

Lorraine Pearson

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"I had my first child when I was 17. I went on to have four more. There was no life for me it was all for my children. I would see myself as being lower than everybody else. I would walk with my head down, I wouldn't meet people's eyes because I just had no confidence. During those years I was a big person, I was 25 stone. I overheard somebody saying "why doesn't she do something with her life?" And I decided, I'll show you. That first day at college was one of the worse and I was going to turn around and walk out and I thought no let's just do it. I did a forensics course and I really enjoyed learning. I found that I really wanted to learn more and more. The more I learnt the more I wanted to learn. I'd sat an entrance exam for the Access Course. I'd scored 29-and-a-half, I think, out of 30 and that I basically could do anything I wanted. So I studied Psychology and Social Anthropology that year and Maths and Statistics and I loved every minute of it."

Daphne Carnegie – City and Islington College.

"She wanted some relaxation from that course and she turned up at a pottery class."

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"I'd always wanted to try pottery."

Daphne Carnegie – City and Islington College.

"She did a Level One course and then she progressed onto Level Two."

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"Now I'm doing the Level Three and my whole life has changed."

Daphne Carnegie – City and Islington College.

She represents the Ceramic department at the Student Council."

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"I volunteer in a class in the college as well."

Daphne Carnegie – City and Islington College.

"She has halved her weight."

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"Recently with a friend we've bought a kiln, we want to start our own business."

Daphne Carnegie – City and Islington College.

"She's got much more confidence."

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"I've proved that I could do something better with my life than walking around with my head down looking at the pavement."