



## Automotive training goes hi-tech at Aberdeen College

According to Aberdeen College Curriculum Manager, Kevin Nicolson, their state of the art Autolab facility provides an environment where students of all abilities will succeed; "This system has an immense amount of curriculum material with it and through the power of the ClassAct management system, we will be able to deliver courses that are truly differentiated and will match the individual needs of all our learners."

The Autolab facility comprises fifteen computer workstations and a series of hardware, software and simulation resources, installed in an office-like environment next to their large vehicle workshop. In the workshop itself there are two special Autolab engine rigs. One rig comprises a fully running latest-technology petrol engine with computer-inserted faults and Bosch diagnostic tools; the other is based on a Citroen HDI diesel engine with high-pressure common rail injection and full electronic control.

Daniel Donohoe, one of the motor vehicle tutors told us more about the way the system is used;

"One of the great advantages of the system is the mix of materials included. There are tutor's theory PowerPoint® presentations with assessments, online theory lessons for the learners, student-centred lessons in multimedia format, text books, digital videos and simulations. We can make use of any of these in our lessons and the links to the practical hardware really help reinforce the learning.

Special worksheets link the activities in the classroom to practical tasks in the workshop. This means our learners can build their knowledge of a particular system, safely practice working on it with a simulator or a trainer and then go into the workshop to do the task for real on a vehicle".

The Autolab facility at Aberdeen College supports the full range of City & Guilds and SVQ qualifications they offer, for full time, block release and day release learners. Through the computer-managed learning system, lecturers are able to track and



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**Daniel Donohoe,**  
Motor Vehicle Tutor



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**Kevin Nicholson,  
Curriculum Manager**

record individual learner progress and attainment, according to Kevin Nicholson, this provides the potential to really support the learners;

“Tutors can see at a glance where the learner is in their course of study. If they are having problems, the tutor can use the information gathered by ClassAct to help them resolve their particular problem. The computer-managed learning facilities of the ClassAct system allow them to give individual attention while the other learners carry on at their own pace.”

In addition to using the new Autolab system to support their courses, Aberdeen College are long-time users of LJ Create’s award winning iMAP on-line automotive study system. This internet-based learning package provides their learners with direct access to over 450 on-line theory lessons covering the key motor vehicle servicing topic areas.

Learners are able to access this dynamic, interactive material from the classroom, library, home or place of work. It is used continually by the learners on all the motor vehicle courses and lecturing staff view it as a key component of their teaching and learning resource.