

Smart Decision

When an Information Technology apprentice was needed, Sharpsmart approached the East Midlands Chamber to find the right candidate.



Sharpsmart, based in Castle Donington, is part of a global organisation operating in the US, Canada, South Africa, Australia and the UK. Working in the healthcare environment the firm primarily provides reusable, safety engineered, sharps containers. It also provides waste optimisation services, infection control and bespoke training and education services for healthcare staff.

With a background in commercial and educational roles, Blended Learning Business Manager for Sharpsmart, Simon Waldram knew from experience that to bring a young person into the business could be very advantageous.

"I've been able to tailor the apprenticeship precisely to the needs of the business and adapt it to make the most of Bradley's emerging skillset"

Reaping the Benefit

So, when the need arose for a junior in the multimedia and education department, he contacted the Chamber apprenticeship team and started the search for the right apprentice.

Simon explains,

"We were able to offer quite a unique position at Sharpsmart, with a programme specifically mapped against the role rather than separate from it. After a thorough recruitment process, we recruited Bradley Leivers in November 2014 on an IT Level 3 Apprenticeship and we're already reaping the benefits of the programme."

Bradley has become a big part of the multimedia and education team with daily tasks including graphic design and working on e-learning courses. He is also involved in learner management; ensuring learners are working at the right pace and reporting on their usage and results.

Fast Facts

Employer: Sharpsmart

Business Sector: Healthcare

No. of Employees: 45

No. of Apprentices: One

**Framework:
IT Application Specialist**

www.sharpsmart.co.uk

A Fresh Approach

Simon continues,

"Having an apprentice brings in original ideas and new skills. Bradley's passion for technology and interactive tech outside of work has brought a fresh approach to our social media even though it's not the focus of his qualifications."

A Flexible Framework

“The flexibility of the framework is a real benefit to us. Although the qualification has been heavily mapped to the role, I’ve been able to tailor the apprenticeship precisely to the needs of the business and adapt it to make the most of Bradley’s emerging skill set.”

In fact Bradley is doing so well and has added so much to the team at SharpSmart that he is being offered a full time position even before finishing his full apprenticeship.

“We can see the value that Bradley brings with his fresh approach and the quality of his work. We want to keep that value in the business. The apprenticeship has allowed us to bring someone in at a level which allows us to shape and develop them as the business needs change.

The real benefits go both ways. We get the right fit for the business from a very early stage with someone who is prepared to learn and the apprentice gets their qualification and work experience.”

Added Value

“What’s been great value to our business is how well Bradley has integrated into the team and into the culture and that’s due in part to his learning being work based and on site rather than a day release at a local college. It works so much better for us both; he’s not seen as a junior but another full time employee”

Working with the Chamber and the apprenticeship team has been a positive and seamless experience for SharpSmart to the extent that they are now looking for two more to join the team in Digital Marketing and Social Media and Customer Service.



Key Chamber Services

- ✓ Business Forums
- ✓ ebusinessclub.biz
- ✓ Events and Conferences
- ✓ Information
- ✓ International Trade
- ✓ International Student Placement

Shaping Your Workforce

Our Business Development Advisers understand that businesses sometimes require tailored solutions to improve skills and meet industry standards. By working in partnership with you - our experts will evaluate your training needs and make cost-effective recommendations that can be seamlessly implemented.

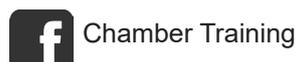
We are committed to delivering high quality Apprenticeships and training across a broad spectrum of industry sectors. The Chamber was awarded “Good” by Ofsted in 2014 in recognition of our high performance and as an endorsement of our reputation of ensuring we meet the business needs of our employers in the East Midlands.

Our range of Workforce development services includes:

- ✓ Apprenticeships
- ✓ Business Training Solutions
- ✓ Traineeships
- ✓ Bespoke Training
- ✓ Access to Funding
- ✓ Recruitment Services

Want to find out more about how we can help you?
Contact our specialist Advisers:

0333 320 0333
skills@emc-dnl.co.uk
www.emc-dnl.co.uk/training



Skills Funding
Agency



European Union
European Social Fund
Investing in jobs and skills