

# Southwark Hospitality Skills Hub Newsletter

## Welcome

Welcome to the First **Southwark Hospitality Skills Hub Newsletter!**

The HUB, which is fully funded by Southwark Council, is a specialist programme designed to promote and support our borough's thriving hospitality sector.

We work closely with employers to identify skills gaps in the industry and develop tailored training programmes that equip local residents with the knowledge and expertise needed to fill these roles.

By providing one-to-one support, we help employers find and retain skilled candidates while connecting Southwark residents with quality job opportunities in hospitality.

Our services include essential skills training and a dedicated job brokerage service, with the goal of creating **130 jobs and apprenticeships over the next two years.**

Stay tuned for exciting updates and inspiring stories of success as we continue to strengthen Southwark's hospitality industry!

## Rinova - Who are we?

Established in 2010, Rinova is an independent, employee-owned training provider. Focused on social, cultural, economic and educational development, including the employment and skills agenda. We operate in key sectors such as the hospitality, working extensively with NEET, schools, colleges, youth and adults..

## Spring Issue 2025

### In this issue:

Launch Event  
Training  
School Events  
Success Study  
Employer Testimonial

## The Hub Team

Ilze Li, Zabrina Joseph and Chloe Parker - brings together a diverse range of expertise in recruitment, training, and the hospitality sector.

Together, they provide tailored, end-to-end support for both candidates and employers, ensuring a smooth and successful journey into hospitality careers and talent development.



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## Southwark Hospitality Skills Hub Launch Event

We were excited to welcome businesses, employers, and residents to the Southwark Hospitality Skills Hub launch at Hilton London Bankside on 31st January. This event brought together industry leaders and local partners to champion the development of hospitality talent in Southwark.

Raoul De Souza, General Manager of Hilton London Bankside, set the stage for an engaging event, including **Councillor John Batteson** and **Timothy R. Andrews**, reinforced the importance of employer engagement and local economic growth, while **Vince Kelly** introduced training programs to bridge the sector's skills gap in the hospitality industry.

The event wrapped up with a vibrant networking session, fostering valuable connections. A special thank you to Hilton London Bankside for their generous hospitality.

We encourage employers to join **The Hub** and help shape the future of hospitality in Southwark!

## Skills Training in Partnership with Westminster Kingsway College

The **Southwark Hospitality Skills Hub** has teamed up with **Westminster Capital City College** - a leading UK institution for Hospitality and Culinary training, to offer a hospitality course designed to equip Southwark residents with essential skills and real-world experience.

Blending practical and theoretical learning, the course covers key areas such as kitchen operations, barista skills, health and safety, customer service and employability training. Participants leave with the confidence and capabilities needed to launch successful careers in hospitality.

We are proud to share that 10 participants have already completed the first pilot course and are now ready to bring their skills into the industry.

Thanks to the success of the pilot and our ongoing partnership, a new cohort began on 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2025, with training opportunities now being offered on a monthly basis - empowering even more residents to pursue rewarding careers in hospitality.



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## Inspiring the Next Generation: Working with Schools

The Swithark Hospitality Skills Hub is dedicated to empowering young people with insights into hospitality careers by collaborating with local schools.

Students from **Kingsdale Foundation School** had the opportunity to visit **Park Plaza Waterloo**, where they gained first hand experience and engaged directly with industry professionals. A big thank you to **Park Plaza London Waterloo** for hosting the Year 10 students and providing them with such valuable career insights!

At the **St. Saviour's & St. Olave's Business Partnership Event** in March, we proudly promoted the Hub and introduced students to the diverse career pathways within the hospitality sector. By bridging education and employment, we are helping equip young people with the knowledge, skills and inspiration to pursue careers in hospitality.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with schools and businesses to shape the future workforce of the industry.

## Joe's Journey to Success

When Joe first came to us, he was unemployed and looking to pursue a career in events. From our very first conversation, it was clear that he had the right attitude and a strong desire to learn, making him an ideal candidate for many employers. With a year's worth of experience as a Bar Back, Joe had been actively applying for jobs but faced repeated rejections.

With our support, Joe revamped his CV and Cover Letter and applied to **The Caledonian Club**, a prestigious Scottish-focused members' club in London, renowned for its events and accommodations. After a successful trial shift, he was offered a position and is now a valued member of their banqueting events team.

Joe shared with the Hub that he has already learned a great deal, and we're excited to see where this new journey takes him.



## Employer Testimonial

*"From the first meeting with Rinova, it has been a no pressure seamless process, CV's are sent, read and in the person fits, an interview will take place. We trial all the prospective staff and it works for both of us, we bring them on board. Experience for us is not essential, it is the willingness and can-do attitude that we are after and Rinova helps us to bring in willing candidates, thank you."*

**John Herity, The Caledonian Club**

## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Are you a hospitality employer looking for skilled candidates? If so, please get in touch with our team today to access a pool of motivated and job ready candidates.

✉ [I.li@rinova.co.uk](mailto:I.li@rinova.co.uk)

☎ **07739 360 863**

or check out the website using the QR code below:

<https://southwarkhsh.co.uk/>

