

Trained to trim – skills extension for young hairdresser

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Ashley Hunt feared that not having a head for numbers might prevent her from getting a head start in her dream job as a hairdresser. But after seeking expert help with her number skills, she's now trimming tresses with style and has completed her training in double quick time.

Ashley, 19 and from Bensham in Gateshead, is now a full time, qualified hair stylist at Gateshead based salon Femme Fatale after completing a hairdressing Apprenticeship in just half the usual timescale of a year. Apprenticeships offer training for existing staff and new recruits in a wide range of areas. There are over 160 different courses offering relevant training designed by business for business. Apprentices learn while they work, so their knowledge is up-to-date and because their training is on the job, the practical skills they gain are the ones that are right for business.

Ashley, who is now progressing to a Level 3 Apprenticeship (A Level equivalent), started out with a Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funded Entry to Employment (e2e) programme following a skills assessment with Tyne and Wear training provider NEETA Ltd. Designed to provide 16 - 18 year olds with a path to further education or employment, e2e is tailored to each individual's needs, offering specialist support to reach the young person's goals. This paved the way to Ashley's Apprenticeship, which was also delivered by NEETA.

Ashley said: “After leaving school I wasn’t 100% sure how I could get to where I wanted to be but the e2e programme allowed me to improve my maths skills and start to achieve my goal of becoming a hair stylist.”

Ashley has impressed her employer sufficiently to have been selected as the only stylist to train in hair extensions techniques, which the salon has recently introduced. Salon manager Susan Reilly said: “Ashley is one of our top stylists and a real asset to the company. She’s always looking to develop her skills and learn new ones. Her passion for hairdressing and her success so far provide a great example for other young people wanting to get into the profession.”

Chris Roberts, Regional Director, LSC North East said: “To see a young person progress at the rate that Ashley has and to succeed in her dream career is uplifting. Learning is all about fulfilling your dreams and I hope that other young people without a goal in life will feel motivated by this story. The e2e programme can open doors to a variety of opportunities including Apprenticeships, as it did in Ashley’s case. Apprenticeships are one of the LSC’s real success stories, providing young people with a real purpose in life and the opportunity to earn and learn at the same time. Whilst also supplying employers with appropriately skilled workers. Ashley has a great career ahead of her.”

To find out more about e2e and Apprenticeships visit www.lsc.gov.uk/Whatwedo/14-19/ or www.apprenticeships.org.uk

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Editor’s Note: 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.

For more information on NEETA Ltd visit <http://www.neeta-ltd.co.uk> or 0191 490 0092

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