



LEARNERS get hands-on at WordSkills UK LIVE!

Being a young person and having to choose your career can be a really difficult process.
Will I enjoy that career path? Have I got the qualifications for it?

A group of learners at PM Training had the chance to check out a range of sectors and learn job-related skills at WorldSkills UK LIVE in Birmingham. This event is held every year and is a great opportunity for thousands of young people all across the Midlands to explore their career options and speak to real employers.

Learners can get advice from professionals regarding CV and interview tips and even how to turn their interests into a career path!

Being able to get hands-on at events like this can make a real difference to understanding a job sector. Learners and apprentices got to check out some great activities on offer like using VR equipment and indoor rock climbing. They also had the chance to check out a range of job skills from web design, plumbing, tv production, graphic design, forensic science and more!



“WorldSkills UK LIVE has helped me see the options out there. I did enjoy the day and I’m glad I went! I would recommend this trip next year to other learners.”

Alisha Byrne
Learner



“WorldSkills UK LIVE was a chance for me to see other career opportunities. I got to use VR equipment which was ace! I would recommend this trip to other learners if they are still unsure of what career they want.”

Jack Brown
Learner



NATIONAL Memorial Arboretum

Learners at PM Training have had the chance of visiting Staffordshire's National Memorial Arboretum to learn all about the sacrifices that were made by people who served our country and continue to serve.

Our learners have had the chance to explore over 150 acres of beautiful memorials. The area contains over 30,000 trees with a vast collection of memorials.

The group explored areas such as the Millennium Chapel. Here the chapel is a place of peace and forgiveness, it's situated close to the remembrance centre. It's actually the only place in the country where the Act of Remembrance is observed daily at 11am.

Our learners even had the chance of meeting ex-soldiers who were able to tell them their story and their

experiences of serving in the forces.

Our Personal and Social Development trips are designed to help promote communication, understand and independence in our learners. The trips that we go on may reflect places in which many of our learners wouldn't normally go.

This trip helped out learners to explore more of our British Values within their learning journey. They came across many aspects of Mutual Respect for one another, the soldiers and also for where they were.



"I was really looking forward to visiting the memorials. I've always wanted to learn more about the soldiers that served our country. It was a chance for me to meet new people too. I would definitely recommend this trip!"

Tayla Stevenson

"I learnt loads from this trip. We got to meet ex-soldiers on the day and they explained some of the things they had been through – that was really interesting and my favourite part of the day. It really makes you respect soldiers and what they have done for us."

Dylan Williamson

Achieving a distinction in customer service apprenticeships

Changing direction has paid dividends for Aspire Housing apprentice Rachel Holdcroft, who after starting her career in teaching recently achieved distinctions all round in her Level 2 Customer Service apprenticeship.

Rachel, 20, started at Aspire Housing in July 2018, after applying for an apprenticeship vacancy on the PM Training website. Having studied at Staffordshire University for a year she felt that the route wasn't for her and an early career in teaching didn't match her learning style.

Rachel said: **"I thought long and hard about what I wanted to do and I decided to try getting straight into a job. That's when I looked at apprenticeships. It was my mum that originally recommended PM Training to me, I just felt it was really hard to decide what I wanted to do so I decided to see what apprenticeships were available."**

Since being successful in gaining a position as an Asset Management and


Development Apprentice, Rachel hasn't looked back.

She said: **"I do really enjoy what I do at Aspire Housing, it's very business related but I feel there is real room for progression here. My day-to-day role involves writing appointment letters, general admin duties, covering peoples phones and using appraisal software. The team I have are really supportive and want me to progress here which I'm really grateful for, Aspire is a really good company to work for and I truly feel a valued member of the team."**

Having achieved distinctions in her Level 2 Customer Service apprenticeship Rachel looked back on the value of trying out job roles and the benefits of apprenticeships.



She said: **"It's so difficult to decide what to do at a young age, I'm so glad I chose an apprenticeship – I wish I had done it sooner! I would recommend PM Training to anyone who is unsure of what career route to take, sometimes you need to try out a certain job role to see if it's for you. You don't get the chance to do that at College or University."**



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PARENTS' GUIDE TO APPRENTICESHIPS





PAINTING APPRENTICES

lend a hand to humanitarian project in Slovenia

Painting and decorating apprentices from PM Training will be travelling to Slovenia to share skills and support local education as part of an international humanitarian campaign.

The campaign is organised by the Chamber of Craft and Small Business of Slovenia. Now in its 21st year, it will see 55 painters and decorators from seven countries collaborating to paint an elementary school in Ormož, Slovenia.

Two PM Training painting and decorating apprentices will be showcasing their skills on the project, accompanied by tutors and assessors from the Stoke-based training provider.

John Adams, Construction Team Manager at PM Training, said: **"This is the first year we've taken part and I can't wait. It will be a great experience**

for our apprentices. It allows us to give something back and helping others has always been a passion of mine so I'm incredibly proud to be able to offer our skills and expertise".

Apprentices Mike Ball, 22, and Jordan Naylor, 19, from Stoke-on-Trent are currently working towards their Level 2 Painting and Decorating apprenticeship with Wallace Contracts Ltd.

Mike commented: **"This is an amazing opportunity. Being able to go abroad and paint a school with others in the industry is an experience too good to miss."**

Sean Wallace, Owner of Wallace Contracts Ltd, said: **"We've been working with PM Training for over 30 years, recruiting apprentices and upskilling our staff. Opportunities like this just strengthen our partnership and allow us to showcase the great skills we have in this country with others across Europe."**

Apprentices will land at Ljubljana Jože Punik Airport in Slovenia on Thursday 28th November and begin the project to paint the local school that weekend. Over three days they'll get the opportunity to work together with other painters and decorators to paint classrooms, staircases, door frames and corridors whilst also learning about the culture of Slovenia.

Jordan Naylor said: **"I'm in the second year of my apprenticeship and I'm really enjoying it. I've never been to Slovenia and can't wait to meet the other painters and decorators. It's not something you get to do every day!"**

PM Training's involvement in the humanitarian project is being funded by Realise charity as part of its pledge to boost skills and education in North Staffordshire and to support charitable causes.

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T&CS APPLY

GARDENING APPRENTICES help to plant 13,000 trees in Derbyshire



Thursday 21st November 2019 and it's a cold morning in the heart of the picturesque Derbyshire countryside – the perfect day to plant some trees.

Learners and apprentices from PM Training Homeworks took part in the Carbon Capture tree planting day with JG Fenn, Premier Paper and the Woodland Trust in Derbyshire. Joined by TV's Julia Bradbury and the Outdoor Guide, the 300 plus tree planters met at the Woodland Trust's Heanor site in Derbyshire and were greeted with fresh breakfast sandwiches, hot coffees and teas. After a series of brief introductions, the intrepid eco-warriors

took to the fields armed with spade, wellies and determination, despite the bitterly cold November air.

The tree planting took place near Heanor in Derbyshire, previously the site of a former opencast mine the area has been transformed into a haven for wildlife and people. The Woodland Trust plan to develop the site further, creating the Young People's Forest – a giant classroom for children and young people aged 10-20; they'll be planting trees, learning about nature as well as designing, delivering and taking in part in activities.

As the day came to an end the final amount of trees that had been planted totalled an impressive 13,000. Amongst the saplings that were planted were

maple, oak and silver birch, hawthorn and hazel – all of which are broadleaf trees native the UK.

Dave Bailey, Homeworks Team Leader said: **"Supporting the Woodland Trust has been a great experience for our apprentices. Giving back and supporting the creation of a Young People's Forest provides us with a great sense of achievement."**

Carbon Capture is the market leading environmental initiative. Through the Carbon Capture programme J G Fenn offer their clients the opportunity to mitigate the CO2 emissions from their product purchases by planting new native woodland in the UK with the Woodland Trust and the Woodland Carbon scheme.

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APPRENTICESHIPS *improved my confidence and career progression*

Abi Latham, 18, from Penkull started her career journey at college studying Applied Science in the hopes of becoming a Forensic Scientist. The attractiveness of earning whilst learning and gaining confidence and independence turned her head to apprenticeships.

After finishing college with a pass, Abi, now with a strong academic background felt her self esteem and confidence was an area she needed to develop. She joined the PM Training Officeworks programme in July 2019 and quickly found herself earning money, gaining her independence and watching her confidence grow.

Alongside working towards a Level 1 in Business Administration qualification, she also gained valuable experience learning how to use a 3D printer with Wavemaker Stoke, how to manage money as part of an Enterprise Challenge, and also visiting the Old Bailey on an educational trip to London.

Abi said: **"There's a lot more to Officeworks than just learning about the basics of business. I've made a key ring with a 3D printer and even done work experience in a busy money management team."**

As part of the Officeworks programme, Abi had the chance to try tasters in business, customer service and IT. The opportunity to take part in an Enterprise Challenge where she had to pitch a business idea of business executives was too good to pass. She excelled in taking the leadership role within her group and through producing Chocolate and Tea sets for sale was able to support her colleagues in making a profit.

Abi said: **"PM Training has helped be with my confidence and I'd certainly recommend it to my friends."**

Nic Hudson, Programme Manager for PM Training said: **"Abi has shown fantastic commitment to the programme. She has recently completed her Level 1 qualification and had very positive feedback from her tutor following a four week work experience placement at Aspire Housing. We're very proud of Abi and it's clear to see her confidence has grown and her progression onto an apprenticeship is the next step."**

Open Days and Events

At the Canavan Centre, Atlas Works, Hanley

Wednesday
22nd January
4pm – 7pm

Wednesday
12th February
4pm – 7pm

Wednesday
11th March
4pm – 7pm

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(for terms and conditions see our website)
Competition closes: 31st December 2019
(Could you possibly make a graphic for this?)

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