

## Rachel's a cut above the rest

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Young hairdresser Rachel Shepherd is proving she's a cut above the rest having progressed from trainee to trainer in a matter of months.

From Nettlesworth in Chester-le-Street, the stylist has her sights set on teaching others who were once in her shoes, moving from an Apprenticeship to a Post Graduate Certificate in Education at New College Durham, funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) North East.

As part of her degree, the 21 year old also teaches essential hairdressing techniques such as cutting, styling and colouring to under-graduate apprentices at Durham Business Club, with which she completed her Advanced Apprenticeship.

Rachel already has an impressive skills portfolio of Apprenticeships at levels 1, 2 and 3, plus an assessor's qualification. Now, the senior stylist, who also works at Hair Design by Joanne McCartney in Birtley, is set to add yet another string to her bow.

She said: "I never thought that going onto higher education would be for me, however, with encouragement from Durham Business School and my colleagues I've realised what's possible when you put your mind to it.

“Through teaching, I want to be able to give students the support and guidance I received while studying. My ambition is to show others that hairdressing is a valuable career choice and that, if you work hard, it can bring great rewards and prospects.”

Funded by LSC North East, Durham Business Club has recently been recognised for supporting the progression of its students, like Rachel, to higher education. The company received a Higher Education Active Training Award (HEAT), introduced by Aim Higher, for such commitment.

Chris Roberts, regional director, LSC North East said: “I am very impressed with Rachel’s commitment and enthusiasm not only towards her own career but also the training of others. Her success proves that the Apprenticeship route can bring with it huge rewards. She is to be commended for her hard work and dedication and I wish her all the best in her degree.”

## ***ENDS***

### **Editor’s note:**

**Picture caption:** Rachel puts her styling skills into practice

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.

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