

## THE PILOT

### A learner's view of a traineeships pilot run by OCR and the Kent Association of Training Organisations (KATO).

**"My advice to other young people out there is 'go for it!' It's a great way to broaden your knowledge and reinforce your capabilities."**

Nineteen year old Alex Foster completed a pilot traineeship called Step2Work at Profile Development and Training Ltd in the summer of 2013. After leaving education Alex thought that he had achieved enough to secure a job, but that wasn't to be, as he explains:

*"I applied for lots of jobs locally, but either didn't get any response whatsoever or was told that they would keep my CV on file for future reference. I didn't have any work experience and that put me in a Catch 22 situation."*

By chance, a visit by Alex to his local Job Centre brought him into contact with Profile tutor Niki Kelly. "The person at the Job Centre asked if I would be interested in a new course, which to be honest I knew nothing about. I was introduced to Niki from Profile and she talked to me about Step2Work."

*"I liked the idea of being able to work and also focus some of my time studying business administration on the course,"* explains Alex.

After successfully signing up, Alex was introduced to the rest of the group of students and was offered a work placement by Levicks Chartered Accountants in Kent.

*"The work placement has really helped me,"* says Alex. *"As well as helping me to build my confidence, it's opened my eyes to other possibilities. As for the course, the maths and English is valuable because it helps you to brush up on what you've learned previously."*

"It also helps that we're working in a relatively small group; each person can get a lot of personal attention from the tutor and it also means that we work together as a tight family."

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