

How you can do your bit to change a young person's life

Six weeks ago, this newspaper launched its 100 in 100 campaign.

The campaign was launched with the aim of encouraging businesses, large and small, to employ 100 apprentices in 100 days.

We know that unemployment among the young is at a record level and there are thousands of young people who are desperate to start work.

There are also scores of firms

which need apprentices.

Since the campaign was launched we have brought you stories on how some local businesses have been trying to fill their skills gap and take on young people and give them a career.

We have also looked at the work of local training providers and the National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) – the organisation tackling unemployment among the young.

Young people reading these stories have contacted us explaining their hopes of trying to find work and we have put them in touch with the NAS and local colleges.

Businesses too have expressed interest in taking on the right person. We want to bring would-be apprentices and businesses wanting to employ them together.

If you are a business which thinks an apprentice could

benefit your company, email tcoates@london.newsquest.co.uk.

We need to find out why you think an apprentice would help your business and by publicising the work you do, we might be able to encourage the right young person to come forward.

Below, we look at one local business hoping to take on someone with the right zest and energy to take their business forward.



Are you interested in becoming an apprentice? Then email tcoates@london.newsquest.co.uk to have your story featured in this newspaper

Who can be an apprentice?

Apprenticeships are open to all those above school leaving age whether you are just leaving school, have been working for years, or are seeking to start a new career.

Competition for places with employers can be fierce, so you will need to show that you are committed, and aware of your responsibilities to both yourself and your prospec-

tive employer.

You also need to be happy to work on your own and/or as part of a team, and be able to use your own initiative.

There are three levels of apprenticeship available for those aged 16 and over:

1. Intermediate Apprenticeships (equivalent to five good GCSE passes). Apprentices work towards work-based learning qualifications such as an NVQ/Diploma at Level 2. Key Skills and, in some cases, a knowledge-based qualification such as a BTEC

and also learn about employment rights and responsibilities.

These qualifications provide the skills and knowledge you need for your chosen career and to progress to an Advanced Apprenticeship.

2. Advanced Apprenticeships (equivalent to two A-level passes). Advanced apprentices work towards work-based learning qualifications such as an NVQ/Diploma at Level 3, Key Skills and, in most cases, a relevant knowledge based certificate such as a

BTEC. To start this programme, you should ideally have five GCSEs (grade C or above) or have completed an Intermediate Apprenticeship.

3. Higher Apprenticeships. Higher apprentices work towards work-based learning qualifications such as an NVQ/Diploma at Level 4 and a knowledge-based qualification such as a Higher National Diploma or Foundation degree at Level 4 or 5.

For more information on apprenticeships please visit apprenticeships.org.uk

