

27th January.

Win 3 weeks FREE Trading in Wood Green Mall

The annual small business competition, 'Retail Factor', is now open for entries. The competition gives aspiring small and start up businesses an opportunity to trade for 3 weeks free in The Mall. It's the perfect opportunity to get access to thousands of potential shoppers and test your product or service in a real shopping environment. Whether you make cupcakes or jewellery as a hobby, or have a shop on ebay, this is an easy way to turn your talent into a business.

Entries will be assessed by a panel of judges with shortlisted entrants invited to pitch their idea in person. Local winners get to trade for free in The Mall with the most successful business from all our Malls also winning cash contribution towards stock and mentoring from a leading industry entrepreneur. The deadline for entries is **23rd February**. [Find out more & enter here](#)

Business Growth Vouchers

At the end of January, the government will launch a £30 million research programme to test the value to small businesses of accessing professional advice. The subsidised business support will be delivered in the form of randomly allocated **Growth Vouchers**, enabling businesses to receive a **50% subsidy towards the cost of obtaining advice on 5 key topics that help businesses to grow**.

The majority of small businesses that participate in the programme will be allocated vouchers to spend on strategic advice from suppliers in the private sector, matched with their own funds, on one of 5 categories of support:

- Managing cashflow, late payments and negotiating finance
- Developing skills and taking on staff
- Improving Leadership and Management
- Marketing, attracting and keeping customers
- Making the most of digital technology

Click for [more details](#) about how to apply.

Could You be a Business Mentor ?

Helping the next generation of entrepreneurs

[Start Up Loans London](#) delivers a government-backed programme, offering low-cost finance and support to help people get their business up and running. The organisation is currently looking to recruit mentors to guide these entrepreneurs through the journey of setting up and managing their new business.

If you are interested in finding out what's involved, please call **020 8366 8244** or visit:

<http://www.startuploanslondon.co.uk>

Networking Meetings

We-Network

On: **Wednesday 5th February** (*the first Wednesday of the month*), 6.30pm - 8.30pm

At: Forty Hall, Forty Hill, Enfield EN2 9HA

For details of the next meeting visit www.we-network.org.uk

or FB <https://www.facebook.com/events/210475122445985/>

Tel: 07946 551719 (Mel) or 07786 260284 (Laura)