

Case Study: Henry Angus



May 2019

Henry Angus has made an excellent start to his apprenticeship journey and is just starting his Level 3 M.E.T. qualification.

Vehicle Repair Apprenticeships give bodyshops bright, confident young men and women comfortable with IT and technology, who are well placed to respond to the opportunities and challenges that the industry currently faces. Apprentices get a clear career path, and the opportunity to work in a sector experiencing exciting and rapid change.

The employers perspective

Henry Angus joined Solus Accident Repair Centre Park Royal in 2017 as an M.E.T. apprentice. In 2018, whilst still completing his level 2 qualification, he was crowned M.E.T. Apprentice of the Year at the Bodyshop Awards.

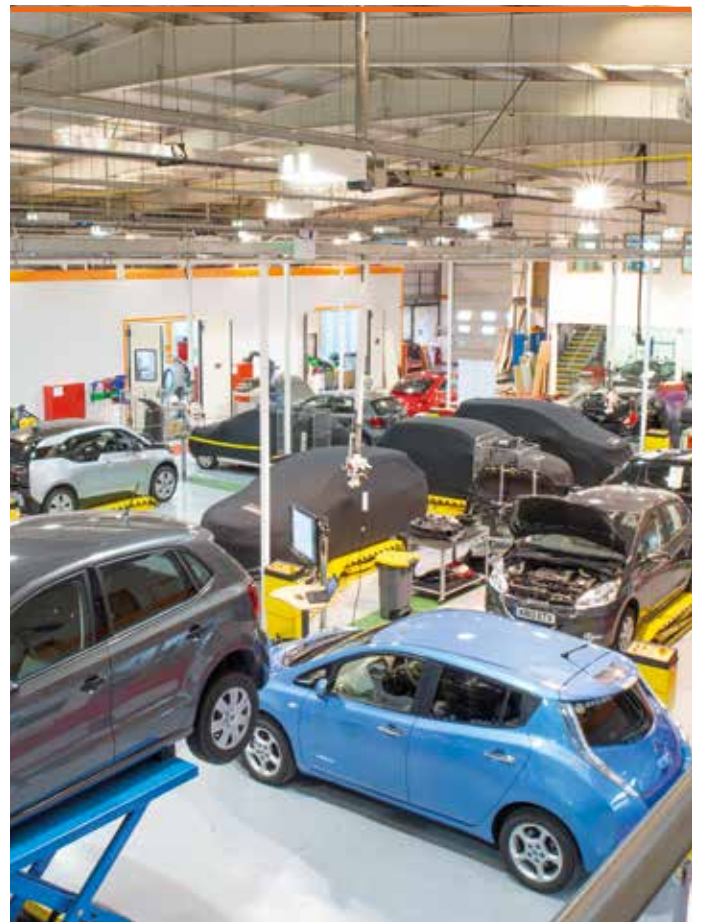
Ken Warnock Production Lead said:

From the beginning Henry stood out. Of the 10 candidates that applied for the M.E.T. apprenticeship that we were filling, Henry was the most positive, articulate and well presented. After his second interview, we had no hesitation in offering him a position and enrolling him into the Solus Apprentice programme.

Since starting Henry has excelled at his job and in the apprentice programme. He won the M.E.T. Apprentice of the Year 2018 after completing just one year of his Level 2 apprenticeship, which was an outstanding achievement. He enjoys training, is hungry to learn and shows real ambition to advance his career. He has fitted in well since he joined, never shies away from a task and constantly strives to meet our key values. We are very proud of him and his mentor, Edmund Cassells, who with the rest of the team encourage and support our apprentices.

Solus, Aviva's own group of garages, has 18 locations across England and Scotland and repairs 32,000+ vehicles per year. Over 50 apprentices have graduated through its award-winning programme during the last four years and it continues to grow each year. Solus Park Royal strongly believe that apprentices, like Henry, are essential to the industry and will help the repair sector to adapt to the challenges ahead.

As Henry starts his Level 3 M.E.T. apprentice training with Thatcham Research, there is no question that he has the talent and drive to go far.



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Henry talked to Dean Lander, Head of Repair Sector Services, at Thatcham Research about his apprenticeship experience and what it meant to him to win the Bodyshop 'M.E.T. Apprentice of the Year' award.

› What was it about an apprenticeship that appealed to you?

At school I was always much more confident working on practical tasks. With support from my family, I opted to undertake an apprenticeship which would enable me to learn a trade whilst being paid.

› Why did you want to work in the vehicle repair industry?

The practical aspect of repairing vehicles and being hands on really appealed to me. I have always been interested in cars and how they work so I knew that I would enjoy an apprenticeship in this area.

› What have you learnt so far in your apprenticeship?

Although I have only just completed my Level 2 M.E.T. I have learnt so much already. I'm developing practical skills as well as learning life skills that will make a big difference to my career.

› What have been the highlights for you?

I have met so many people through my job at Solus. Coming to Thatcham Research for my training has allowed me to meet and learn with apprentices from all over the country.

› Briefly describe your experience at Thatcham Research.

Thatcham Research offers apprentices the best training in the industry. Their academy has the latest technology and tools, great vehicles to work on and is a safe, enjoyable environment to learn in.

› Would you recommend the apprenticeship route to others?

Without question, this is the best thing I have ever done. I love my job and I'm learning a lot whilst being paid. I would 100% recommend a vehicle repair apprenticeship.

› How did you feel when you won the Bodyshop 'M.E.T. Apprentice of the Year' award?

I was over the moon when I won the M.E.T. Apprentice of the Year award. I couldn't believe that it was happening. Receiving this award means so much - I have never won anything before, so it was a great moment for me.

› Is there anything else you'd like to share?

I am very grateful to Solus for giving me this opportunity. I have a fantastic mentor, Eddie Cassells, who is supportive and helpful. Eddie, Phil, Ken and the team at Solus Park Royal have made my apprenticeship very enjoyable. I can't wait to start my Level 3 M.E.T. apprenticeship.



Since 2004, Thatcham Research Automotive Academy have trained over 1,550 apprentices.

We offer exciting new career opportunities, exposing apprentices to the latest vehicles and technology whilst learning the latest technical repair methods to keep vehicles and road users safe.

In March 2019, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) confirmed that Thatcham Research Automotive Academy had recorded 92% for our apprenticeship training Qualification Achievement Rates.



For further information and guidance please contact:



customerservices@thatcham.org



+44 (0)1635 293 174