

Case Study

WORK EXPERIENCE – ALLEN'S GARAGE

“Once here students soon realize that life is more than pen and paper and of course we treat them as adults (most of the time!). I then have two weeks to try and persuade them to take an active interest in their education. I didn't realise at first but I love the fact that it has given me the chance to give something back and that, to be honest, has made me a bit passionate about the whole subject.”

Liz Healy, Allen's Garage

Every year the Basingstoke Consortium provides more than 1,700 work experience opportunities to secondary schools students. This is only possible because of the dedication and support of a wide range of local businesses.

SUPPORTING WORK EXPERIENCE – ALLEN'S GARAGE

Allen's Garage is a family-run business based in Tadley. Owned by husband and wife team Mr and Mrs Healy, it provides mechanical service and repairs to vehicles. Over the past five years the Healys have taken over 20 work experience students. As well as offering placements on the traditional two-week work experience programme, the garage offers extended placements to more vocationally focused individuals. These are typically offered to Year 11 students, for one day a week over a term or longer.

Allen's Garage offers a very comprehensive work experience opportunity which includes:

- ❖ Shadowing a qualified automobile technician by assisting with MOT tests, servicing and repairs
- ❖ Working with the sales team
- ❖ Valuable 'mentor' support, encouraging the student to take an interest in their learning.

In recognition of their contribution to local work experience, Allen's Garage was voted joint winner of the local 2008 Students' Choice Employer Work Experience Award. The nomination came from a recent work placement student, who said: *“Allen's Garage treated me like an adult. They made sure I understood everything and that I was working in a safe environment. They advised me on what courses to do. They made me feel like a mechanic.”*