

## Suffolk teenager benefits from on-the-job training

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A teenager from Felixstowe has been learning whilst earning to improve her prospects of a successful career.

Sadie Wooltorton, 19, has successfully completed a Level 2 NVQ Apprenticeship in Logistics at her workplace and is now adding real value to her employer's business and to her own CV. Sadie currently works in a small team as an Imports and Accounts Clerk at W. Saunders, a freight service provider. She has worked at the company for two and a half years and has worked in the shipping industry since she left school at 16.

Through her increased knowledge of logistics and expanding skill set, Sadie has become a real asset to her employer. John Bowler, Managing Director of W. Saunders, said: "The success of W. Saunders Ltd is based on its people. I strongly believe in training and developing skills necessary for employees to fulfil their potential. Sadie's commitment, enthusiasm and dedication continues to benefit myself, my staff and my customers in a myriad of ways, always ensuring that our clients needs are paramount and that they receive the highest possible level of care."

Sadie has been able to apply the knowledge she gained through her Apprenticeship to the tasks she is set at work. Her role sees her answering customer queries, making sure that customers are notified of accurate arrival dates, as well as various administrative duties to ensure that the office runs smoothly.

Sadie said: "Doing an Apprenticeship was a great way to learn the skills to get on with my job and earn money at the same time. When I finished school I was eager to get straight into work and earn money. I handed out my CV to various shipping companies and landed my first job in shipping. I then went on to work at W. Saunders where I am now. I'm really happy in my job and the route that I took, and I am keen to progress further in the world of work and the shipping industry."

As part of the Apprenticeship programme, Sadie has completed the COAST (Corporate And Overseas Shipping Training) Introduction qualification, a theoretical qualification in shipping. Sadie wrote assignments and successfully passed an exam for this part of the course and has also completed various one-day shipping courses which include bills of lading and dangerous goods, all of which have helped her in her current role.

As well as gaining a Level 2 NVQ Apprenticeship in Logistics with several training courses under her belt, Sadie also gained key skill qualifications to help her progress in the world of work. Sadie disliked maths at school, but found that applying her maths knowledge to her working life really improved her understanding of the subject.

Vikki Hillman, Sadie's Training and Assessment Manager, at ITS Training Services, said: "Sadie has shown dedication in her studies and a commitment to learning. Her confidence in her abilities really became apparent while she developed her skills on the course. Learning and gaining qualifications whilst in the workplace is a good option for some people simply because not everybody is suited to learning in a classroom.

"Each course is tailored to suit to each individual and their job, so timetables and assessments are put together for each student so that they can get the best out of their course. With all the knowledge and skills she has gained on the course, Sadie can look forward to progressing in her chosen field."

Apprenticeships are funded by the Learning and Skills Council, the organisation that exists to make England better skilled and more competitive.

Judith Mobbs, Area Director for the Learning and Skills Council Suffolk, said: "As Sadie has shown, an Apprenticeship can be a great way for young people to gain the necessary training, practical experience and qualifications for a chosen career path and earn money at the same time. There are over 150 different Apprenticeships available across 80 industries so there is plenty of choice. With almost 3,000 young people currently undertaking Apprenticeships in Suffolk, it is proving to be a popular route to qualifications, which is good news for employers like W. Saunders which value the training Apprenticeships provide."

Sadie is looking forward to a challenging career, and is currently considering undertaking a Level 3 Apprenticeship course in Management, one of the many opportunities available to her since gaining the benefits of on-the-job training.

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#### **Notes to editors**

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#### **Learning and Skills Council:**

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.