

JOSH GETS A TASTE FOR LIFE AT THE TOP

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Apprentices from across the North West swapped their workplace for the boardroom as they shadowed leading business figures from across the region. The activities were arranged by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) in the North West as part of National Apprenticeship Week.

The LSC worked with the Cheshire and Warrington Employment and Skills Board to arrange the shadowing. Josh Pulman, 19 from Oldham spent time with Gail Power, a provider member of the Cheshire and Warrington Employment and Skills Board and Regional Manager at the North West Provider Network, for a day to experience life as a key figure within the learning and skills arena.

With the jobs market becoming ever more competitive, industry experience is what sets individuals apart from the competition. Apprentices are in a strong position, because they get real hands-on experience in the workplace while training for an accredited qualification and developing valuable skills. New research released to mark Apprenticeship Week shows that 91 per cent of apprentices who complete an Apprenticeship say their Apprenticeship helped their career.

An apprentice in Business Administration, Josh is currently working at The Oldham College within the Student Services Information Advice and Guidance team and working towards his Level 2 NVQ qualification. His experience of engaging with students and businesses stood him in good stead as he accompanied Gail to an event aimed at raising the awareness of the Apprenticeship programme within Black and Ethnic Minority businesses across the region.

Josh said: “Getting hands on experience at the top of this field has given me further insight into the world of learning and skills, and has shown me that I definitely made the right decision choosing to embark on an Apprenticeship as I can see that progression route to get me where I want to be.”

Liz Davis, National Apprenticeship Service Project Director at the LSC in the North West said: “Planning a career is never easy, particularly during these difficult times. Apprenticeships are a genuine alternative for ambitious people who want to go far, and the first step for the business leaders of the future.

“Apprenticeships also give businesses access to the most up to date industry knowledge and skills, either through employing a new apprentice, or arranging an Apprenticeship for an existing member of staff.”

Gail Power, Regional Manager, North West Provider Network commented: “Supporting learners is a key part of providing a strong workforce for the future. Apprenticeship Week is a great way of showing the success employers and learners gain through the programme and the positive contribution apprentices can have within an organisation.”

ENDS

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.

Cheshire and Warrington Employment and Skills Board

The role of the Cheshire and Warrington Employment and Skills Board is to provide leadership in improving skills and employment in Cheshire and Warrington, through the effective delivery of an employer-led integrated employment and skills strategy.

The Board’s role will be to ensure that its work is driven by the needs of employers, and that skills provision meets the existing and future needs of the Cheshire and Warrington economy.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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