

Apprenticeships. Earn whilst you learn.

Johnathan knew about Apprenticeships as some friends were working as Apprentices. He saw an advert in the local newspaper regarding a vacancy for a Business Administration Apprentice at Chorley Council and applied. He now works as the System Support Assistant for the Council as part of his Apprenticeship programme.

Johnathan commented, "I chose to do an Apprenticeship as it provides an opportunity to work whilst also gaining a qualification. I have enjoyed learning new skills and being able to apply them in a real work situation. This Apprenticeship programme at Chorley Council has provided me with invaluable knowledge on how to operate in an office-based environment. It has given me an opportunity to gain work experience that will benefit me in the future."

"Runshaw Business Centre has been excellent and I have received continuous guidance from my assessor whilst compiling my portfolio. She has always been keen to help. My plans for the future are to progress with my career at the Council, preferably in my current area of work. I would recommend Apprenticeships to anyone looking to start work whilst continuing to learn new skills. The Apprenticeship programme has provided me with an excellent start to my career, which I do not believe would otherwise have been available."

Johnathan Barclay
Chorley Council

Apprentices are dedicated,
motivated, ambitious and
make things happen!

Our
future.
It's in
our hands.

 Apprenticeships

Chorley Council
Making Chorley Smile



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The secret of your success.

Chorley Council is a district council and is responsible for many public services provided for residents, businesses and visitors in the area. The Council have been employing and supporting Apprenticeships for a long time with Runshaw Business Centre.

Camilla Oakes-Schofield who works as the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development at Chorley Council commented, "We have had fantastic success with our Apprentices. Many of them have done exceptionally well and taken up temporary or permanent positions in the Council."

"Apprentices are a real asset to the teams and the organisation. The on-job training offered is unparalleled to any course as Apprenticeships offer two years of real experience in the work environment, in addition many of our Apprentices have enjoyed their roles at Chorley Council. Runshaw Business

Centre has always been supportive and the assessors visit the Council regularly to meet with the Apprentices and offer appropriate guidance to complete the relevant training qualifications."

As advice to prospective employers considering taking on Apprentices, Camilla said, "It is important to think what kind of work you want your Apprentice to do. I would recommend developing a job description that not only meets the needs of your team but is also interesting and developmental for your Apprentice. Our experiences tell us that Apprentices are enthusiastic to develop their skills and learn quickly when given the right support."

Camilla Oakes-Schofield
Chorley Council

Apprenticeships. Make it happen.

Harriet was introduced to the Apprenticeship programme through the Connexions team who visited her high school. She attended an assessment and two interviews that were arranged by Runshaw Business Centre and was successful in receiving an offer for an Apprentice position from two colleges in Preston - Ashton Community Science College and Myerscough College. Harriet chose to do her Apprenticeship at Ashton Community College.

Harriet Ascroft commented, "Runshaw Business Centre have been extremely helpful throughout the application process and have continued to provide close support throughout the time I have worked at Ashton Community Science College. I have benefitted from following a learning scheme and completing my NVQ Level 2 and 3 in Business Administration and also doing a full time job. Whilst attending college one day a week, I could liaise with other learners in a similar working atmosphere and discuss areas of concerns. The learning has been very inspiring and interesting. The college trip to Chill Factor

in Manchester was memorable - we had different team building exercises with goals to achieve at the end of the sessions."

"With regard to my future plans, I have discussed different options with my assessor at Runshaw Business Centre and I may continue with a second apprenticeship or I may consider progressing onto a foundation degree. I have really enjoyed the learning style of the Apprenticeship programme and I have made a huge progress up the career ladder within two years of leaving school. I have matured rapidly, gained many life skills and achieved nationally recognised qualifications through my training. I have also made many work friends and college friends whilst earning a stable wage. I would certainly recommend an Apprenticeship to any school leaver wanting to achieve work based learning whilst receiving a wage. It's a good balance of both that bonds very well!"

Harriet Ashcroft

Ashton Community Science College, Preston

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Helping your business grow.

Lancashire-based nursery group, Rosy Apple Childcare T/A Little Achievers Nurseries, is upholding its status of being the UK's top apprentice employer and recently recruited its 22nd apprentice into the business.

The group, which operates five nurseries across the county, won the Medium Employer of the Year category at last year's National Apprenticeship Awards and has supported Apprenticeships for eight years.

The group is managed by North West Apprenticeship Ambassador, Sharon Alexander, who said: "When I took over the group in 2003 I had big plans to grow the workforce from within. As a former apprentice myself, I knew the benefits of working and learning at the same time and made a conscious decision to introduce Apprenticeships into a new training and development programme."

Rosy Apple Childcare offers Apprenticeships in Childcare, Business Administration, Catering and Accountancy and training is delivered in conjunction with local provider Runshaw Business Centre.

Sharon continues: "We recruited our first apprentice through Runshaw Business Centre, which has been delivering training to our childcare apprentices for a number of years,

but we also work with a number of other providers to ensure that our employees are getting the best out of their Apprenticeship, because they all specialise in different areas.

"What I love about our apprentices is the vibrancy and creativity they bring to the business. The dedicated training that they are receiving enables them to keep up-to-date with trends and this, in-turn, gives the business a competitive edge."

"Young people are often overlooked when recruitment takes place, but I am delighted to say that our apprentices have proved themselves to be an excellent business resource and their knowledge, dedication and commitment has been highly valuable in the current economic climate."

Simon Jordan, Apprenticeship manager at Runshaw Business Centre, added: "Many apprentices have become junior managers at Rosy Apple, which has supported the growth of the rapidly expanding organisation. Sharon has worked hard to develop a staff training forum to enable apprentices to develop their leadership skills through a mentoring programme and this just shows how much can be achieved through investing in workforce development."