

Education

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COLLEGE

Brush with success for young apprentices

College students on track for career success thanks to apprenticeship scheme

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YOUNG apprentices are celebrating a brush with success after getting a step on the career ladder.

Four painting and decorating students have secured Level 2 apprenticeships at Story Decorating Group in Salford.

Bolton College's Matthew Thompson, Liam Wood, Ben Evans and Amber Glennie are based with the company.

As part of this year's National Apprenticeship Week Sharon Marriott, the College's Director for 14-19 year olds, visited the apprentices at the companies North West headquarters.

Sharon was welcomed by Story Decorating Group's Contracts Manager, Paul O'Donnell.

The apprentices discussed the importance of apprenticeships and how the positions have kick-started their careers.

Bolton College currently offers 43 different apprenticeship programmes across 16 industry areas and over the years, hundreds of apprentices have secured permanent employment after completing an Apprenticeship programme.

Amber Glennie, aged 17, said: "Painting and decorating is quite male-dominated so at first, starting the Apprenticeship was quite daunting."

"However, I've had lots of support



CAREER SUCCESS: Liam Wood, Amber Glennie, Matthew Thompson, Ben Evans

from College and Story Decorating and the whole experience has been so positive."

Claire Story, a communications manager for Story Decorating, added: "Apprenticeships are the lifeblood of our business; our apprentices tend to move on to full-time permanent positions with us,

with many progressing to senior roles.

"We're so impressed with Matthew, Liam, Ben and Amber and we're sure they will enjoy great success over the coming years."

Sharon added: "I'd like to thank Story Decorating Group for giving our learners this opportunity and I

look forward to watching their careers progress."

Earlier this year, the government said employers have woken up to the benefits apprenticeships bring to their workplaces and wanted to make sure apprenticeships are being promoted alongside more traditional academic routes.

Teacherprofile



Children's Minister Nadhim Zahawi

HUNDREDS of nursery school leaders descended on Westminster yesterday asking for long-term funding to secure their future.

Nursery heads and governors delivered a letter to Philip Hammond demanding that he safeguards the future of maintained nursery schools in the forthcoming Spending Review.

But the 251 signatories are asking the Chancellor to signal his intent in Wednesday's Spring Statement.

The Parliamentary Lobby and march has been coordinated by the All Party Parliamentary Group for nursery schools, nursery and reception classes, and school leaders' union the National Association of Head Teachers.

Last month, Children's Minister Nadhim Zahawi announced £24 million of additional funding for nurseries and while this was welcomed, the nursery leaders argue there is no guarantee of adequate funding after the next academic year.

The letter says: "However, the long-term survival of maintained nursery schools still hangs by a thread."

"The fact remains that, even with the supplementary funding, most maintained nursery schools have had to make large cuts and make hard decisions to balance reduced budgets."

"Exceptional, highly trained, early-years staff have been lost to the system through restructures or because of the constant worry of an uncertain future."

"As head teachers and governors we are trying to plan for a future that, without the sustainable funding, will probably mean the closure of our schools."

GETTING TO GRIPS WITH ENGLISH AND MATHS

Every week Bolton College staff help people of all ages improve their numeracy and literacy skills

USING maths in a hair salon
This week, our talented hairdressing apprentices tell us how good maths skills are an essential part of their role:
We use maths every day working in the salon; lots of salons now offer beauty and nail treatments as well as cutting hair.
Owing to this, money skills are really important; we have to charge

the correct price for treatments and cuts.
Furthermore, different levels of stylists charge different amounts which means you have to ensure that customers are charged the correct price and given the correct change.
We also have appointment books or a calendar on the salon computer. We have to calculate how long

each booking will take, then organise lunch breaks around this. It is really important that people are not double booked — this would make for very unhappy customers!
Maths is an important part of cutting hair too.
We have to know angles, such as 45 degrees and 90 degrees, for different types of cuts. Hair colours also use ratios, which means that when we

mix developer and colour, we have to time accurately.
So, in hairdressing maths is a really important skill to possess which means a maths qualification is essential for success — it boosts confidence, proves that you can handle money and carry out tasks to a high standard. Additionally, it makes you highly employable and helps with job-hunting!



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