

Only 17% of IT professionals are female
www.e-skills.com



Dear Sir/Madam,

16th March 2011

I have been a student at ITEC for the past six years and in that time I have completed three NVQs with five different assessors. I am just about to complete my NVQ Level 3 in Business Administration having only started the course late last year.

I feel that my success on the course has been to the credit of the thorough and sound tutoring of my assessor Mick Ray, he has by far been the best and most helpful assessor I have had allocated to me over the years.

I would therefore like to take this opportunity to pass on my appreciation and thanks for the work he and ITEC have done for me in the last six years.

I have recommended ITEC to several people who are also very impressed with the training and support ITEC provides.

Yours Faithfully
Sarah Boynton
IT Technician

I can fully endorse Sarah's comments with regard to her training with ITEC. Her IT specific qualifications in particular prove to be of immense value on a day-to-day basis.
John Agar
Head of Strategic IT Systems,
The Education Village, Darlington

IT Systems – Striving for Excellence in Information Technology

FACT

Demand for ICT staff up again!!
Demand for ICT Labour and skills in the UK outstripped supply for the first time since the end of 2008.

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FACT

141,000 IT & Telecoms recruits are needed annually to satisfy industry demand.

www.bigambition.co.uk

FACT

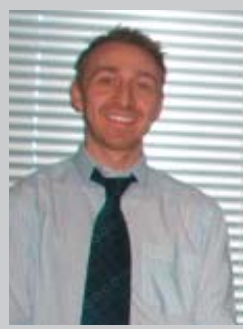
Employment in the IT industry will grow at 2.19% per annum - nearly five times faster than the UK average.

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What is the appeal of Apprenticeships to ITPS?

Mark says - "Apprenticeships give ITPS the opportunity to meet with young people who are enthusiastic, interested and willing to learn."



Mark Langdown
Service Manager

It means we can give people a chance to be placed into a professional work environment and ensure they pick up good working habits with us as their first employer."

How do apprenticeships benefit young employees?

"Apprenticeships offer young employees a chance to start a career in an area which they enjoy and have a real future, knowing they're not just being employed in any old job."

This can be an opportunity to start their working life on the best track, or perhaps get back on track for those who found other educational paths hadn't worked for them."



How does ITEC's training impact on your apprentices?

"ITEC's training is a vital part of the success of our apprentices. The background and ongoing training ensures the apprentices are well grounded in foundational principles and ready to hit the ground running."

Because much of the training happens around work, the impact on the day-to-day business is minimal."



How do apprentices impact on your business?

"Apprentices have a hugely positive impact on ITPS and have done ever since we got involved with the scheme. Over the years they've provided a steady stream of keen and mature learners who've been able to pick up skills and add value to our support team from day one."

As one of the largest IT employers in the region, we will continue with this approach over the coming years."

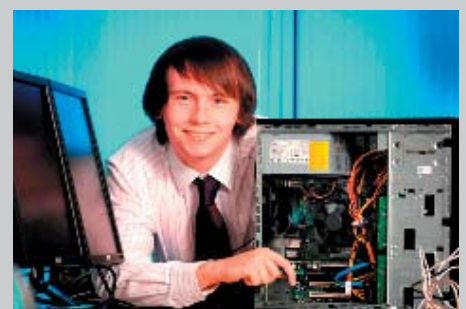


ANTHONY IS THRILLED WITH HIS APPRENTICESHIP

Sunderland based systems and integration specialist, Business & Decision wanted to recruit and train an IT Technician from scratch. As a major global organisation with offices and high profile clients worldwide, their sights were set on someone with a keen interest in IT, but who could also be moulded to their own working practices through a bespoke Apprenticeship programme.

With 3 A-levels including computing, Anthony Dunn was keen to embark on his first full-time job whilst gaining new skills and continuing his education. He's now busy looking after the company's IT service desk, building laptops for new service users and providing office-based systems support.

John Leightley, Head of Information Technology said, "The apprenticeship programme has given Anthony confidence and a very good grounding in IT systems support. He's a very valuable asset to our company."





LEARNING THE VALUE OF APPRENTICESHIPS

David Cummings joined New Seaham Primary School in 2003 as ICT Technician. Initially recruited to help fix hardware, install software and look after the school's network, his rapport with pupils and flair for teaching has seen him add some extra strings to his bow.

Alongside his technical role, and encouraged by the Head Teacher, David provides specialist cover for teaching staff when taking time away from the classroom, as a result he runs two ICT classes each week for three year groups. He also oversees many of the school's administrative tasks, such as controlling data, managing records and handling financial information. He's also a qualified rugby coach, and trains Key Stage 2 pupils every Friday. Despite his busy workload, David recently completed a 3 year Learning Technology & Research BA (Hons) degree alongside his full-time job.

Head Teacher, Bernadette Dolan, sings David's praises, "Our school has a reputation for high attainment in ICT and is well resourced. We knew we needed someone on site permanently to take care of the technical side of things and I was delighted to offer David an Apprenticeship. However, even I didn't anticipate just how well things would work out and how valuable David would become."

David says, "The Apprenticeship has given me the opportunity to take my learning further. Now as well as a worthwhile job with loads of extra development opportunities, I have gained a massive amount of experience, have money in my pocket and a string of nationally recognised qualifications to my name."

WHY APPRENTICESHIPS?

AN EMPLOYERS OPINION

How do apprenticeships benefit young employees?

"Recruiting an apprentice as a new member of staff reduces initial costs allowing us to introduce extra resources through-out their training which may have otherwise been unaffordable. This offers invaluable assistance, allowing the workload of staff to be lightened as the apprentice learns new skills."



Paul Johns
Sales Director

What is the appeal of apprenticeships to EHL?

Paul says - "Apprenticeships offer us an opportunity to identify the best young talent then train and develop them to fit with our business. They don't have baggage or bad habits and we nurture their enthusiasm and willingness to learn."

How do apprentices impact on EHL as a business?

"Very positively, they allow us to develop our own stars of the future, moulding them to the way we work. It allows us to grow quicker than we would normally and recognise opportunities for progression into other sectors covering administration, customer service and team leading.

Not all new recruits work out but the key is to persevere and find the right person, once you do, then they are worth their weight in gold."

How does ITEC's training impact on your apprentices?

The training for our apprentices contributes to an over-all positive learning experience. As well as focusing on the skills learned, channelling this into a structured programme results in a formal qualification. ITEC support and appreciate that the apprentice is there to do a job and work around this very well".



STOP PRESS.....PUBLICITY PAYS

Rachel Leadston enjoyed all things equestrian, with real potential to turn her hobby into a full-time job but, after lots of serious consideration following her GCSE's decided an apprenticeship in administration offered the job opportunities she aspired to.

This major decision taken, her next step was to find a training provider and employer offering an opportunity to demonstrate her potential. Supported by ITEC North East, this proved to be a massive hurdle as in every interview, employers looked for previous experience, and even though Rachel explained the responsibilities and skills she'd gained during years working at her local stables, success remained elusive.

Not to be deterred, and with the bit between her teeth, Rachel placed a free advert in the local Evening Gazette advertising herself to potential employers as an honest, reliable apprentice looking for an opportunity to prove herself in the workplace—and it worked!! Her ad appeared in the right place, at the right time and was spotted by an HR employee at Archers Law, one of Stockton's longest established law practices who contacted Rachel and arranged an interview.

Rachel's initiative paid off, her interview was successful and since June 2010 she's been working as a Central Support Services Assistant gaining many new skills and invaluable experience using MS Word and Excel. Julie Bradshaw, Office Manager with Archers Law readily confirms Rachel's involvement in a number of projects for various departments to develop her skills and provide valuable evidence for her NVQ Level 2, delivered by ITEC North East, which Rachel has recently completed.



Workforce Development

New recruits and existing staff based at Brulines Stockton offices readily acknowledge the benefits of vocational NVQ's. Likewise, Christine Robertson, Human Resources Manager, endorses the payback for their individual employees and the future development of the company.

"We employ staff in a variety of roles and encourage them to gain relevant qualifications covering administration, customer service, ICT, team leading and management. ITEC's training is benefitting staff of all ages with Apprenticeships and additional funding secured for our employees aged 25+"



Gateshead Training Centre

- 0191 490 4670

Newton Aycliffe Training Centre

- 01325 320 052

Middlesbrough Training Centre

- 01642 232 550