

APPRENTICESHIP CASE STUDY



**Mario
Krupa**

Motor Vehicle Mechanic

Mario was a looked after child and still at school when he contacted Learning & Skills to enquire about any vacancies on the Level 2 Diploma in Light Vehicle Maintenance. Mario had gained very good GCSE grades and initially expressed an interest in attending a local sixth form college to work towards A Levels in Geography, Science and Customer Services, but felt he would be better suited to practical based training. Although Mario had no previous motor vehicle repair experience, he had always expressed an interest in vehicles when younger and wished to explore this route. He impressed at the interview stage with his enthusiasm to join this trade and was offered a chance to join the Level 2 Motor Vehicle pre-Apprenticeship programme. He felt this was the best option to gain knowledge, skills and work experience in this area with a view to progressing onto the Level 3 Motor Vehicle Apprenticeship course.

He started with Learning & Skills working towards the Light Vehicle Maintenance and Repair L2 Diploma pre-Apprenticeship programme. This was a difficult period due to COVID lockdowns and restrictions in place, resulting in the transition from face-to-face training delivery to blended learning. Work experience is an essential element of this course, with Learning & Skills often having to secure placements on behalf of learners but Mario secured his own. He started his work experience at Stablers Garage, 3 days per week, after being put in contact with them through his foster carers, who had previously used the garage for their own vehicle repairs.

During the course the garage was visited on a regular basis to receive feedback on how he was progressing, with feedback given from both his supervisor and Motor Vehicle Tutor. Some minor issues were discussed on each occasion, but Mario took the feedback on board to further develop his practical and employability skills. The work experience continued throughout the pandemic with Mario completing the pre-Apprenticeship programme and securing full time employment as a Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician (Light vehicle) Apprentice with Learning & Skills, where he continues to study and progress well.

In November 2021 Mario's achievements were recognised when he was shortlisted as a finalist in the DBC Stronger Community Awards. Mario was nominated in the Vocational Excellence category and was the eventual winner, which was a great achievement and much deserved.

Mario stated: *"Joining the Motor Vehicle pre-Apprenticeship course has helped me develop my confidence, motor vehicle knowledge and skills, while the work experience confirmed this is the career path for me. I am looking forward to successfully completing my Apprenticeship and becoming a MOT tester in the future."*



TEES VALLEY MAYOR

