

Specialist Employment Team Newsletter Spring 2025

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Specialist Employment Team's (SET) Newsletter. SET offer support to Sandwell residents with a health condition or disability, who are looking for employment and offer a service of no cost to employers.

Whether you are a job seeker, a referral organisation or an employer, we hope you will find the 'good news' stories to be of interest and inspiring.

#EmploymentForAll

Job Start – Job Start – Job Start – Job Start



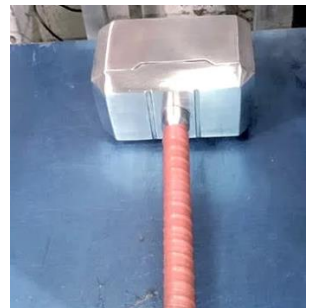
Congratulations to **Sam** who recently started work with **Kiss My Axe Ltd.** Sam's journey with KMA started with a site visit and then a work placement followed, where he impressed with his pleasant nature, reliability and enthusiasm to learn and was ultimately offered a paid role.

As a neurodiverse young person, this pathway into employment has worked well, allowing Sam to demonstrate his abilities, get a feel for the environment and role as well as removing the stress of standard recruitment processes.

Sam is hoping to commence an Engineering Apprenticeship in September which is a testament to how much his confidence has developed.

Matt and Claire from KMA have been amazing employers to partner with. They've factored in what works best for Sam, balancing this with their business needs. Over the page they explain more about their unique business and why Sam was a good fit for their team.

Job Start continued...



Having ideas, seeing things others miss and focusing until the job is perfect

“We are a unique business that does restoration of vintage vehicles, artisan metal work and industrial scale manufacturing so we would never find someone with all the skills we might need straight away. Every week is a bit different and we have to learn new jobs quickly and be innovative about how to recreate parts that no longer exist or try several ways before we get it right. Having idea's, seeing things others miss and focusing until the job is perfect are all valuable skills in our type of work.”

Young people deserve our patience and support

“We are parents to neuro-diverse children and understand that young people deserve our patience and support in order to thrive. We know that creating positive mental health and wellbeing is essential for our team.”

Attention to detail, concentration and a can-do attitude

“Sam has shown great attention to detail, concentration on repetitive jobs and a can-do attitude to work. We are really happy to welcome Sam to our artistic autistic team and hope he feels like he has a home with us.”

Matt & Claire Williams, www.kissmyaxe.org.uk

Site Visits – Site Visits – Site Visits



LSE jobseekers **Tom**, **Gemma** and **Sayful** really enjoyed the site visit at **Hilltop Lodge**. Thank you to **Abdul** and his team for making us feel so welcome.

Site visits are an excellent way for job seekers to see and experience real work settings, observe the different job roles taking place, raise confidence and aspiration and inform future career choices.

We have been lucky to partner with some amazing Employers who have taken time to offer valuable site visits and would like to express out gratitude to the following:

- Hilltop Lodge Care Home
- National Express
- Kiss My Axe Ltd
- Waterside Care Home
- Vinci Building



Thank you to **National Express** West Bromwich Garage, especially **Waqar** (right) pictured with LSE jobseeker **Chris**, for an informative site visit.

We really value the ongoing partnership between **Vinci Building and Sandwell Council**. Vinci have facilitated site visits, work placements and paid opportunities for our job seekers.

LSE jobseeker **Bailey** attended a site visit at the Edward Street Hospital rebuild and following this was motivated to get a CSCS card. He signed up to a training programme with **Topps Training** where he achieved his Level 1 Health and Safety in Construction and ultimately his CSCS card.

Having already employed one of our job seekers through O'Neil and Brennan, Phil (site manager) was more than happy to accommodate another work placement so Bailey could gain valuable experience and knowledge of working on a site.

We are currently in conversation with several employers regards to paid work for Bailey within construction and are confident this will be achieved soon.



Work Experience - Work Experience - Work Experience



Thanks once again to **Premium Powder Coating**, who have partnered with us to offer a valuable work experience to LSE jobseeker **Jehoni**.

“Jehoni has gained so much from his work experience placement, from developing a set routine, getting to work via the public transport system through to taking on instruction from his supervisor and carrying out the tasks.

Jehoni excelled in disposing of plastic packaging materials and disposing of them in the bailing machine.

Since this work placement Jehoni has become more confident in his communication and his punctuality and attendance to meetings with myself has improved.”

Kiran Rajania, Employment Broker & Job Coach

Work Experience - Work Experience - Work Experience



Tom has been enjoying work experience with **CMT Engineering**, where he has been learning how to operate bending machines.

In Supported Employment, exposure to real work settings is the most effective way for a job seeker to find out about different sectors, environments and tasks, safely and with support – place and train.

“During his placement Tom has demonstrated the ability to follow instructions, operate the machine safely and maintain focus and concentration throughout.

Tom has limited verbal communication but through his enthusiasm and hard work it was obvious that Tom really enjoyed this experience.

With this knowledge, the next step is for us to use this experience as a stepping board into suitable employment for Tom.”

Sam Crabtree, Employment Broker

James has made a real success of his work experience with the **Meals on Wheels** team at Stoney Lane. Having recently left college with a Level 3 in Cooking, James is keen to gain more experience in real work environments to assist him in finding employment.

“James has embraced his placement with interest, enthusiasm, and commitment. He has worked well as a team, picked up tasks with ease and used his initiative to get jobs done.

Our cook who has worked in the kitchen for many years, has said James slices the meat better than she can!

James has got on with everyone and the kitchen staff have said he is a pleasure to work with.”

Lisa Oerton, Assistant Disability Day Opportunities Manager



James with cook Elaine Lawley

Job Start – Job Start – Job Start – Job Start



Sophie and Kloe at Tracey's Juice Bar

Massive congratulations to **Sophie** who has started employment with **Tracey's Juice Bar**. Following a successful period of volunteer work with sister company Community Red Social Supermarket, founder Kloe Avon was so impressed she offered Sophie paid hours at the juice bar.

Of Sophie, Kloe was full of praise, *"She is a very hard worker and she has grown so much in confidence since starting at Community Red. I can remember in the early days when she was quite nervous and very apologetic, worried if people will like her or not but now she is very confident, and I have every faith she will do well. She really deserves the opportunity of paid work - it is rare to find people who work hard and go that extra mile."*

Sophie is over the moon with how things have worked out, saying *"I feel great! I'm feeling fantastic, that I have gained paid employment. I feel confident within myself and comfortable within the work environment I am working in."*

On her confidence Sophie added *"I feel my placement opportunity helped me develop my communication skills, when serving customers and speaking with colleagues."*

Thank you to Lisa Ellis and the team at **Serco's Restart** office for continued support of work experience for our jobseekers.

Jagjit, enjoyed his three-week work placement immensely, giving him an insight into office-based tasks, customers service and working within a fast paced, busy environment.

"Jagjit was really focused and worked well with our teams, he researched, supported our teams and participants on the Restart scheme.

Jagjit was a pleasure to work with and he thoroughly enjoyed his time with us."

Lisa Ellis Partnership Co-ordinator, Serco

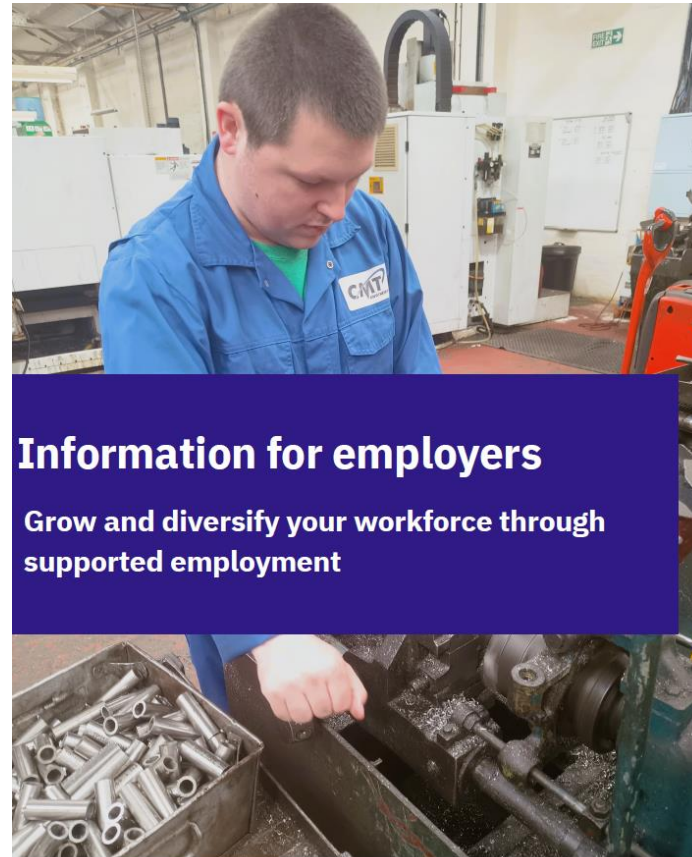


Employers, we would love to hear from you!

To leave your contact details and feedback please click on [link](#) or scan QR code. Alternatively contact us by phone or email.



For more information about the service, including videos and case studies, please click on this [link](#)



Get in touch

Sandwell Council's
Specialist Employment Team

Email: Enquiries_Recruitment@sandwell.gov.uk

Go to: www.sandwell.gov.uk/SETeam

f Search "Sandwell Jobs"
on Facebook and send us a message

Call: 0121 569 5981 or 569 5563

We're based at:
Hateley Heath Family Education Training Centre
Huntingdon Road
West Bromwich
B71 2RP

This service supports unemployed Sandwell residents aged 16 and over who have a disability or mental health condition and want support to find paid employment.