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Kirkby-in-Ashfield Apprentice Celebrates at Awards Evening

A 23 year old apprentice from Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire is celebrating after collecting an award at a prestigious ceremony to celebrate his achievements in work based learning.

Local lad Sean Butt received the award for the 'Personal Achiever of the Year', sponsored by Training Services 2000 Ltd at the Regional Apprenticeship Awards. The event was hosted by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) East Midlands on the 20th May 2008 at the East Midlands Conference Centre in Nottingham and recognises outstanding achievements across nine different categories.

Sean, a qualified hairdresser, said: "In 2007 I experienced a very serious viral illness where it was believed I would not survive, let alone return to work. My organs began to shut down and I was left with only my heart working. I was in a coma for six weeks to keep me alive and when I awoke I had to be taught how to eat, walk and speak all over again. In June 2007 I returned to work part-time and to my amazement I hadn't forgotten the one thing that was dearest to me – hairdressing!"

Tom Crompton, regional director, LSC East Midlands, said: "With the Government's recent announcement about Apprenticeships and how they will play a central role in its plans for growing skills in the economy, it's clear to see how vital apprentices and those companies

supporting them are in helping to combat the skills shortages across the region. The economy depends upon skilled individuals across the whole spectrum of vocational learning and it is important that we recognise the high achievements in these fields.

“The awards are an opportunity to celebrate just a sample of the excellent results being achieved across the East Midlands. Everyone who has taken part: our learners, training providers and employers should all be very proud of their achievements.”

Gail Brumpton, manager at Toni & Guy in Mansfield, comments: “Until Sean’s shock illness last year, which devastated all our team, he was progressing very well within his role and with his studies. Sean has worked as a head technician at our salon for the past two years, thoroughly committing his time and knowledge to the position, especially in training our new assistants. Sean deserves this achievement award for his determination, enthusiasm, knowledge, understanding and commitment to hairdressing.”

Sean concludes: “Not only have I continued with my job, I’ve also completed my Apprenticeship and now coach colleagues through exams. A year on from the day I was taken ill I believe that I have achieved so much, not only from my Apprenticeship but as a person. I have ambition and drive to succeed in everything that I set my mind to. In the future I hope that I will still be here to inspire others towards achieving their goals in hairdressing.”

Young people taking part in Apprenticeships or an e2e work-based-training programme, nominated by employers, training providers or individuals are recognised at the Regional Apprentice Awards, as well as companies that continue to support staff in Apprenticeship training, for their exceptional achievements.

All regional finalists will go forward for consideration into the LSC's national Apprenticeship Awards 2008, to be held on 10th July 2008 at The Royal Horticultural Halls in central London.

Ends

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Notes to Editors:

- The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for planning and funding high-quality vocational 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 by 2010, young people and adults in England have the knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. Established in 2001, we work nationally, regionally and locally from a network of offices across the country.

About Apprenticeships

- There are currently 244,000 young people aged 16-24 undertaking an Apprenticeship nationally and nearly 18,000 in the East Midlands. 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:
 1. 'Apprenticeships', equivalent to GCSE level, incorporate a National Vocational Qualification to Level 2; key skills and in some cases a technical certificate
 2. 'Advanced Apprenticeships', equivalent to A-levels, incorporate a National Vocational Qualification to Level 3, key skills and a technical certificate

- On 10th May 2004, the Government announced the introduction of Young Apprenticeships for students aged 14-16 and Adult Apprenticeships for those people aged 25 and over. Pilots for both are currently running
- e2e (Entry to Employment) is designed for young people aged 16–18 who are not currently in education, employment or training. It can also be for people who may require a range of additional support to enable them to progress into education, employment or training.