

# BEAUTY TRAINING

## HARROW OPENS STUDENT SALON

**With a super new student salon and flexible fast-track course choices, Beauty Training Harrow is giving learners a unique, fresh and hands-on study experience.**

Yvonne Sullivan, owner of the training centre not only teaches women from all walks of life to become beauty therapists but has now also created a student salon, giving her learners the opportunity to gain valuable experience working in a fully-functioning salon environment. Clients are offered half price treatments, meaning the student salon is nearly always fully-booked!

The centre also teaches fast-track NVQs to students of all ages - they are able to gain VTCT recognised qualifications with the programme.

Having run her own salon for over 20 years Yvonne has some valuable life experiences to offer her learners. During the week they will see the professional salon in use, and at the weekends they take over the new innovation – running the salon for themselves.

Yvonne, who only opened the successful training centre just over a year ago, speaks of her reasons behind opening the student salon:

“*Sometimes feedback from family and friends may be very kind but not truly accurate for fear of offending the student,*”

This valuable learning experience is giving students a chance to build up the ever-needed confidence, using external clients in a real salon environment.

They get the opportunity to get hands-on and experience all aspects of running and working in a busy salon,

including; carrying out the treatments, answering the phones, dealing with complaints, making bookings and even the dreaded cleaning at the end of the day! Students are taught to a high standard and give clients an experience they would expect from visiting any professional salon.

Working in the salon allows learners to build their portfolios and advance their existing skills whilst improving their future employability.



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# FACIAL AWARENESS



Yvonne Sullivan is the founder of Beauty Training Harrow, a teaching academy in north west London which offers flexible hours for new therapists and those looking for 'Fast-Track' VTCT NVQ courses in beauty.

[www.beautytrainingharrow.co.uk](http://www.beautytrainingharrow.co.uk)

*The explosion of techniques used in facials has created an opening for VTCT Beauty Therapy qualifications to give trainees the opportunity to see how rewarding a career in this high-growth industry can be, says beauty educator Yvonne Sullivan.*

Our skin is the outfit we wear every day so it's not surprising that the facial is reportedly the second most popular treatment in UK salons today.

For thousands of years, women have been keen to harness the power of the facial to look younger. Even Ancient Egyptians such as Queen Cleopatra were obsessed with anti-ageing – she is believed to have coated herself in mud from the Dead Sea every day in an effort to keep her skin looking young and fresh.

While much has changed since Cleopatra's time, the basic principles of the facial remains the same. These include the application of creams and lotions to rejuvenate the face, cleanse pores and aid the removal of dead skin. Above all, facials still seek to leave the skin looking fresher, brighter and revitalised.

However, while the aims of the treatment have not changed, recent years and technological developments have seen an explosion of new methods and tools to achieve these results.

Together with a growing number of anti-ageing products rolling into the beauty industry, this decade has witnessed the first wave of therapists who are concentrating solely on the facial.

The UK beauty industry is taking heed of this trend and it seems clear that we will continue to see growth in the number of beauty therapists specialising in this area.

Advances in skin science, innovative tools and new techniques are extending the value of the beauty industry, which is already worth over £5 billion.

This growth is a fantastic opportunity. But for this potential to be realised VTCT students

will have to develop a greater level of understanding of developments in the industry to match the need for increased specialisation.

The current VTCT qualifications provide an important grounding in both the theoretical and practical knowledge needed to succeed in the industry.

New techniques and their use of Medi-facials, OXYjet facials, and skin needling are just a few of the new techniques that are being added to the arsenal of beauty therapists worldwide.

This collection of innovations ranges from super-modern facials, such as the OXYjet facial – this uses high-tech equipment to apply concentrated oxygen to the skin – to the revival of classic facial formulas such as the medi-facial. This uses the peelings of citric fruits to provide a gentler, natural alternative to the chemical lotions normally applied.

Another popular development has been that of skin-needling. In this treatment skin-needling rollers are used to naturally stimulate the collagen and elastin in the skin. This technique "micro-perforates" the topmost layer of the skin with tiny needles – also called dermal rollers. The aim of this is to help remove scars, improve stretch marks, reduce cellulite and even lessen the effects of wrinkles.

These are just a handful of examples of innovations within a vibrant industry. Newly-qualified therapists could gain immeasurably from awareness that such a variety of treatments exist, and the knowledge that work in beauty therapy provides constant opportunities to learn, to innovate and to develop specialisation.