

# MARTEC *Times*

## The Right Training For Every 'Body'!

Longton based M&M Vehicle Repairs are currently Staffordshire's largest accident repair centre, approved by both leading motor manufacturers and insurance companies alike. The company has been providing a high quality repair service in the Staffordshire region and beyond for over twenty years now.

With its own fleet of recovery vehicles, courtesy cars and vans M&M Vehicle Repairs always ensures that its customers receive the very best service and minimum of inconvenience whilst their vehicle is being repaired. To ensure all this M&M realise that training their staff to a high level is of great importance.

Mick Whitehead, company director, invests a lot of time in the training of young people and believes that apprenticeships are the way forward into a successful career in bodywork. Currently M&M have a record number of eight Martec apprentices on board within either paint, repair or MET department.

Adam Holdcroft, aged 16 from Blurton, is one of M&M's newest recruits and when asked what he thinks of his Body Repair apprenticeship so far he said:

"I have always had a real passion for cars and during the last 2 years at school I did a Body work course at college once a week, this made me see that I should pursue a career in body work. I was over the moon when Martec put me forward for the vacancy at M&M and I am really enjoying my work. I am learning how to repair and replace metal panels, replace bumpers, wings, doors etc. and the fact that I'm actually earning as I'm learning is of course an added bonus! The



Left to right—Alan Wooton, Liam Kelly, Dan Powell, Justin Mullard, Adam Robinson, Adam Holdcroft, Ryan Burgess, Mick Whitehead. (not present—Dan Atkinson)

apprenticeship means I can work in a more 'hands on' way which really suits me as I feel I'm quite practical and prefer it to being stuck in a classroom"

Company Director, Mick Whitehead sets a fine example to the young apprentices as he himself started off as an apprentice aged 16, at Wedgwoods where he worked as a mechanic for their fleet of 500 cars, so he knows how much the apprenticeship scheme can work for both businesses and for young people.

"I truly believe in training young people, I myself learned the trade through an apprenticeship and was always treated right, so I want to give them the chance

that I had as a youngster. An apprenticeship allows you to train the young people 'your' way, to give them the hands on experience they need to succeed, the chance to gain recognised qualifications along the way and the ultimate goal of a secure long term career with us."

M&M have had many a success from apprenticeships, seven long term staff started off as apprentices and have now gone on to become workshop managers and supervisors. Adrian has been with the company 22 years, he started off in 1986 as a 16 year old school leaver and is now paint shop production manager and is an extremely valuable part of the M&M management team. Adrian now has an

instrumental role in the training and support of the young apprentices to ensure that they are given correct supervision and guidance in all that they do.

So how do you become a successful M&M apprentice?

"When taking on a young person as a new recruit I look for a few things – the person as a person, their background and education, their ability to do the job but more importantly their attitude. Attitude I feel is key to a successful apprentice. As long as the trainee has a real drive and enthusiasm to learn and work in this trade, are happy to get their hands dirty and get stuck in, then they will be easier to develop into a successful valuable member of staff."

Why have you chosen to work so closely with Martec as your training provider?

"We have been dealing with Martec for quite a few years now and have built up a very good relationship. The staff and assessors are very knowledgeable and professional in their fields. They also have an excellent recruitment selection process and really seem to know what we are looking for in a young person, the lads that they have sent us have all been of good calibre, hence why we have employed so many this year! By continuing to work well together I feel we can make a difference to these young people's futures and to the future of M&M"

Want to appear in our next Newsletter? If you are a learner, an employer or maybe a parent and have a story or anything to say about your experiences with Martec or apprenticeships/ e2e in general, then please contact Sian on **01782 717272**

### MARTEC GO LIVE!

Martec are very pleased to announce the launch of our new website! Please visit us at [www.martectraining.co.uk](http://www.martectraining.co.uk). I think you will agree that the site is easy to use, very eye catching and full of information. You can find out more about the courses we offer, hear what our apprentices and employers think of our different schemes, read about the latest developments and successes at Martec and lots more. This newsletter will be downloadable on the website and there will also be an archive of all past newsletters for you to view. If anyone has any comments, suggestions or would like to feature in a testimonial/ case study then please contact me on the number below or send me an email on [info@martectraining.co.uk](mailto:info@martectraining.co.uk)

## Judith Takes The Reins.....



Pictured—Judith Dodd

Martec is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Centre Manager – Judith Dodd.

Judith brings a wealth of experience to the role, having spent over 20 years in the training field. She spent over 10 years as a tutor, assessor and verifier. The last 8 years have been spent at Martec where she was responsible for the Administration and Accounts department, joining the management team 6 years ago.

More recently Judith took over the role of Quality Manager which involved overhauling the quality procedures at Martec, the main focus being the Learner

Journey.

Judith says "I have worked alongside the staff at Martec for many years and am pleased to be leading an experienced, hard working team dedicated to the delivery of high quality training in a safe and caring manner. Exciting times lie ahead for us all as we prepare to move into our new training centre."

All Martec staff would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Judith on her new role and wish her all the success and support during this exciting transition period. As Judith said Martec are on the move, see our next edition for full details!

# The Wall of Fame

## Congratulations to all of Martec's recent achievers

### Level 2 Apprenticeship Achievers

Dean Bartley—BS Marsons  
 Leanne Burgess—Knights BMW  
 Shaun Dykes—AS Autos  
 Matthew Preston—Mercedes  
 Adam Smith—PMF  
 Carl Speakman— AA Vehicle Services  
 Will Weaver—Cobridge Test Centre  
 Carl Wilkes—Wardle Transport  
 Max Plant—Landranger

### e2e Level One Achievers

Daniel Breeze - Numeracy  
 Nikki Cairns - Numeracy  
 Richard O'Brien - Literacy  
 Mark Carroll - Literacy & Numeracy  
 Daniel Mayor - Literacy & Numeracy  
 Daniel Nicholls - Literacy & Numeracy  
 Stephen Peach - Literacy & Numeracy  
 David Twigg - Literacy & Numeracy

### Level 3 Apprenticeship Achievers

Paul Farrall—BS Marsons  
 Andrew Heath—GRS Logistics  
 Mark Smith—Ken Jervis

### Train to Gain Achievers Level 2

Sarah Davies - Screwfix  
 Julie Harris - Screwfix  
 Christine Holdcroft - Screwfix

### Train to Gain Achievers Level 3

Paul Batkin - Madeley Heath Motors  
 Nicholas Broad - BS Marsons  
 Martin Gray - Pets Pantry  
 Andrew Leese - Mercedes  
 Anne Mayer - Madeley Heath Motors  
 Nathaniel Phillips - Springfield  
 Geoffrey Taylor - BS Marsons

# A Warm Welcome to..

## Martec's new apprentices who have started with us since the summer

### Business Administration.

Gemma Wilkinson—Robert Eardley  
 Gemma Burton—AH Brooks  
 Victoria Taylor—BS Marsons  
 Sarah Vigrass—Platts of Longton

### Retail Operations.

Callam Bradbury—Platts of Longton  
 William Salt—A to Z  
 Michael Hand—Cargo Car Accessories

### Body Repair and Paint

Daniel Atkinson—M&M  
 Justin Mullard—M & M  
 Daniel Powell—M&M  
 Adam Holdcroft—M&M  
 Ryan Burgess—M&M  
 Adam Robinson—M&M  
 Andrew Smith—GRS Logistics

### Vehicle Technicians

Ben Dykes—Fastlane  
 Daniel Moss—Autobrite  
 David Durber—AC Autos  
 Daniel Bourne—Norstone Autos  
 William Harper—Talbots Garage  
 Josh Williams—BS Marsons  
 Daniel Hordell—Thompson Performance  
 Paul Hollinshead—D & H Tyres  
 Adam Shelton—North Staffs Tyres  
 Brendan Brown—Foley Motorcycles  
 Hayden Evans—GC Cars  
 Jake Gilham—Hoddens Ltd  
 Callum Currie—Cobridge Test Centre  
 Nikki Cairns—Poole Street Garage

Martec welcomes them on board and would like to take this opportunity to wish them every success in their chosen field and qualification

# A Spotlight on..... The e2e Department

A spotlight on... Is a new monthly section which will focus on a different department at Martec in each newsletter. This edition we will give you an insight into our entry to employment department.

Entry to employment, or e2e as its more commonly known is an initiative funded by

the Learning and Skills Council and is aimed at 16 - 19 year olds.

e2e's aim is to move young people forward, providing them with the skills and qualifications they need to progress towards entering the workplace and contributing positively. It can help young people in areas such as building confidence, social skills and motivation, improving basic skills in literacy and numeracy to level 1 standard, offering work experience, and to help to learn what qualities are needed to be successful in the work place, help with CV's and job applications and searches and the overall aim of the scheme is to help you find either a job, further education or to move onto an apprenticeship scheme.

The e2e department at Martec has grown a lot recently, two new members of staff have been taken on to cope with the departments expansion.

Kayla Shortt is the new Basic Skills Co-ordinator, her role involves helping learners on both the e2e and apprenticeship schemes to achieve level 1 in both literacy

and numeracy by providing support and guidance in these areas. Originally from Weston Super Mare where she worked as a Primary School teacher, Kayla applied for the position so she could be closer to her children who have just started Uni in the area. She says of her new role: "I have always wanted to work with this age group as to me it's a lot more challenging, my aim is to help these youngsters to develop their skills, become more positive and to progress into a job or apprenticeship, I feel that knowing I have helped them achieve their goals would give me great job satisfaction"

Nick Lumley is the new e2e tutor, his day to day job is working with learners on the three core areas of the e2e programme – personal/ social development, vocational and basic skills through problem solving, tasks, team works, in and out of centre activities. Nick was previously working for another local provider as e2e tutor and then centre manager, but missed the daily interaction with the young people so applied for Martec's vacancy. Nick who was a fire fighter and a life guard in the past, says of his new role as e2e tutor: "I love

trying to make a difference and have always enjoyed working with and helping people, my new role at Martec will give me the opportunity to do exactly that. Working with 16 - 19 year olds means every day will be different and hopefully lead to these young people having a chance of a better future."

Nick and Kayla have joined the team to make up 8 members consisting of Lynda Hassall, e2e administrator and welfare officer, Phil Mayer – e2e manager, Phil Lee – Deputy manager/ Schools Tutor, Sarah Cooper – e2e Tutor/ Initial Assessment, Paul Shaw – e2e/ Asdan Tutor, Alan Mountford – e2e/ Asdan tutor,

The latest development within the e2e department is the launch of a new NVQ Level 1 in Mechanics, this will allow learners to gain a Level 1 qualification whilst based at our centre in Newcastle. The new programme will start in November and is ideal for learners who are practical and show promise as a mechanic but need a little bit of support in either basic or social skills, it will act as a stepping stone onto an apprenticeship.



Pictured - Nick Lumley, Kayla Shortt

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....	We DID!
<b>Employers</b>	You wanted to know how often your Light Vehicle Technician apprentice has to go on day release to college and why?	As of September 2008 the learner will attend Motorvate technical college once a week for the first year of their qualification, this is to gain the underpinning knowledge to complete their technical certificate
<b>Learners</b>	You wanted to know if you would qualify for EMA whilst on our entry to employment scheme?	Yes you will qualify for £30 per week. As of the 31st August 2008 it is not means tested so no matter what your parents earnings are EVERYONE will get the money
<b>Parents/ Guardians</b>	You wanted to know if you son/ daughter is entitled to holidays with pay during their apprenticeship ?	Yes they have the right to 24 days which can include bank holidays. A statement of employment is filled in by the employer which states a job description, holidays, working hours, when and how much they get paid.