

15 June 2011

Press Release

## **CAMBRIDGE REGIONAL COLLEGE TAKES NUMBER OF APPRENTICES TO RECORD 1,500**

**A young motor mechanic has become Cambridge Regional College's 1,500<sup>th</sup> apprentice, taking the number of apprentices enrolled with the College to a record high.**

Lewis Fox-Teece, employed by Cambridge Vehicle Services, is described by his boss as 'one in a million' after starting work at the garage as an apprentice mechanic.

His appointment marks a landmark figure for the College, which has more than doubled its number of apprentices in the past year. To celebrate the occasion, CRC principal Anne Constantine visited Lewis at work yesterday to present a certificate and bottle of champagne to the 19 year-old apprentice and his boss Adrian Bursall.



Anne Constantine with the College's 1,500<sup>th</sup> apprentice Lewis Fox-Teece (right) and his employer Adrian Bursall of Cambridge Vehicle Services

Steve Caley, CRC's Director of Employment and Skills, said: "This is a landmark figure which we're delighted to have achieved in partnership with Cambridge Vehicle Services – a business that has a long history of employing apprentices.

"We are working hard with employers to increase the number of apprenticeships available in this region and have seen a very positive response, with more companies keen to employ apprentices and more young people wanting to take this route to employment.

"During the past year, our apprenticeship numbers have more than doubled from 700 to 1500, with learners employed in a very wide range of areas, from business and IT to childcare and engineering. Much of this increase has come from older employees aged 25 and over, in addition to the large number of school leavers entering the world of work for the first time.

"The Government has committed itself to increasing the number of apprentices nationally and we support that aim. Hands-on, practical learning with real work experience is a big advantage in today's economy. Apprenticeships are now open to people of all ages, and have become a very valuable training tool for business. They are popular because they provide the valuable skills employers need, and are becoming a real alternative to graduate-entry schemes."

Lewis, who lives in Cherry Hinton, studied car mechanics at CRC before enrolling on the apprenticeship. "I'm a hands-on person and I like learning on the job," he said. We work on a lot of different cars at the garage and I'm already learning so much here."

Cambridge Vehicle Services owner Adrian Bursall said he had taken on a number of apprentices over the last 10 years.

"The really big plus of apprentices is that I can train them to the shape I want them to be. I want to build a team that I can have around me for years to come, and Lewis is definitely a team player. I am happy to invest time and effort in him because one day we will have a very good mechanic. He is one in a million, which makes it very special that he is CRC's 1,500<sup>th</sup> apprentice," he said.

**ends**

## **MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

For more information, please contact Lynn O'Shea, Communications & PR Manager, on 01223 418773 or email [loshea@camre.ac.uk](mailto:loshea@camre.ac.uk)

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Cambridge Regional College is one of the largest providers of full-time further education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the eastern region, with more than 4,000 full-time and 6,000 part-time students. Students come in from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk. Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes.

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