

# Jarrold cuts it as an Apprentice

Jarrold, aged 19 from Ball Green in Stoke-on-Trent didn't enjoy school and left with few qualifications and no real idea of what he wanted to do as a career.

Before leaving school his Connexions Personal Adviser told him about a project that might be able to help him. Jarrold agreed and signed up to APEX, a partnership initiative led by Connexions Staffordshire, working to improve the life chances of young people in Stoke-on-Trent.

Jarrold worked hard on the programme, achieving the ASDAN Foundation for Work Award. He also took part in a supported extended work experience programme at Rogers Barbers, in Sneyd Green.

Although he had never thought about becoming a barber, he enjoyed his placement that much he decided that it could be a suitable career for him. Jarrold's willingness to learn and work hard and his personable nature also impressed Shop Manager Richard Allen so much that after a couple of months trial, he offered him an Apprenticeship.

Richard said: "Jarrold has always been a hard worker and from the early days had shown a real interest and flare for barbering. He gets on very well with both staff and customers and very soon became part of the furniture. We only take on one apprentice every two years, so he's done well.

"Jarrold now works un-supervised and can cut most styles. Many of our customers now ask for Jarrold when they come into the shop."

Jarrold is due to complete his Apprenticeship in August this year, which will make him a fully qualified barber.



Jarrold said: "Getting the chance to do an Apprenticeship was one of the best things that has ever happened to me. I love my work and love being a barber. I have money in my pocket and have a trade. I'd also like to open my own Barbers Shop when I'm a bit older.

"I didn't enjoy school that much, and didn't do very well in my GCSEs. I guess, if I hadn't have done the Apprenticeship, I'd probably just be hanging around the streets or in a dead end job.

"Apprenticeships are a great way of learning a trade by actually doing the job on a day to day basis. I spend four days a week in the shop and one day in college to learn the theory which is a nice balance."

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