

## *Stride Ahead*

### *Telford Rural Polytechnic*

*"Last week I rolled out an intensive reading programme using **Stride Ahead** to 15 students. These students were identified as having a low level of literacy. They come out of the classroom and workshops individually for 20 minutes at a time and work incredibly hard. Now this is truly gratifying because most of these students are young men who disliked high school and did not succeed well in the school system. All but one is very positive about the program; they report to other tutors it makes them sweat but it is OK (high praise).*

*Based on my experience last year with **Stride Ahead** (the program was terrific but it was in the student's own time and thus I did not have a good uptake) and so far this year, I am absolutely delighted to have a programme that has been so well developed I don't have to stay up late into the night planning, preparing and marking and which capture, convinces and progresses the students.*

*If you have the opportunity to pass on my thanks to Keda please do so. Her incredible hard work and dedication to the task of creating **Stride Ahead** has given me a tool which has not only allows me to do my job properly but **most importantly** it has given 15 mostly young men a chance to move from barely-able-to-cope in this world of text to confidence"*

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**Update July 2009:** *An interesting episode occurred in the classroom recently. A relieving tutor asked the students to take turns reading an agricultural text out loud – a daunting classroom task. Amazingly, all but one of the students in the class involved in the Stride Ahead reading program read their section with confidence. They tackled words difficult words and helped each other if they stumbled. I am very doubtful they would have managed this before working with **Stride Ahead**.*

*Note: This is my personal endorsement not that of Telford Rural Polytechnic*

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