

## **YOUNG PERSON FROM THE EAST MIDLANDS GETS SET FOR LIFE**

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Joshua Robbins 17, has won a national competition with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to become a journalist for Sportsbeat. Along with nine other young people, who won placements in other industries, Joshua will travel to London to experience life as a budding sports writer.

The LSC set up the competition to win a week long work placement to raise awareness of the possibilities young people have – but only if they achieve at least five good GCSEs or the vocational equivalent, such as Level 2 diplomas in subjects like Childcare, Computing or Landscape Gardening. Young people are likely to add £141<sup>i</sup> a month to their starting salary by gaining relevant work experience along with these qualifications.

Joshua from Nottingham, said: “This is an amazing opportunity to work at Sportsbeat and I’m looking forward to learning the ropes of the industry. Work experience is a great way to work out what you want to do in life and will also help me to improve my CV and get a job when I leave college.”

The placement will involve helping the team to conduct the necessary research to be used in writing the stories that Sportsbeat produce.

Julia Dowd, Director of Young People's Learning at the LSC, said: "Work experience can be a great addition to a CV and a competition like this can show 16 – 18 year olds the options open to them. Whatever you do, the goal must be to ensure that if you haven't got the minimum set of qualifications, you achieve them before you are 19, to make sure your options in life aren't limited. Whatever happens, don't find yourself under-qualified for your dream job."

James Toney, Managing Editor at Sportsbeat, said: "This is a great opportunity for Joshua to gain an exclusive insight into working with the UK's leading sports press agency. The winner will get a week of hands on experience and a unique opportunity for any aspiring sports journalists to see what it takes to succeed in this kind of role.

"We're delighted to be working with the LSC because gaining the minimum set of qualifications (five good GCSEs A\*-C or a Level 2 diploma) is essential for success and we want to encourage young people to remain in learning in order to fulfil their potential."

The Learning and Skills Council is urging all young people to log on to [www.getsetforlife.org.uk](http://www.getsetforlife.org.uk) to see what options are available to them, to assist in planning their future.

**-Ends-**

**For media enquiries please contact:**

Suzie Barrett, Band & Brown Communications, T: 0207 419 8618, M: 07813 203423, E: [Suzie.Barrett@bbpr.com](mailto:Suzie.Barrett@bbpr.com)

Sarah Weston, Band & Brown Communications, T: 0207 419 7323, E: [sarah.weston@bbpr.com](mailto:sarah.weston@bbpr.com)

Rosalind Holley, Band & Brown Communications, T: 0207 419 8614, E: [Rosalind@bbpr.com](mailto:Rosalind@bbpr.com)

**Notes to editors:**

## **LSC**

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

## **Apprenticeships**

- There are currently 255,500 young people aged 16-24 undertaking an Apprenticeship. They can choose from over 180 career paths in 80 different sectors of industry and commerce
- Apprenticeships provide 16-24 year-olds with a mixture of on and off-the-job training while they are being paid. For employers, Apprenticeships offer the opportunity to improve their businesses bottom line through the tailored, relevant training of highly motivated young people
- There are two levels of Apprenticeships:
  - 'Apprenticeships', equivalent to GCSE level, incorporate a National Vocational Qualification to Level 2; key skills and in some cases a technical certificate
  - 'Advanced Apprenticeships', equivalent to A-levels, incorporate a National Vocational Qualification to Level 3, key skills and a technical certificate

## **Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)**

All 16-year-olds in England from a household with an annual income of up to £30,810 who stay on at college or school are eligible for the EMA. The scheme allows payments of £10, £20 or £30 a week in return for a commitment to study. Additional benefits of up to £500 over two years are also available for meeting certain targets.

For advice and information on how to apply for the EMA call 080 810 16219 or visit the web-site [www.direct.gov.uk/ema](http://www.direct.gov.uk/ema) for application packs. For people with speech and hearing difficulties who use textphone, please call 0800 056 5344.

Separate EMA and Apprenticeship schemes are operated by the administrations for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

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<sup>i</sup> The Learning and Skills Council commissioned YouGov to independently question 412 employers online between 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> July 2006