



The 'Beauty' of an apprenticeship grant

There has never been a better time to take on an apprentice and grants can make a real difference to local employers. The Ashfield and Mansfield Apprenticeship Grant for Employers is helping local businesses taking on apprenticeships.

Alexsa Beauty & Holistic Studio, Mansfield

Owner: Jenny Dunville

Apprentice: Kimberley Perry

Website: www.alexsa.co.uk

Alexsa Beauty and Holistic Studio, based in Mansfield, has been established for 16 years and is dedicated to providing beauty treatments in a very relaxing environment. Alexsa is proud of its strong team of highly qualified beauty therapists.

The company has taken on apprentices previously and Jenny Dunville, the owner, said we have been lucky to have such great apprentices which have then become permanent employees. Jenny says 'apprentices all start at the bottom and learn and progress their way up. This helps them to learn everything from basic skills to treatments and they soon become an important part of the team and we do rely on them.'



Kimberley Perry

Jenny heard about the grant scheme through the Training Provider, Vision West Notts College, and was successfully awarded a grant of £1,500 through the Ashfield & Mansfield scheme. She says that 'having the grant has made a huge difference as it has enabled us to provide Kimberley with other training courses which are not covered by her college course. So this funding has had a direct impact on the apprentice by increasing her skills and abilities beyond her initial training and we could not have done this without the funding.'





Jenny says 'Kimberley has great work ethics, is flexible, hardworking and trustworthy. She is great with people and does everything with a smile. We sometimes forget how young she is!'

The apprentice, Kimberley Perry, started at the studio as a Saturday girl before leaving school. She then went on to become an apprentice and is currently undertaking a Level 3 in Beauty. She attends college 1 day per week and works at the studio for 4 days per week. Having initially fought to get on the apprenticeship she started in December 2014 and she says 'I'm really pleased I did it and feel that this was the better route for me. I'd not thought about doing an apprenticeship at first so enrolled on a full time beauty course but then changed to undertake this apprenticeship. I feel that I have



Kimberley Perry & Jenny Dunville
Alexsa Beauty & Holistic Studio

learnt more by doing the apprenticeship than I would have done by doing the course. My confidence has improved, my communications skills have improved. I know much more because I started at the bottom so my experience is broader. I've also done additional courses through the employer so have learnt new skills that I wouldn't have done through my course. Every day I am really busy and I have built up my own regular clients. I would recommend doing an apprenticeship.'

Kimberley has even been put forward for the World Skills Event for her Massage and we wish her every success!

Ashfield & Mansfield District Councils, through their Regeneration Service offer grants, to any eligible employers, of between £1,000 and £1,500. If you would like more information on this grant please contact us on 01623 463165 or email: apprenticeships@mansfield.gov.uk

