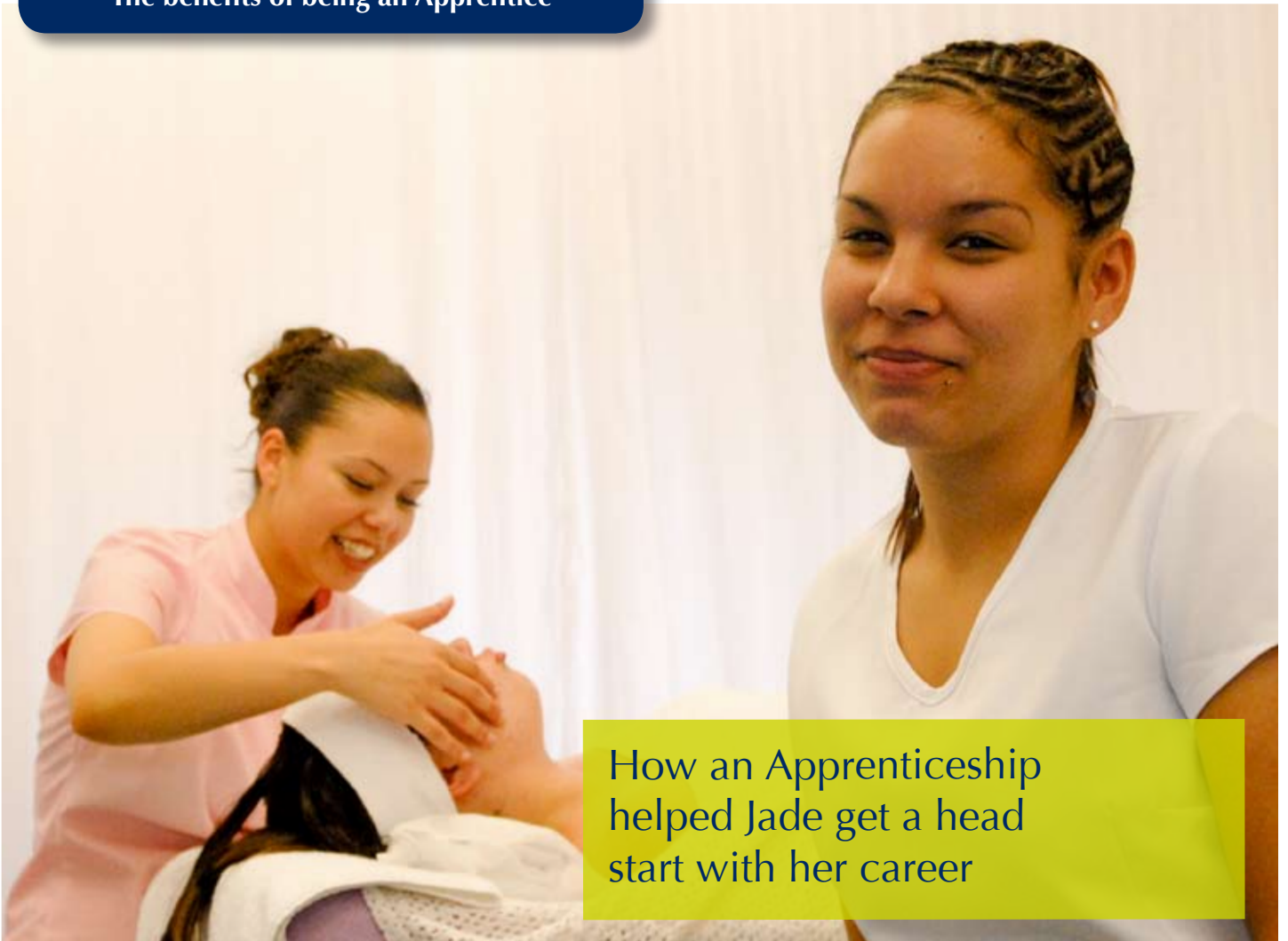


The benefits of being an Apprentice



How an Apprenticeship helped Jade get a head start with her career

“I’d always wanted to follow a career in the beauty industry. Thanks to Connexions I was put in touch with my training provide, R W Rechere. Since then I haven’t looked back.” Jade Smith

Jade Smith is 18. She left school with GCSEs in Art, Leisure & Tourism and Beauty Therapy. She went to Connexions and they organised an interview with R W Rechere, a South London based training company that offers courses to young people who require additional support and guidance to overcome barriers to learning and help them achieve qualifications and employment. “It was just what I wanted,” says Jade. “R W Rechere offered the training I wanted in beauty with the opportunity to practice on paying customers when we have done some basic training.”

Learning the basics

Jade was enrolled on the Entry to Employment course, a 22-week training programme where she learned to carry out techniques such as manicures, pedicures and related complimentary treatments as well as learning essential health and safety and codes of conduct.

She completed the course with flying colours and decided to carry on with her training, if her training provider could be persuaded to offer her an Apprenticeship.

“I enjoyed the work, and especially the practical sessions, so I was thrilled to be offered the opportunity to progress onto a full Apprenticeship with the company,” she adds.

Really enjoying the work

“Learning here is completely different from college – or even school. For one thing I really enjoy the work, and learning something you enjoy is so much easier. Now I can see the point of the work I’m being asked to do and I take time to do it properly.”

Jade started her Apprenticeship last July and things are going really well for her.

“I’m ahead of everyone else on the course and I’ve completed all my assignments,” she explains. “I’ve just got the practicals to complete before I’ve completed my NVQ Level II Apprenticeship.”

“I hope that salons will see that I’m committed and determined”

Taking part

Jade makes sure that she takes part in everything that R W Rechere offer. “I work in the Salon as much as I can to get the work experience which will give me a kick-start when I qualify,” she said.

As she’s coming to the end of her course, Jade is now on the hunt for a permanent position in a local salon or perhaps even progressing to an NVQ Level 3 if it’s possible.

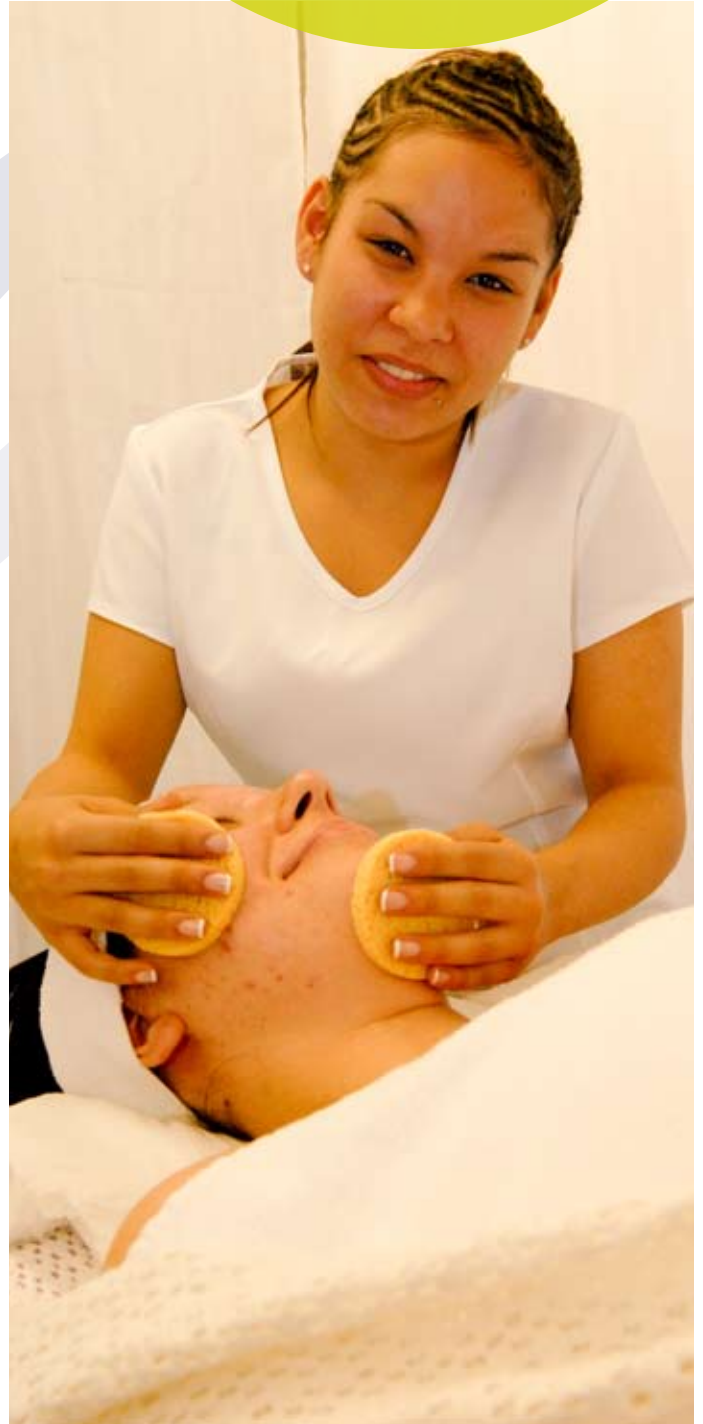
“I hope that salons will see that I’m committed and determined,” she says. “All the work experience I’m doing at R W Rechere will help to prove that. The more I put in, the more I’ll get out – so if I do decide to move onto a Level 3, if I’m eligible to do so, then that will give me even more of a head start.”

Cruise ships

She would also like to work on Cruise ships, so the more qualifications she can get, the better.

For Jade, at the moment, learning is her life. “I don’t go out much, I enjoy staying in and practising my new skills on my friends and family,” she admits.

Danielle Kisson, Jade’s tutor at R W Rechere. She said: “Jade is a shining example to other young people at R W Rechere of what can be achieved through hard work. We’re really proud of her.”



If you would like further information about Apprenticeships in South London call the Apprenticeship Hotline on 0800 169 4824 or visit www.apprenticeships.org.uk

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