

# Martec training *Times*

## New Apprenticeship Partnership

Martec training and Newcastle-under-Lyme College (NULC) have recently joined together to forge an exciting new partnership.

The partnership, signed in August by Karen Dobson, Principal of NULC, and Martec Director Tracey Marson, will create new opportunities for both organisations whilst allowing each to retain their distinct identities.

This is great news for both the college and training provider as it will offer a larger pool of learners with greater selection and opportunities, whilst retaining the same high quality and personal service that has always been offered. Martec Apprentices will now have shared use of NUL College's facilities including the gym, student discount cards which offer money off on bus travel and numerous leisure and retail outlets.

Karen Dobson said "We're delighted to be able to join forces with such a



Pictured above - Principal of NULC Karen Dobson, Director of Martec training Tracey Marson and the Martec training Renault Spider

long established, high-quality organisation as Martec. Motor vehicle training is one of the few subjects which the College doesn't currently offer to young people so this really complements the courses that we deliver at our Knutton Lane Campus."

Tracey Marson added "We're really excited about this partnership – the College and Martec share the same philosophy of working with young people and employers to provide the best possible training for the benefit of the local economy. Both organisations have achieved really good Ofsted reports and it makes sense for us to combine forces and work together so that more people can benefit from training that really delivers results."

**ATTENTION APPRENTICES!**  
You can now register for your NUL College Student Card at the Knutton Lane Campus Reception, so please pick it up to make use of the discounts & great offers!!

## Changing Times at Martec training

The team at Martec training would like to take this opportunity to thank Judith Dodd for all of her incredible hard work and dedication for the last eleven years.

Judith, who was formerly the Centre Manager for the last 3 years, has now started her 'stepping down' period by working just 2 days a week before she takes retirement in March 2012.

Judith has spent over 20 years of her career in the training field, 11 of them at Martec training. She joined the company as the Accounts Manager in 2000 and then took the role of Centre Manager in 2008.

Judith says "We really have achieved quite a lot in recent times and whilst I have been Centre Manager I have been privileged to have had the support of a great team, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them. I would also like



Pictured above - Judith Dodd

to thank all the employers who have given us great support over the years."

Retiring was not an easy decision for Judith as she feels that the last 3 years have been very rewarding, however she is now looking forward to spending time with her husband and being able to do the things that you

can't always find time to do during the working life. With a keen interest in travelling, reading, working on her family tree and the fact that she has three Grandchildren with another due at Christmas she is sure to be kept very busy indeed!

Judith says "I would like to end by wishing all the staff, learners and employers a Happy Christmas and my best wishes for the future."

Martec training would like to welcome Anthea Bradburne as the new Principal. Anthea joined the team last month and brings with her an abundance of experience and knowledge.

Previously the manager of 52 nationwide centres for YMCA Training, Anthea's speciality and passion is working with young people aged 14 -19 and NEETS and helping them to achieve their goals and

aspirations.

Prior to her five year role for the YMCA Anthea worked for the former Leaning Skills Council in contract management.

New changes to the organisational structure at Martec include Kevin Clarke's promotion to Vice Principal and Phil Lee is now the Manager of the Foundation Learning Department.



Pictured above - Anthea Bradburne

# Faster than a Speeding Bullet.....

Martec training Learners and employers of our apprentices were invited along to Newcastle under Lyme College to view the Bloodhound Supersonic Car exhibition on the 12<sup>th</sup> October.



**Pictured above - Artist's impression of the spectacular Bloodhound**

BLOODHOUND SSC is the ultimate racing car. Propelled by a state of the art jet and custom-designed rocket that produce the equivalent of 133,000 bhp (or 180 F1 cars), it will cover the measured mile in just 3.5 seconds. Its top speed of 1,050 mph is faster than a bullet from a .357 Magnum handgun.

The BLOODHOUND SCC project team is currently preparing a track in the Hakskeen Pan desert in the

remote North West corner of South Africa where they plan to make the world's first 1,000 mph land speed record attempt in 2013.

Visitors to the event were able to meet those involved in building the car, view the full size 13.4 metre replica and take part in the Bloodhound 'Driving Experience'

which put them in the simulated driving seat to experience the speed and skill needed to drive the vehicle.

They were also treated to a fascinating presentation from members of the Bloodhound SSC team who shared engineering secrets about the project, explaining the challenges that still need to be met.

Pictured below - Foundation Learning IMI Motor vehicle course students with the life size model of the super sonic car!



## New Qualification is the Business!

Martec training's brand new Business and Administration Level One course is now under way!

The course forms part of the Foundation Learning Programme and is on offer to young people aged 16—18 who have a keen interest in finding work in an office/ admin environment but who may not yet have the required skills to move onto an Apprenticeship.

Learners attend our new Business Admin Suite 2 days a week where they can make use of the computer facilities. They will be taught how to deal with customers and welcome



visitors, explore the different roles available in administration, how to do various office duties, come up with an idea for a small business and put together a business plan for it.

Danielle Leake, pictured left, is the new Tutor responsible for delivering the qualification. Dani joined the team at Martec training in August this year, she herself started off doing an Apprenticeship in Business Admin after she left school, she has since completed a Business Management degree and due to her desire to work with young people she gained her

PGCE before becoming a tutor at another local provider.

Danielle says of the course “ The course has got off to a fantastic start and all the learners are really enjoying it! One has already moved over onto an Apprenticeship and a number are currently doing work experience in local companies. The course is specially designed to give the young people a real taster of what office work is really like.”

**New spaces on the course will be available in the New Year! Please call 01782 717272 for details!**

### An NVQ for Everyone!

Do you run a local business? Would you like your business to be even more successful?

Work based NVQ's can improve your productivity and competitiveness by making sure your employees have the right skills to do the best job.

Funding is available NOW which means you and your staff have the opportunity to do either a Level 2 or Level 3 NVQ qualification, this could be at a small cost or even totally FREE of charge depending on their previous qualifications.

If you were to take advantage of this qualification an assessor would visit once every month in the workplace to

observe them doing their job and provide training where appropriate. Upon completion of the qualification your employees will be issued with an NVQ, a recognised National Award that will demonstrate their skills and abilities within that particular area.

Through the scheme, individuals can achieve an NVQ in a wide range of occupational areas such as -

Business Admin, Customer Service, Retail, Parts, Warehousing, Light or Heavy Vehicle Technician, Fast Fit, Body Repair, Paint, Motorcycle.

Call Sian on 01782 717272 for details!

### Need a Helping Hand?

Foundation Learning is aimed at young people aged 16 – 19 years of age who are not participating in any other education and training. The aim of Martec's FL Programmes is to help young people decide on their next steps and gain qualifications to provide them with the specific skills required to move into employment, further education or one of our many Apprenticeships.

Along with achieving a recognised qualification and gaining support with key skills we encourage the learners to find work experience in their chosen area.

Our courses are currently full of young people working towards qualifications in either Motor Vehicle or Business

Administration, these young people attend our centre 2 days per week to work towards their qualifications but they would greatly benefit from work experience in a real environment. **Can YOU help?**

If you could allow one of our learners to come into your work place to get a taste of real working life for 3 days a week for up to a month then please get in touch with Phil Mayer on 01782 717272.

If the young person proves to be efficient and shows promise then you could offer them a permanent opportunity on an Apprenticeship if a suitable vacancy arose.



# Martec 'Pit Stop' Crew for the Day

This Autumn, Learners on our Foundation Learning IMI level 1 Motor Vehicle Maintenance course were offered the fantastic opportunity to not only visit Oulton Park, but to become the Purple Apple Pit Crew for a test day prior to race day!

Paul Calladine, Adrian Bailey, Mike Ryder and the rest of the team at Purple Apple and BORR gave us a very exciting climax to the 2011 Fun Cup racing season, congratulations to the team for coming second in class, what a result!

Things could have, however, been very different, a disastrous crash during a sprint race in Anglesey at the end of the 2010 season left the race car with severe damage to it's body work and suspension, but never fear Martec was here!

During the closing season, under Adrian's guidance, our Foundation Learning students set about repairing the damaged car, some repaired the Panel work, spending hours flattening, whilst others helped replace the damaged suspension and prepare the car for the new season.



Pictured Above - Left to Right - Jordan Dutton, Aaron Green, Phil Lee (Foundation Learning Manager), Daniel Knowles and Chris Green

So when the new season commenced, as a way of saying thank you for all their efforts, the Purple Apple team invited the students along to help out as Pit Crew at several race

meetings. Oulton Park being one of them, the learners had the chance to help refuel the car, work on the tracking and suspension, readjust the engine, complete light and tyre

checks etc, to ensure that the car was race fit for the next day. All the work they did not only helped them to produce valuable evidence towards their level 1 qualification, it also offered them a great chance to get involved in a fun, yet real life experience.

The Purple Apple Race Car consists of a fibre glass clip on VW Beetle body, over a space framed chassis. The car competes regularly in the JPR Fun Cup which was launched in the UK in 2002.

The concept was originally conceived in Belgium based on the success of endurance karting. As well as a Championship in the UK and Belgium, it now runs in France, Italy, Germany and Spain.

Paul and Adrian were so impressed with how the students played out their roles that they have offered a place on their team to the most outstanding student of the 2012 season for the 25 hour race at Spa in Belgium, so watch this space!



Pictured Left  
Learners helping to get the Co Drivers' car ready to be



Pictured Right  
The Purple Apple Race Car

## 'Have a Go' Day!

On 13<sup>th</sup> January 2012 Martec training and Performance through People will be hosting 'Have a Go' Day. The 'Have a Go' initiative is a project that is aimed at the 16 – 24 year olds not in Employment, Education or Training or are soon to complete their studies, although the invitation is not limited to these groups. The objective of the project is to provide these individuals with opportunities in gaining new skills through having a go at new activities.

Interactive workshops on the day will include Photography, Joinery, Cookery, Nail Art, Hair Braiding, Glass Decoration, Make up, Mechanics and Floristry.

Local schools have been invited but anyone is welcome so please come

along and join us in this fun and informative event. The intention would be for you to 'Have a Go' at the range of disciplines which will be offered throughout the day. You can then discuss future career plans or how to develop the new skill in to a hobby with our expert delivery staff, careers advisors and Job Centre Plus Advisers.

The workshops will be a mixture of fun and idea generation that will offer the chance to gain new skills/knowledge but also enjoy the range of activities available.

You will find a warm welcome for all so please come and join in the fun. To book your free places call Tracey on 01782 717272

## Apprenticeship Week

Apprenticeship Week is organised annually by the National Apprenticeship Service and is an opportunity for employers, providers and learners to showcase Apprenticeships.

Last year's Apprenticeship Week was a great success, Martec training held several open days where the public could drop in and see what we have to offer, we had a guest speaker from a successful local garage who gave an inspiring talk to our students, we ran open days at a large local Bodyshop where year 11 students from local schools had a tour around the premises and the work shop manager and apprentice 'job swapped' for the day!

We will be planning numerous fun for **Apprenticeship Week 2012** which

**runs 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> February, but we also need YOUR input!**

If you are a local employer who would like to get involved somehow to show just how supportive you are of apprenticeship schemes then please get in touch asap! It could be anything from merely erecting a banner thanking all your apprentices for their hard work to arranging for a local journalist to join you and take part in a day in the life of an apprentice or maybe just holding an open day so apprentices can show off their newly honed skills and allow you to chat to young people about what it is exactly an employer is looking for.

Please call Tracey on 01782 717272 or email [info@martectraining.co.uk](mailto:info@martectraining.co.uk)

# The Martec training Wall of Fame

*Congratulations to all of the following achievers!*

## INTERMEDIATE APPRENTICESHIPS

### Customer Service

Roy Cartwright

### Retail Operations

Sam Proud

### Business Admin

Abby Evans

Jordan Scott

Victoria Taylor

### Vehicle Fitting

Tom Sherwin

Simon Martin

### Vehicle Parts Operations

Liam Barnett

Philip Dorricott

### Body Refinishing

Josh Emery

### Light Vehicle Technician

Joshua Phillips

Kamara Roberts

Christopher Smith

Jordan Wilson

Jordan Brereton

Joe Downes

Ben Robinson

Robert Owen

### Motorcycle

Jonathon Holdcroft

## ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIPS

### Business Admin

Craig Harley

### Body Repair

Thomas Amison

### Motorsport

Harrison Challinor

Graham Gilham

### Light Vehicle

Daniel Bennett

Michael Dodd

James Hancock

Daniel Moss

Adam Rutter

## CITY & GUILDS PERSONAL & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ENTRY 3 AWARD

Tommy Corcoran

Adam Collier

Terry Williams

Delroy Green

Rory Neill

Emma Harnett

Bradley Edwards

Samantha Pickstone

Carley Britchford

Matthew Stock

Matt Twigg

Alice Dawson

Grant Hopwood

Matt Escritt

Abanan Mohammed

Sam Thompsett

Callum Bagguley

Robert Hemmings

Josh Purchase

Anthony Gamble

George Davies

Ashley Cotterill

Kyran Tate

Sam McGraw

Darren Lockett

Rebecca Murphy

Rosie Brown

Samantha Bruce

David Thompson

# Scott Becomes 'Part' of the Team!

Scott Jones came to Martec training earlier this year interested in starting an Apprenticeship within the parts department at Madeley Heath Motors, a local Renault Dealership. When Scott saw the vacancy advertised he knew this was the exact career path he wanted to take, as he has a keen interest in cars and enjoys meeting new people. After a short trial the directors employed him as a full time Parts Advisor Apprentice.

Scott's general day at work involves ordering parts from Renault and outside suppliers, sending parts back to get credited, dealing with public and trade customers, working to targets set, stock takes, ensuring the parts department is profitable and working as a team with other colleagues.

Scott has only been working at his current employer for 8 months, during this time he has shown dedication and

enthusiasm to his job and given his employers assurance that he can be left to run the parts department in very effective and successful way.

Scott said " I think I've progressed a lot since starting work at Madeley Heath Motors. I run the department on my own including ordering parts, sending parts back to Renault and day to day running of the department. I feel I have picked the job up really quickly since I started. The contribution I have made to the company is good as I do my job to a very high standard and my skills are excellent. All the technicians in the garage think I'm doing a good job working in the department using my initiative".

Christopher Clewes, After sales Manager at Madeley Heath Motors said "Scott has grown from strength to strength since starting his Vehicle Parts Operations Intermediate



Pictured Above - Madeley Heath Motors

the department's approach to both retail and trade customers. As a result, the business and department is hugely benefitting from his contributions. Having worked closely with many trainees within all departments of our company Scott truly stands out for high praise."

Scott is due to complete his Intermediate Apprenticeship at the start of 2012, he will then progress onto his Advanced Apprenticeship and continue employment with Madeley Heath Motors. His employer and Martec believe that Scott has a great future ahead of him and is a great role model for any young person interested in pursuing an Apprenticeship.

Scott has been entered into the Staffordshire Apprentice of the Year Awards which takes place in March 2012, so watch this space!

Apprenticeship. His friendly and confident personality enables him to build up an excellent rapport with customers and colleagues and he has a clear understanding of the business needs. Scott was the company's third trainee within the parts department and has been instrumental in changing

Your Feedback is our improvement! From recent surveys and feedback sheets we have identified some issues regarding Information, advice and guidance Below are three issues raised and how we have responded ..... THANKS FOR YOUR FEEDBACK!

Who Said?	What They Said.....	What We Did.....
<b>Employers</b>	I have a long serving employee who has lots of experience but nothing 'on paper' to show this, is there any kind of qualification he can do?	Yes, your employee may be eligible to do an NVQ through Train to Gain if he has not done a qualification in the last 10 years and is over the age of 25. The qualification is purely competence based so no day release is required.
<b>Learners</b>	I am on an Apprenticeship and on £2.60 per hour, when will my wages increase to the National Minimum Wage?	If you start your qualification under the age of 19, you will qualify for the national minimum wage when BOTH the following criteria are met:  <b>You have completed 12 months of your Apprenticeship/ Advanced Apprenticeship AND have reached the age of 19.</b>
<b>Parents</b>	My son is currently doing a qualification through Martec training, I am interested in seeing how he is progressing, who can I contact?	You are more than welcome to give us a call on 01782 717272 and speak to your son's tutor or assessor or make an appointment to come into the centre for an informal chat.