

Spotlight^L on FORMER Apprentices

Courtney Goodall



Thatcham
Research
AUTOMOTIVE ACADEMY

Job Title:
M.E.T Technical Trainer

Current Employer:
Thatcham Research

Apprenticeship:
Level 3 M.E.T.

Start date:
2013 aged 17

Starting apprentice salary:
£10k

Finish date:
2017

Finishing apprentice salary:
£13k

School attended:
Testbourne Community School, Whitchurch, Hampshire



How did you get on at School?

I enjoyed school and the subjects that I took during my GCSE's. I achieved C grades in Maths, English, Science and ICT which would stand me in good stead later on in my career.



Q What career advice did you receive at school?

a I don't remember receiving any specific career advice at school regarding career opportunities. I fell into the Motor Sports course partly because I didn't want to study academic subjects at college.

Why did you decide to do an apprenticeship?

Although I successfully completed my Motorsport qualification, it didn't open up the opportunities that I was expecting. In order to follow the career that I wanted, I really needed to do an apprenticeship which is why I came to apply for the apprenticeship at Thatcham Research.

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I had the misguided view that the automotive sector wasn't changing or going to experience any significant technological innovations. How wrong I was!



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Who do you work for now?

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I still work for Thatcham Research. The technical trainers in the academy work with apprentices and vehicle repair technicians delivering awareness and accredited training.





What do you love about your job?

I love working in the Automotive Academy. I started at the bottom, ensuring that the vehicles in the academy were in good working order and managing parts ordering. I have been mentored and supported by other trainers to develop my skills and am now starting to deliver some training courses. Meeting delegates who come for training and then watching them learn and improve during a course is a fantastic feeling.

We have just recruited a new apprentice technician in the academy, and she will work with me. Having the chance to help and support our new apprentice also gives me the opportunity to develop my leadership skills and pay forward all the support that I received when I started.

Q Would you recommend the apprenticeship route to students considering a career?

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I would really recommend the apprenticeship route. Apprenticeships offer you the chance to learn new skills and earn a wage. The vehicle repair sector is looking for more new talent to join the industry and with the rapid technical innovation underway, you will never be bored. The variety of careers available once you complete your apprenticeship are huge. I never imagined that when I started my apprenticeship that I would move towards the trainer role.

Q What advice would you give to a student considering their career options?

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Think carefully about what you want to achieve during your career and pick an option that puts you in the best position to achieve that goal.



Would you recommend Thatcham Research Automotive Academy for apprenticeship training?

The training that I received whilst I was completing my apprenticeship was excellent. The trainers invest a great deal of time and energy supporting every apprentice. If you are considering a vehicle repair apprenticeship, Thatcham Research is a great place to do your training.

Vehicle Repair Sector

The car as we know it is changing, rapidly. The Automotive Industry is experiencing a tidal wave of technological innovation both on vehicles and in the repair process. New materials in vehicle design such as carbon fibre, ultra-high strength steel and aluminium, vehicle to vehicle connectivity, electrification, advanced driving assistance systems and the development of autonomous vehicles are just some of the opportunities. The repair sector is experiencing a shortage of technicians and this combined with the technological innovation, presents you with a real opportunity for rapid career advancement.

Why Thatcham Research for Apprenticeship Training?

We offer industry leading training in world class facilities and our dedicated apprentice academy offers the latest equipment, a safe and secure environment, and access to a variety of vehicles. Apprentices receive a blended programme of practical, theoretical and online learning. Our online learning platform, ecademy supports apprentices during their programme of learning. Our training expertise is supported by our repair technologies centre and Bodyshop of the Future.

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.



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For further information and guidance
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thatcham.org/apprenticeships

