

## Press Release

### APPRENTICESHIP SUCCESS FOR BIKER GIRL ALICE

**Date of issue** December 2009

**Press release number** 5

**Alice Labanc knew when she left school she wanted to get her hands dirty – now she’s blazing a trail as Somerset’s first apprentice motor cycle engineer.**

Alice, who celebrated her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday last weekend (Dec 20<sup>th</sup>), is coming to the end of an Advanced Apprenticeship, having spent nearly four years learning her trade.

She works at Graham’s Motorcycles in Wood Street, Taunton, after getting the taste for “bike tinkering” during a week’s work experience.

Alice, who lives in Thames Drive, Taunton, said: “Some of my friends at school were talking about hairdressing or working in an office but none of that appealed to me.

“Academically I wasn’t that gifted and I knew I wanted to do something practical. My dad and my uncle were keen on bikes and I had been riding pillion with them since I was about 11 so it all just came together.”

Now Alice says she’s really enjoying the challenges of her Advanced Apprenticeship, as she gets to grips with everything from oil changes to engine diagnostics. By January she should have completed an NVQ Level 3 in Motorcycle Maintenance and Repair.

“Some of the learning is quite complex now but the Apprenticeship is brilliant for me. I’m getting hands on experience in the workshop as well as a day a week learning the theory at Somerset College of Arts and Technology. And I’m earning money at the same time.”

Alice’s boss, Graham Parsons, describes her as a methodical engineer who’s not afraid to “get stuck in.” And he says she’s good for the future of the business.

He added: "You need to keep young blood coming into the business and Apprenticeships are the perfect way to do that. We're really pleased with Alice and we hope she stays with us."

Alice says she doesn't regret her choice of profession – but admits it does have some drawbacks.

"When I look at my hands compared to some of my friends, they do seem a little worn – and I do miss long nails!"

The National Apprenticeship Service was established to increase the number of Apprenticeships on offer in England and Apprenticeship vacancies and online matching service for young people and employers. More details can be found on [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)

**ENDS**

### **Notes to editors**

**Further information from: Sue Bradbury (LSC public relations) on 01872 863863.**

### **National Apprenticeship Service (NAS)**

The NAS was announced in January 2008 and officially launched in April 2009. Reporting to the Departments for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), the service will drive forward the Government's ambition for Apprenticeships. The service aims to bring about a significant growth in the number of employers offering Apprenticeships.

The NAS will assume total responsibility for the delivery of Apprenticeships that includes: Employer Services; Learner Services; and a web-based vacancy matching system. This online system enables individuals to search and apply for live vacancies and allows employers, and their training providers to advertise their vacancies to a wide range of interested applicants.

The service has ultimate accountability for the national delivery of targets and co-ordination of the funding for Apprenticeship places. It will act to overcome barriers to the growth of the programme and assume responsibility for promoting Apprenticeships and their value to employers, learners and the country as a whole.