

Employer Case Study

Advanced Retail Solutions

We caught up with Michael, Creative Director at Advanced Retail Solutions to find out how apprenticeships have benefitted his business.



ADVANCED RETAIL SOLUTIONS
L I M I T E D

What was your opinion of apprenticeships prior to working with Virtual College?

Prior to Virtual College we've had experience of Apprenticeships with a traditional FE College with mixed results. In some cases contact from both the provider and tutor was minimal to none, with extremely limited specialist subject knowledge. This meant all of the developmental process was left to us, the employer, with little guidance with regard to satisfying unit criteria.

How have apprentices impacted your business?

Due to the high calibre of Apprentices we've brought into the business, at times it's easy to forget that they are still apprentices. They provide us with a different, unique and fresh view point on our commercial operations and customer engagement, in addition to marketing across a variety of target markets.

Our apprentices have been eager to learn and develop, with a hunger for knowledge and a willingness to succeed, which are valuable assets for continued progression.

Why did you choose Virtual College as your preferred training provider?

Virtual College's reputation and success history was a huge part in the initial engagement, but the main reason was the clear and overwhelming knowledge of both the apprenticeship framework and the specialist area.

The online learning platform was impressive and the tutor knowledge, program of study and delivery model was perfect and intelligently developed in line with our specialist area, with digital classroom delivery and use of technology.

The other impressive benefits above and beyond our previous experience was the contact time and 1to1 support for both the apprentices and ourselves. Additional vendor qualifications were also an additional plus and a huge attractive benefit to all.

How has your experience with Virtual College been so far? Would you recommend us?

For us it's important to align with companies and individuals who are open, honest and deliver on their promises, which Virtual College have certainly done. Communication has been crystal clear throughout and contact is always there with updates constantly interspersed along the way.

Tutoring of the apprentices is second to none and we feel as though we are very much working together to support their development, with responses and learning tailored to each individual's needs. Our apprentices are very happy and it's given them huge confidence working with Virtual College. We'd recommend Virtual College to anyone without question, and have done on numerous occasions already.

Would you recommend taking on an apprentice to other employers? Why?

We'd definitely recommend other like-minded employers to take on an apprentice. It's important that businesses support their communities and provide an essential opportunity to facilitate young people into the world of work.

Taking on an apprentice is not a risk if they are correctly supported by both the employer and the training provider with equal measure, it's immensely rewarding and beneficial to the development of your business. If you're as passionate about developing young people as we are, then go for it.

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To find out how apprenticeships can benefit your business, get in touch:

01325 328827 | apprentices@virtual-college.co.uk

virtual-college.co.uk