

Spotlight^L on FORMER Apprentices

George Hyde



Thatcham
Research
AUTOMOTIVE ACADEMY

Job Title:
Insurance Consultant

Current Employer:
A-Plan Insurance

Apprenticeship:
Level 3 M.E.T.

Start date:
2013 aged 16

Starting apprentice salary:
£10k

Finish date:
2016

Finishing apprentice salary:
Approximately £10k

Current salary:
Approximately £24k

School attended:
Kennet School, Thatcham, Berkshire



How did you get on at School?

If I'm honest, being at school didn't bring out the best in me. I found subjects uninspiring and I achieved C grades in my exams.



Q What career advice did you receive at school?

a I didn't really get much career advice at school and originally wanted to study architecture at university but with my grades it wasn't possible.

Q

What perceptions did you have about the automotive sector before you started your apprenticeship?

a

I grew up around older cars and always thought that the industry would be a great career choice. I thought that the sector wasn't very professional, but I soon found out that this is NOT the case. The company that I worked for was a great place to learn and was incredibly professional.

Why did you decide to do an apprenticeship?

I believe doing an apprenticeship gives you a real feel for the industry you are working and learning in. Learning on the job brings out the best in me and I felt that an apprenticeship would be the best way to start my career. I applied for an M.E.T. apprenticeship because I like to see the finished product.



Q

Who do you work for now?

a

I wanted to keep learning and to explore other sides of the sector so I moved into insurance. I now work for A-Plan Insurance. My current role involves helping clients with their insurance needs from quotes to claims. I deal with clients either by phone or face to face.





What do you love about your job?

I really like to build relationships with my clients – having a good relationship builds trust. Speaking to clients who are as passionate about their cars as I am and getting advice and ideas for my own car is great.

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

a My apprenticeship really kick started my working life. It helped me to get to where I am today.



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

a Consider the repair industry, it is more than just putting cars back together. You can go on to do so many other things and really challenge and push yourself.

Would you recommend Thatcham Research Automotive Academy for apprenticeship training?

The apprentice academy at Thatcham Research is a great place to learn. If you are considering the repair industry, train with Thatcham Research.

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 please contact:



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