrate this annual campaign, we sat down with Tara, our Deputy CEO, and Kristal, our CMDA Apprentice & Admin Officer, to discuss their mentor and mentee relationship.

Learn about their experience by reading the interview below.

Q1: Tara and Kristal, thank you both for taking the time for this interview. For those that don't know you, can you briefly introduce yourselves and describe your roles in the organisation?

T: I'm Tara, Deputy CEO at MI. My role focuses on strategic leadership, quality, and organisational development across our post-16 provision. Alongside this, I mentor staff and apprentices as part of MI's commitment to developing confident, capable future leaders.

K: I'm a CMDA apprentice at Portsmouth University and Admin Officer at MI, I've been here for three years. I started as a learner and now support the organisation through admin duties such as learner records, enrolments, and day-to-day responsibilities. Through my role and my final year work-based university project, I also support



T: I see mentoring as an investment rather than an add-on. Making time for it is part of my leadership role - developing people strengthens the organisation as a whole. We keep sessions focused, purposeful, and reflective, which makes the time spent both manageable and valuable.

Q6: Tara, I believe Kristal is not your first mentee, can you tell us what motivated you to become a mentor and how long have you been doing it for?

outreach, helping MI engage more with the Lambeth community and build stronger local connections. Tara has been my mentor during an important stage of my journey.

Q2: Can you take us back to the beginning and tell us: How did the two of you get paired in the mentoring programme?

K: We were paired in January 2025, during my second year at university, at a time when things weren't going as I had planned and my confidence had dropped. Tara and the wider team recognised that I needed mentoring to help me regain confidence, see things differently, and move forward with more clarity and belief.

T: It was clear she would benefit from a mentor that could support and encourage her to meet the apprenticeship requirements at this level, space to think strategically, and I was keen to support her development at a critical stage in her journey.

Q3: Kristal, can you describe the moment you realised that having a mentor was making a difference?

K: I realised it when I slowly started to feel like myself again. I had been feeling stuck and low in motivation, and Tara helped

T: I've been mentoring for many years, particularly in education, skills, and leadership development. What motivates me is seeing people realise their potential - especially when they don't yet see it themselves. Mentoring allows me to support others to think strategically, build resilience, and develop confidence in their decision-making, rather than simply giving them answers.

Q7: Building on that, how do you approach building trust with a new mentee, Tara?

T: Trust starts with listening. I make it clear that mentoring is a confidential, supportive space where questions and uncertainty are welcome, but I do appreciate, because of my role in the business, sometimes this can be hard for my mentees. Being consistent, honest, and respectful — and showing genuine belief in the mentee's potential — helps build trust quickly.

Q8: Going back to you Kristal, what would you say is the biggest difference between learning through formal training versus learning through a mentor?

K: Formal training teaches you skills, but mentoring supports the person behind those skills. The belief and kindness shown

me find clarity, direction, and confidence.

Q4: That is quite powerful testament. Tara, after listening to Kristal's response, what would say is the most rewarding aspect of seeing Kristal and other mentees grow and develop over the course of their mentorship?

T: The most rewarding part is seeing a shift in confidence and ownership. With Kristal, that has shown up in her willingness to lead conversations, take responsibility for complex projects, and influence others positively. Watching someone move from uncertainty to clarity - and from hesitation to action - is incredibly powerful.

Q5: It really is and so incredible to see the impact as well. Now this question is for both of you: How do you make time for mentoring within your regular work responsibilities?

K: We plan ahead and keep sessions focused. Even short check-ins are valuable when the time is used with care and intention.

by Tara, along with Aleks, Bola, Christine, Fatima Iyiola and the wider MI team, has helped me grow not just professionally, but personally too.

Q9: I can concur that our MI team is just incredibly supportive. Thinking back to your experience Kristal, do you believe that having a mentor has changed the way you approach challenges or setbacks?

K: Yes. I now approach challenges with more patience and understanding, rather than self-criticism. I've learned that it's okay not to have everything figured out.

Q10: It is clear that you both have a lot of respect for each other. Therefore, I want to ask both you: What is one thing you admire about your mentor/mentee?

K: I really admire Tara's patience, kindness, and belief in me, especially when I doubted myself. That belief helped me keep going.

T: I admire Kristal's resilience and willingness to learn. She reflects honestly on challenges, takes feedback on board (even when sometimes we have had to have some difficult conversations), and applies it in practice - which is a strong



indicator of her future leadership capability.

What an inspiring and powerful interview. Thank you Tara and Kristal for being so open to sharing your experiences with all of us. Wishing you both incredible success in the new year.

Optimising Your LinkedIn Profile

Whether you're looking for a job, hoping to progress in your current role or planning to change careers, your LinkedIn profile can make a big difference.



LinkedIn is more than a social media site, it's the world's largest professional networking platform. Think of it as your "digital CV" that is always open for business! It's often the first place employers in every field, from Computer Engineering to Childcare, look at.

Having a strong LinkedIn profile is vital to your job search, even if you are new to the platform or have been focusing on your basic skills (English, maths or ICT).

Here are some simple ways to improve your profile:

1. Add a clear, friendly profile photo

A simple, friendly, well-lit headshot against a plain background works perfectly and it helps people trust you!

2. Create a strong headline

Your headline is the short sentence under your name.

- **Tip:** Do not just write "Unemployed." Instead, write your goal!

Example: "Learner at MI Skills Development Centre | Aspiring Care Assistant | Passionate About Helping Others"

- **Include Keywords:** Use the specific skills you have learned (e.g., "SIA Licensed," "Fluent in ESOL," "Level 2 Business IT for Office").

3. Write a short 'About Me' section

This is where you powerfully tell your story. You can keep it short (two to three paragraphs) and simple.

Things you should include:

- Explain who you are. For example: mention your previous work or life experience
- What you're learning. Example: *"I am currently upgrading my maths and English skills at MI Skills Development Centre to build a stronger foundation."*
- Clearly state the job or career you are aiming for. Example: *"Seeking an entry-level role in Construction with a focus on sustainable building techniques"*

Another example:

"I am currently completing a Skills Bootcamp in Health and Social Care and aiming to start a career as a Care Support Worker. I enjoy supporting people, learning new skills and working as part of a team."

4. List your skills and courses

Make sure to list the courses and qualifications you completed, as this proves you have recent and relevant training.

- **List the Course Name:** "Level 2 Diploma for the Early Years Practitioner" or "Essential Digital Skills"
- **Add Key Skills:** Under each course, list three or four skills you gained. This is much stronger than just listing the certificate.

- Example for Early Years: promote play, support children's development and care routines for babies and young children.
- Example for Digital Skills: Safe communication methods, create and edit a range of documents and store and organise information

5. Connect with people

Build relationships by adding classmates, tutors, colleagues and employers. The more connections you have, the more visible you become.

6. Stay active

You don't have to post every day. Even liking, sharing or commenting on useful articles helps your profile look active and professional.

7. Ask for Recommendations

Recommendations are like online references. Ask your tutors or supervisors to write a few sentences about your reliability and skills. This is highly valued by employers!

Your LinkedIn profile is your professional window to the world. By keeping it updated and focused on your goals, you are taking a huge step toward securing your next career move!

Need help building your LinkedIn profile?

Our team can support you with creating or improving your CV and LinkedIn profile. Speak to us if you'd like employability advice. We're here to help you succeed.

[Create Your Profile](#)

Our December Events

Last month, on the 11th of December, we, MI Skills Development Centre, attended two great and fun events: "MI Skills Pop Up: Are You Ready For What's Next?" and the "Lambeth English Language Fair".

The MI Skills Pop-Up event was held in collaboration with the Oasis Hub, Waterloo, for adults aged 19+. People were able to meet the team, ask questions, and learn about free courses that help build skills and open up new opportunities. The event had a positive impact, with 14 learners successfully booked onto courses. This Pop-Up was part of our work to better engage with the Lambeth community, with a focus on 19 - 23-year-olds.

It also supports Kristal's, our CMDA Apprentice & Admin Officer, final year university work-based project, Targeted Outreach: Engage & Grow, which aims to connect more young people in Lambeth and across London with alternative pathways and raise awareness that there are other routes to opportunities.

Meanwhile, the Lambeth Language Fair, was tailored and organised for migrant communities to connect with ESOL providers, adult education, and support services (health, housing, work) to find suitable English and other courses and opportunities. Fatima, our Employer & Learner Engagement Officer, was able to meet and network with different providers, including Be Lambeth, and with a diverse set of individuals. The event went very well, with 13 learners signing up for various courses, such as Teaching Assistant, Maths, English and IT. The language fair was a great way to connect and reconnect with current and new organisations and to engage more with the Lambeth community.

See below some of the photos taken:





Upcoming Courses

The new year has just started, and what a great opportunity to transform your life.

Why not start a new course and upskill yourself?

Check the list of our upcoming courses and register below:

Deptford

ESOL COURSES

ESOL Reading

13/01/2026 -25/02/2026

ESOL Speaking & Listening

15/01/2026 -13/03/2026

ESOL Writing

03/03/2026 -06/05/2026

ESOL Speaking & Listening

26/03/2026 -29/05/2026

ENGLISH COURSES

Brixton

ESOL COURSES

ESOL Reading E2 - L1

06/01/26 – 29/04/26

ESOL Writing E3 - L1

06/01/26 – 29/04/26

ESOL Reading E3

08/01/26 – 13/02/26

ESOL Writing E3

12/01/26 – 17/03/26

ESOL Reading E3

25/02/26 – 02/04/26

ESOL Speaking & Listening E3

26/02/26 – 22/05/26

Functional Skills English L2

06/01/2026 -19/03/2026

Functional Skills English L1

19/01/2026 -25/03/2026

Functional Skills English L1 & L2

14/04/2026 -25/06/2026

Functional Skills English L2

20/04/2026 -01/07/2026

MATHS COURSES

Functional Skills Maths L1 & L2

03/02/2026 -14/04/2026

I.C.T. COURSES

Essential Digital Skills E3

19/01/2026 -23/03/2026

Business IT for Office L1

22/01/2026 -20/03/2026

Business IT for Office L2

26/03/2026 -05/06/2026

Essential Digital Skills

13/04/2026 -29/06/2026

VOCATIONAL COURSES

Teaching Assistant

TBC

Childcare Skills Bootcamp

TBC

ESOL Writing L1

04/03/26 – 08/05/26

ENGLISH COURSES

Functional Skills English L1

05/01/26 – 11/02/26

Functional Skills English L2

07/01/26 – 27/02/26

English with Confidence

23/02/26 – 03/03/26

MATHS COURSES

Functional Skills Maths L1

06/01/26 – 10/02/26

Functional Skills Maths L1 & L2

08/01/26 – 13/02/26

Functional Skills Maths Entry

12/01/26 – 30/03/26

Introduction to Numbers

14/01/26 – 23/01/26

Financial Literacy

04/02/26 – 13/02/26

Functional Skills Maths L1 & L2

20/02/26 – 09/04/26

I.C.T. COURSES

Business IT for Office L2

06/01/26 – 18/03/26

Get Connected

12/01/26 – 22/01/26

Essential Digital Skills E3

12/01/26 – 30/03/26

Essential Digital Skills E3

02/02/26 – 05/03/26

Business IT for Office L1

16/03/26 – 19/05/26

Business IT for Office L2

23/03/26 – 16/06/26

VOCATIONAL COURSES

Introduction to Care

08/01/26 – 16/01/26

Prepare to work in Adult Social Care L2

22/01/26 – 09/04/26

Enrol Now!

Refer a Friend

And get a £30 bonus



If you have a friend that would benefit from doing a course with us, you can easily refer them using the form below.

As a reward you will get a £30 voucher when they successfully complete a course with us.

Referral Form

MI Skills Development Centre

The Queen
47a Bellefields Road
London
SW9 9UH

0207 501 6450



You received this email because you studied a course with us, signed up to our newsletter or are one of our partners.

[Unsubscribe](#)

