

START UP BROMLEY

Business support for aspiring and early stage entrepreneurs



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Support Launched for Bromley Start-ups

Start Up Bromley launched at Bromley Central Library on Thursday, 24 June to support aspiring and early stage entrepreneurs in the borough. The launch was held in strict accordance with government guidelines, in what was, for many attending, the first business networking event for well-over a year.

Invited guests included Councillor Peter Morgan, Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing and Councillor Hannah Gray, executive assistant with special responsibility for small business, along with representatives from the London Borough of Bromley and GLL, which is delivering the service for Bromley Libraries.

Guests heard from new start up businesses including Sekai Fraser of Clemis Consultancy, Bianca Sapara-Grant of Parent Power, Moses Zikusoka of Brit T-Shirts and Isabel Grech of Libellule Artisan Bakery. All shared their experiences and stories of how they have built successful enterprises in challenging circumstances.

Following brief speeches from Diana Edmonds MBE, National Libraries Director at GLL, and Philip Johnson, Business Support Manager at Start Up Bromley, guests were shown the new facilities at Bromley Central Library, including the Business Lounge, Workshop Room and Meeting Rooms that will all be available for members of Start Up Bromley to use.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A FRESH START FOR BROMLEY'S START UPS

CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS & THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TOO:

OTHER RESOURCES



A FRESH START FOR BROMLEY'S START UPS!

Start Up Bromley offers access to new business lounges in Bromley Central Library and Orpington Library, where people can come together to work, learn, network and support each other in an easily accessible and inspiring space. Each business lounge is equipped with a choice of work stations and offers access to PCs and printing as well. Smaller meeting rooms and conference facilities are also available at Bromley Central Library. Access to a programme of workshops and events on relevant subjects to anyone starting a new business is available to anyone who registers to become a Start Up Bromley member, along with one to one advice sessions and a monthly newsletter.



JOIN THE PROGRAMME NOW!
There is no charge for joining Start Up Bromley or any fee for using the facilities on offer. All we ask is that you complete our Registration Form [\(Link\)](#) which will give us brief details of you and your business or business idea.



Start Up Bromley is transforming the way ideas grow into successful businesses. We are contributing by developing a community of companies which is free to join and open to everyone.

START UP BROMLEY PARTNERS WITH THE BRITISH LIBRARY BUSINESS AND IP CENTRE

Start Up Bromley is delivered by Bromley Libraries and the London Borough of Bromley.

We are pleased to be working with the British Library Business and IP Centre, which offers support for small business owners, entrepreneurs and inventors at <https://www.bl.uk/business-and-ip-centre> where advice on intellectual property (IP) and business information is available alongside articles, blogs and Industry Guides.

Like Start Up Bromley, The British Library offers an innovate programme, Start Ups in London Libraries (SiLL). The programme offers a range of courses on starting a business, as well as 1-2-1s with their local SiLL champions located in 10 boroughs across London. To see if you're eligible visit

<https://www.bl.uk/business-and-ip-centre/start-ups-in-london-libraries>

CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

No one knows how things will settle down when we finally emerge from the pandemic. The only certainty is that despite its inevitable rapid growth, the economy will take time to fully recover and there will be no return to whichever version of 'normal' each of us might remember, comments **Philip Johnson, Business Support Manager at Start Up Bromley**.

For many, employment circumstances will change and for some, new work options will have to be considered. Home working is now a more widespread possibility and opportunities involving far less commuting could prove popular. Combining this with a desire for a far better work life balance will inevitably mean more people will be considering working for themselves. In addition, individuals new to the world of work will be aspiring to create their own thriving enterprises with all the associated challenges and excitement.

As well as for people, for places, there will be no return to the way things were.

Changes to retail will continue to transform our town centres and with business rates increasingly retained locally, a thriving and enterprising business community will be essential to ensure the continued wellbeing of our local community. This is where Start Up Bromley comes in, with an exciting new offer delivered at Bromley Central Library and Orpington Library, specifically crafted to meet the needs of an emerging start up community.

UPCOMING EVENTS & THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

1-2-1s If you would like a 1-2-1 with our business support manager to discuss any of your business ideas or challenges you are having, please get in contact and we will arrange a video or phone call or in-person meeting at Bromley Central Library.

START UP BROMLEY WORKSHOP ALERT: Introduction to Social media for businesses! Thursday 15 July at 10:00 via Zoom, join us as we host Hustle & Heels to take us through the basics on how to best utilise social media for your business. Please register your interest via eventbrite [link](#)

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST:

Natwest is holding an event called 'The Seven Secrets to Improving Profitability' run by Mark Roblett, a Director of the UK Business Mentoring Group on the Thursday 22 July 10:00 via Zoom. The link is available [here](#) for those interested in signing up for the event.

COMING SOON:

Soon we will be able to welcome you to use the newly refurbished Business Rooms. Bromley Central Library boasts two small meeting rooms and a large workshop/conference room which will be bookable. Also located within Bromley Central Library is our Business Lounge designed for co-working, and will be available for Start Up Bromley members as *drop-in only* during the library's opening hours. Please visit the [Library website](#) for their opening hours.

Likewise our Business Lounge at Orpington Library Lounge will be available to Start Up Bromley members on a *drop-in only* basis as follows –

- Tuesday 10:00 - 17:00

- Wednesday 10:00 - 17:00

- Thursday 10:00 - 13:00

- Friday 10:00 - 17:00

We will notify all Start Up Bromley members when the rooms go live for drop-in use and bookings.

MORE THAN BOOKS

Start Up Bromley is delivered by Bromley Libraries. Paula Young, Head of Libraries & Community Resources at the London Borough of Bromley commented:

“We are delighted to be supporting Start Up Bromley in its work to build a strong and vibrant entrepreneurial community in Bromley. The provision of more local-based business support will give customers the information, skills and connections to start up, protect and grow their business. Libraries have a unique position as trusted, impartial and accessible hubs in the heart of communities, and Start Up Bromley will continue in this long tradition and improve outcomes for those residents wishing to make use of this free service.”

WHO'S WHO AT START UP BROMLEY?

Philip Johnson – Business Support Manager

Philip heads the Start Up Bromley team and has supported and growing businesses in a number of programmes across London and the south east. With particular knowledge of innovation, design and marketing, Philip can help any business develop its proposition, build its offer and engage consumers.

Imogen Loucas – Project Assistant

Imogen's biggest passion is easy access to information and before changing to a career in librarianship, worked in company management. Imogen has worked in every library in the London Borough of Bromley and believes that her role as a project assistant on Start Up Bromley provides the perfect opportunity to bring her existing skills to a new and valuable resource available through the library network.

Dabira Falola - Project Assistant

Dabira is a recent International Relations graduate from UEA. An avid reader and long time user of the library services, Dabira is excited to see the ways in which the programme will impact business within the Bromley community. As a project assistant, Dabira is enthusiastic about the unique experience that Start Up Bromley offers existing and aspiring entrepreneurs and the support it will provide to help them to grow their enterprises.

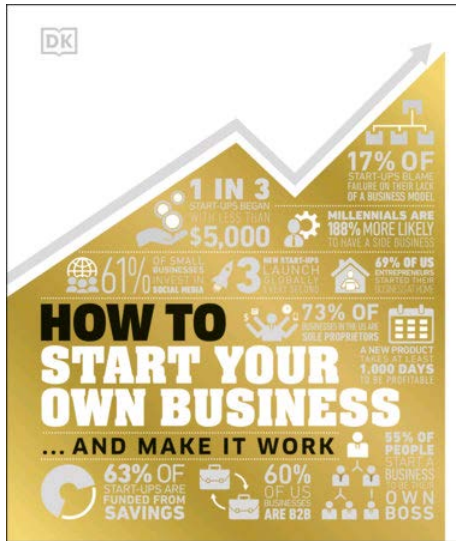
**To become a member, please complete
the Registration Form [HERE](#)
If you have any questions, please email
the team at startupbromley@gll.org.**

BOOK OF THE MONTH!

How to start your own business: ...and make it work
DK Publishing, Edited by Rickman, Cheryl D.

Another from DK Publishing, released February 2021 *How to start your own business: ...and make it work* is an informative and visual book on everything you need to know on starting a business. The jargon-free book will take you through the basics to ensure you have the best foundation to launch your new business from! The small segmented visual layouts mean you can quickly glean the information you are looking for, perfect for us busy entrepreneurs, or to browse through a leisure pace and soak in all the information the book has to offer.

You can reserve a copy of the book at your local Bromley Library [HERE](#)



ONLINE RESOURCES AVAILABLE THROUGH THE LIBRARY:

There are many resources available for free to help expand your knowledge and confidence in starting a business! You can find them all listed on Bromley Libraries' website under [Online Resources](#)

To access this wealth of information, all you need is your Bromley Library Card – if you do not yet have one you can apply online [HERE](#) or visit any of our library branches.

We would like to highlight three resources which we believe will be useful:

COBRA (The Complete Business Reference Adviser) here you will find information on how to start and run a business, the different regulation attached to your industry, as well as write a business plan and find grants etc.

NEWSBANK will give you access to newspapers from The Times & Telegraph to regional papers. Excellent to keeping up with that news in your business sector as well the economy as a whole.

CISCO NETWORKING ACADEMY has a range of online courses to help you strengthen your IT skills, (courses range in duration and difficulty).

OTHER BUSINESS RESOURCES

Every month we will showcase a different business resource to check out. Here are this month's spotlight business resources!

Successful Mums offers help to mothers (who have children under 12) with either setting up a business or getting back into the workforce. With support ranging from 1-2-1's, workshops & courses. For more information visit [Successful Mums](#)

Natwest has created a digital tool with the aim of supporting the development of businesses and entrepreneurs at all stages. Natwest's Business Builder service is free of charge and you don't need to be a Natwest bank user to access this resource. Natwest Business Builder can be found on their [website](#)

1230 The Women's Company run networking lunch-time meetings for women in business, both online and offline, with great conversation, contacts, support, expertise, learning, advice, fun and a tasty lunch at "in venue" meetings. All about supporting business growth! To learn more on how 1230 TWC can help your business grow visit [website](#)

As always the **Bromley Council** website is a useful resource for [business support](#) and [networking](#)

Follow us on social media for Start Up Bromley updates



@[StartUp_Bromley](https://twitter.com/StartUp_Bromley)



@[startup_bromley](https://www.instagram.com/startup_bromley)

Just a quick Final note, if you have a product or service you wish for us to promote in the monthly newsletter then please feel free to email us at StartupBromley@gll.org



Showcasing their businesses at the Start Up Bromley launch was;
Moses Zikusoka of [Greater BRIT](#)
Bianca Sapara-Grant of [Parent Power](#)
Isabelle Grech of [Libellule Artisan Bakery](#).

Thank you, we look forward to seeing you at our future events and 1-2-1s

**With kindest regards,
the Start up Bromley Team!**