



HR TRAINING 'WORKS' FOR HANNAH

HR professional Hannah is pleased to be enjoying life with her new baby after one of the most challenging and busy years in her career to date. In 2020, people services team leader Hannah achieved her Level 5 CIPD qualification, completed an apprenticeship, and managed the challenge of new payroll procedures when all 4,000 staff at book and stationery retailer, The Works were put on furlough.

Based at head office in Coleshill, Hannah was keen to add professional HR qualifications to her portfolio. She started her Level 5 qualification in 2018 attending classroom sessions one evening a week at the college's Nuneaton Campus while also following an apprenticeship standard.

Hannah said, "When the coronavirus lockdown suddenly struck, our 500+ stores were immediately closed, and our teams were put on furlough. I was faced with the challenge of managing the process for making sure that they all continued to get paid and I kept working throughout one of the busiest periods I have ever experienced."

Hannah was able to access support to fund her qualification through her employer's Apprenticeship Levy. She said, "I would definitely recommend this route to getting qualified while also working at the same time. The Levy is a great way for employers to support their teams and I am keen to move on to gain a further qualification at the same level in payroll. I am hoping that all my lockdown experience will stand me in good stead for that."

Talk to us about your options at our next open event. Visit our website www.nwslc.ac.uk/events for the latest dates and times.

AJ ROAD TESTS NEW CAREER HELPING TO BUILD AUTOMOTIVE SKILLS

Former garage mechanic AJ looks set for a career in teaching after he combined his love of cars with passing on the knowledge he has gained to young people joining the industry. AJ, from Coventry, was working for an automotive garage managing both customer-facing roles and workshop tasks when he spotted the opportunity to train as an apprentice with the MIRA Technology Institute (MTI).

AJ is currently working towards his Level 3 motor vehicle apprenticeship and is now working as a technician at NWSLC's Harrowbrook Campus in Hinckley.

AJ helps to support skills development in forklift truck engineering where apprentices work for major logistics brands including Impact Handling, Toyota Material Handling and Jungheinrich to improve their knowledge and understanding of brakes, engines, and electrics.

AJ also works from the MTI Campus, helping MTI apprentices who work for manufacturers including Peugeot and Triumph to gain skills in automotive engineering.

AJ said, "I have really enjoyed working as a technician and have definitely caught the teaching bug. I always preferred more hands-on tasks from when I was at school and I am also good with the IT aspects of this role because I learned a lot when I was working in my previous role."

"For me, being an apprentice was a much better route than going to university because I am able to earn a wage while also learning at the same time. And, even better, I am also helping others to learn new skills and get on in their careers too. I feel as though I have a good rapport with the students I support, and I would really like to progress into teaching one day."



PIPPA IS EAST MIDLANDS CHAMBER LEICESTERSHIRE APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR



Digital marketing apprentice Pippa Culverwell has been named Apprentice of the Year as part of the East Midlands Chamber Leicestershire Business Awards. Pippa, from Leicester, works for Billesdon print and graphic design business, Soar Valley Press. A whiz with digital and social media, Pippa not only managed to complete her apprenticeship while working mainly from home she also achieved an eightfold increase in traffic to her employer's website.

Pippa is the only marketer employed by Soar Valley Press so she relied a great deal on her college tutor and assessor to guide her in the right direction while learning on the job, including about SEO, social media marketing, and web design.

Her manager Chris Goodman said, "We're really proud of Pippa who has performed brilliantly since she joined us. I gave her a really wide range of tasks to work on and she has developed new strategies and seen some great results from the campaigns she has put together for us. She has started a regular blog and produced new content for our website, as well as developing print materials including our promotional merchandise brochure. We're really delighted with the skills that Pippa has brought to the organisation and look forward to seeing her develop further."

Pippa has also been busy outside work through her commitment to the girl guiding movement. A lifelong participant in the movement, Pippa applied for a voluntary job to help run the social media accounts for Girlguiding Leicestershire and is enjoying gaining some additional digital marketing experience on a different brand. She is following an adult leadership qualification with the 5th Leicester Girl Guides and wants to start her own local Brownie group.

Pippa has also been shortlisted for a National Association of Colleges award in the Apprentice of the Year category with the results due to be announced this month. We are keeping our fingers crossed.



COMMITMENT TO ONGOING SUPPORT IN LOCKDOWN

By Tom Hamilton-Dick, Deputy Principal, Curriculum and Innovation

"The Covid-19 pandemic is having a significant impact in our region and indeed across the country, with huge uncertainty for everyone in our communities. Throughout the pandemic NWSLC has remained open and has continued to deliver to our students both on campus and, in periods of lockdown, virtually online. The college has developed a process called 'mirror teaching' which enables our classes to go ahead, live, with tutors and assessors enabling students to access their studies from home. Never has education been more important for young people and adults and the college is working hard to ensure that everyone who takes a course with us not only gains the qualifications they need to succeed but also the practical skills required to ensure that they can progress. Please be assured that our college will not allow the current situation to impact on our students' studies and their onward progression. I want to reassure everyone that the college will continue to be here for the community throughout the current national lockdown and beyond."



FORMER OADBY OWLS PLAYER FOLLOWS HIS GOAL TO TAKE UP TEACHING

Football mad former Oadby Owls under 17 player Hayden Jones studied sport at the college's Wigston Campus and now looks set for a career in sports coaching and teaching. Hayden joined a Level 3 sport course at the college and was delighted to achieve his FA Level 1 qualification at the same time which enables him to help out at the Oadby Owls Saturday Academy. Now a full-time sports coordinator apprentice at Evington Valley Primary School in Leicester, Hayden combines his coaching in school with sessions in college every Monday. Hayden coaches every year group in the school in a range of sporting activities including football, hockey, and basketball.

Hayden said, "I never wanted to go to university, but my experience has made me think about training to become a PE teacher. I love my job and I find it so rewarding."



ENGINEERING CAREER SPARKS ENTHUSIASM FOR SUZANNE

Engineering apprentice Suzanne has been following in her father's footsteps learning fabrication and welding skills as part of her role at a Coventry-based engineering company. Family-run JBMPs Ltd was established over 25 years ago and offers specialist heavy plant servicing, and bespoke machine builds as well as fabrication and welding services. The business was started by company director Julian Malin and, over the years, has developed its own fabrication centre, and an engineering centre with a research and development section.

Suzanne, from Burbage, said "I learned from my Dad that every day in this job is different and it has always interested me. I was made to feel very welcome at JBMPs and I am really enjoying trying different challenges and learning new skills."

Suzanne attends the college's Nuneaton Campus every Monday and keeps on track with her studies so she can devote the rest of the week to her job. She said, "If I haven't finished some aspect of my college work during the day, I spend the evening on it when I get home so I can leave the rest of the week clear for practical skills development."

General manager James Malin said, "Like every other business, getting new talent into the organisation is absolutely key to our success and we strongly support apprenticeship programmes which help us to do this."

"We really wanted an apprentice who would come in, full of beans and full of energy, wanting to come and learn what we do here. Suzanne has been a very fast learner; she has been able to pick up many skills that would typically take months or even years to learn. We have set her a few projects to literally test her mettle and she has been really helpful to us all."

Suzanne added, "Despite what some people may think, this career is not just for boys. I have always said that if you have an interest, you should go for it no matter what anyone says as it's your career and engineering can offer great opportunities for both men and women."



TRAINING MOVES FAST FOR COVENTRY CITY OF CULTURE APPRENTICES

Apprentices from NWSLC who are due to support Coventry's year as UK City of Culture have been on an exciting learning curve since they were recruited last year. Fifteen apprentices are gearing up to support a range of events and experiences that will showcase the city between May 2021 and May 2022.

The apprentices are set to work in a number of skills areas from accounting and customer service to events, marketing and business administration, and can expect to be involved with exciting projects including the opening event, Coventry Moves, which will see the city transformed with a spectacular performance involving its own citizens.

Martin Sutherland, Chief Executive of the Coventry City of Culture Trust, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have appointed these extremely talented apprentices to deliver Coventry 2021. This is a ground-breaking apprenticeship programme for a City of Culture. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity for young people to work on an event of such scale, in their region, and to develop crucial skills for their future careers. It is wonderful to be able to fulfil our promise to the people of Coventry to invest in the skills and talent of the City".



OUR EMPLOYER PARTNERS

NWSLC is proud to work in partnership with hundreds of businesses across the East and West Midlands including big brands such as the Heart of England Co-op, Toyota Material Handling, and the NHS.

APPRENTICES KEEP SKILLS IN TRIM FOR NUNEATON SALONS

There is little doubt that hairdressers were one of the most missed services during the coronavirus lockdown. That's why Nuneaton salon owner Sarah Winters was so keen to keep her apprentices on track for when her business, Blades Hair Design in Crowhill, reopened again. Now with four apprentices all learning the theory behind their craft at NWSLC, Sarah was delighted with the way the college kept her team on track, supporting them through a difficult period.

Sarah said, "When we had to close last year, my apprentices were my biggest concern. My entire team was furloughed but I was anxious about the wellbeing of my apprentices who need social contact and real-life experience. However, I need not have worried because the college maintained its training services and was able to support them to work from home, keeping in touch throughout the lockdown period and helping them to reengage with their careers when the time was right."

During lockdown, Sarah launched a new business called Beauty Bean, adjacent to her Blades salon, which combines beauty therapy treatments with coffee shop treats and afternoon teas. She has also taken on an apprentice in beauty therapy with the college and is optimistic about the future.

Sarah added, "The college has really been fantastic, and my apprentices have a great deal of respect for their assessor, Sarah Ogden. They really light up when she comes to see them, and I am confident that they will do well in their qualifications with her support."

Did you know? NWSLC also trains hairdressing apprentices at its Wigston Campus.

CALLING ON EMPLOYERS TO HELP KICKSTART FUTURE CAREERS

NWSLC is calling on employers to get in touch after support to help get young people into work was extended to December 2021. The government's package of measures includes cash for businesses to support work placements, traineeships, and apprenticeships, as well as the Kickstart Scheme to fund jobs for young people at risk of long-term unemployment.

With young people likely to be hardest hit by recession, employers are being offered support to take them on including a bonus of up to £2,000 for employing a new apprentice in addition to the £1,000 incentive already in place to take on an apprentice aged 16-18, and £1,000 for a traineeship.

As part of the Kickstart Scheme, the government will cover the cost of 25 hours' work a week at the national minimum wage for young people aged 16-24 claiming Universal Credit.

If you have a business that could help please contact be@nwslc.ac.uk or call 0330 058 3000