

LIS EVERY

Chair of Trustees



WHY ARE APPRENTICESHIPS SO IMPORTANT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?

People focus on not having the University debt, there is so much more to it than that. It is the hands on experience, the skills acquisition you get while learning on the job as well as living locally and retaining your social life and reasonable bank balance. Of course you get qualifications as well. The other thing that I think is really important, is the feel that you get for the work experience, as you understand what work is.

HOW DO APPRENTICESHIPS BENEFIT EMPLOYERS?

I think we don't give employers enough understanding of their benefits. There's lots of research out there already but employers say their resources are too small or they don't have the time for apprenticeships. There is research out there that says they can see improvements by having apprentices, there is a knock on affect that they do not think about. Benefits for employers need to have a more rounded argument that showcases the skills and the profitability of their growing margins is important to them.

WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH APPRENTICESHIPS?

I'm part of a charity that gives money to apprentices (Bishop Laney Foundation), which gives £250 a year for 4 years to apprentices, and gives their company £250 as well. What they have to do, that others may not have seen, those youngsters to get that money has to come along and speak to us. Not only do they have to talk to us, they have to bring their employer along, so they are telling us what they spent the money on (tools etc) and come along to tell us what they have done. The employer talks to us about how well they have done. We see them every year so the ones from year 1 are completely different to when they are in year 4. We see their growth and development and their maturity but also getting to see that by year 2 they are training other apprentices. You can see them striving to be the best they can be.

WHAT ARE SOME BENEFITS TO STUDENTS UNDERTAKING AN APPRENTICESHIP?

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"I went to work for a very large company called Maconies, that sold televisions, in Chelmsford. A huge company with a large factory and we had apprentices on the shop floor, as well as graduate apprentices as well. I went in as a trainee business administrator. I went out on day release and worked for the managing director when I wasn't on day release. I didn't have a qualification at the end apart from the commercial qualifications I took. Which allowed me to teach in the FE sector. Although I didn't realise at the time I was an apprentice.

I wasn't a traditional apprentice like today, but in those days, you joined a factory as there was no other ways to get into apprenticeships. Training on the job was a big investment but this was a long time ago. It was very much about growing your own as people weren't going to go from one factory to another. The large factories, their training was amazing, it made a lot of difference."