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Advanced apprenticeships pave the way for budding young talent

A City of Sunderland College student has opened the door to a new phase in her career, following the completion of an advanced apprenticeship programme at Sunderland-based Hackett Property Service.

Amy Thoroughgood from Houghton-le-Spring, worked tirelessly to complete an advanced apprenticeship NVQ Level 3 with the College in just over four months.

Now, at the age of just 17-years-old, Amy has both valuable industry experience and new qualifications under her belt and has decided to continue her learning by enrolling on a part-time

Foundation Degree in Leadership and Management at the University of Sunderland.



She said: "I was delighted to be offered a place on the advanced apprenticeship programme, where I have gained experience in administration work, communication and dealing with customer queries. I have also gained a deeper understanding of marketing and advertising.

"The advanced apprenticeship scheme has been brilliant, it has allowed me to work more independently and get a chance to develop a relationship with the customers."

Thanking her tutor at City of Sunderland College, she added: "My tutor has been fantastic, offering me support and advice throughout my advanced apprenticeship. I am so pleased that I chose on-the-job training as my confidence has soared and so have my credentials."

Dianne Hope, assessor for City of Sunderland College, said: "Our apprenticeship programmes of learning provide students with both practical and theoretical skills providing ideal candidates for employees looking for innovative and creative members of a workforce.

“Amy is an exceptional student, for someone so young she is extremely dedicated and her enthusiastic and mature approach towards her role has been fantastic. We wish her all the best for the future.”

With the chance to gain vital experience and qualifications, Amy firmly believes that apprenticeship programmes are ideal for young people wanting to gain experience in a business environment. In today’s tough economic climate, apprenticeship programmes provide skilled and motivated employees for local businesses, bringing experience, innovative thinking and creative ideas.

Following on from her Foundation Degree, Amy has her mind set on doing a degree in Business Management and would like to use all her experience to become an office manager in the future.

City of Sunderland College currently offers a number of apprenticeship programmes including catering, plumbing, construction and built environment, electrical, hairdressing and beauty, business administration, customer service and motor vehicle services.

All of the subjects are offered at both apprenticeship or advanced level and can lead onto further study or employment.

The Government and the Learning & Skills Council (LSC) have pledged that investment in training will ensure that in ten year’s time, one in every five students will be an apprentice, firmly rooting this type of training programme as a mainstream educational choice for UK students in the future.

For more information on apprenticeship programmes and vocational courses visit www.citysun.ac.uk

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