

Press Release

Lambeth College and PPHE Hotel Group seek to recruit top future Chefs

A partnership between Lambeth College and PPHE Hotel Group which includes Park Plaza Hotels & Resorts hotels across London, are seeking to find the next generation of future chefs through a specially run selection day at the College. The Park Plaza Chef Academy Programme will seek to recruit up to 8-10 candidates to the initiative, after 30 initially people applied for the scheme. The hopefuls will go through a selection day on Monday 29th February at the College, where they will be put through their paces with a practical cooking task and have a face to face interview. The apprentices will meet the expert Head Chefs from a number of destination-led restaurant brands based in London including TOZI and Chino Latino.

The Park Plaza Chef Academy Programme will provide future Chefs with the opportunity to learn the art of hospitality and culinary arts through hands-on exposure in both destination-led restaurants and hotel banqueting teams with a number of expert chefs. The 18 month Chef Apprenticeship Programme offers on-the-job training from professionally qualified experts, onsite mentors, development workshops and master classes. After completion of the Park Plaza Chef Academy Programme, the apprentices will be in great shape to continue their Chef career development journey with PPHE Hotel Group.

Greg Hegarty, Regional General Manager UK, PPHE Hotel Group commented:

"The recipe for a successful Park Plaza Chef Academy Programme apprentice will be someone with a real passion for both food and cooking who also has a genuine desire to carve out a career as a Chef. The initiative will help learners gain hands-on experience with the some of the industry's most established Chefs in a record year for PPHE Hotel Group which sees a number of new hotel and restaurant and bar openings across Waterloo, South Bank and West London. Those who are successful at the selection day will have access to opportunities and training that will enable them to obtain the crucial skills to be able to grow and develop in our company and the industry while realising their growth potential."

Dave Byford, Lambeth College's Director of Business and Commercial Development said:

"I am pleased that this partnership between Lambeth College and PPHE Hotel Group will now recruit 8-10 candidates to the Chef Academy Programme. We are looking for people who are determined to get the most out of the programme, be enthusiastic and have the ability to work as part of a team. Lambeth College is serious about promoting and supporting apprenticeships. They are an amazing alternative pathway to developing a career, which the government is also actively supporting."

Those who are successful on the scheme will be able to study for Industry-recognised qualifications – NVQ Levels 2 including Level 2 NVQ Diploma in Professional Cookery (QCF), Level 2 Certificate in Hospitality and Catering Principles (Professional Cookery) – QCF, Level 1 Functional Skills qualification in English, Level 1 Functional Skills qualification in Mathematics, ERR – Employment Rights and Responsibilities and PLTS – Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills. After the selection day the candidates will be informed by Friday 4th March, starting employment on Monday 4th April with their fun filled Inspiring Orientation week.