

Martin Lewis Helps Young People Figure Out Their Financial Future

TV's Money Saving Expert, Martin Lewis OBE engaged an audience of Denbigh School Sixth Formers today, when he visited the School to talk about finance and how best to manage their money.

Martin took the opportunity to talk to the receptive students about the value of getting on the path to financial independence, whilst the Open University Business School were at the School filming with Denbigh staff and students for a new online free personal finance course.

The OU's 'Managing My Money for Young Adults' is an eight session course that will be launched in the Autumn to coincide with the 2017/18 academic year. The course is generously funded by the Chartered Accountants Livery Charity and will follow the timeline of a young person's typical financial journey. It will include how young people spend their money and the risks associated with online shopping, the financial consequences of moving into higher education and effective management of personal debt.

Award-winning campaigning TV and radio presenter and journalist Martin Lewis.

"We live in one of the world's most complex consumer economies – and while companies spend billions on advertising, marketing and teaching their staff to sell, consumers don't get buyers training. That needs to change to redress the imbalance – it's why I've campaigned for years for financial education to be on the national curriculum. So it's a pleasure to get into Denbigh school and help these young adults start to tool up on financial knowledge in a way that isn't too arduous I hope. Better still, that it's going to form part of a free Open University course so that across the country people will be able to download the sessions to their mobiles and tablets, so they can join in too."

The OU's academic lead in the production of the series and Director of the True Potential Centre for the Public Understanding of Finance, Martin Upton, added:

"It can be daunting for young people navigating their way through the world of banking, pay and taxation and, although it may seem some time off, buying their first property."

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“This new course is designed to be studied in school or at home and will be available from September, through the OU’s free social learning platform, OpenLearn. Each module will comprise three hours of study time, which can be broken down into separate components and completion of the course will result in a Certificate of Achievement.”

Appreciating the time that Martin took to share his experiences and his valued expertise with Denbigh students, Headteacher Andy Squires said:

“For many young people the responsibility of personal finance is something they may think is way off in the future. Martin demonstrated today that our students need to be thinking sooner rather than later about the effective management of their finances, whether they embark on university or start work.

“The OU course will be an invaluable resource and we were delighted to offer the expertise and participation of Denbigh’s Careers Officer, Sixth Form Teaching staff and students. Their advice will be instrumental in helping students with the financial challenges young people will face in the five years after they leave school.”

‘Managing My Money for Young Adults’ is adapted from the original ‘Managing My Money’ course and is developed by the OU Business School’s award winning True Potention Centre for the Public Understanding of Finance (True Potential PUFIn). The Centre’s courses have already helped over 260,000 people and, with the support of the Chartered Accountants’ Livery Charity, will now reach young people at the point of need to support their early development and money management skills.

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Notes to Editors

For Martin Lewis’ biography please see: <http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/site/martin-lewis-biography>

For further information about the True Potential PUFIn, its free courses and resources and Martin Upton’s biography please see: www.open.ac.uk/pufin

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