

* PRESS RELEASE

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building better people

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Chris puts school in picture

Teenager Chris Wood netted a camcorder package for his school after taking part in a Walsall careers event which focused on apprenticeships.

The 16-year-old, who plans to take up a plumbing apprenticeship after leaving school, was presented with his prize by Jo Robb from BCTG (Black Country Training Group).

Chris, who is in Year 11 at Willenhall Sports Community College, in Furzebank Way, went along to The Real Apprentice Showcase at Banks' Stadium.

He was one of more than a thousand of young people from across Wolverhampton, Walsall, Dudley and Sandwell to visit The Real Apprentice which toured each borough during March.

The Real Apprentice showcase gave students in Years 10, 11, 12, their parents and guardians, the chance to look into the range of post 16 apprenticeships on offer and meet lots of training providers.

Organisers BCTG, based in Taylors Lane, Oldbury, and the Black Country Learning and Skills Council, ran a prize draw for the camcorder.

Chris, who lives in Wednesbury, said: *"I went along to The Real Apprentice which was good and I'm pleased to have won a camcorder for the school. When I leave I am hoping to take up an apprenticeship in Plumbing."*

Jo Robb, from BCTG, added: *"We were very pleased with the success of the The Real Apprentice showcase. We want to get the message out to school leavers that apprenticeships offer real jobs, real training and real opportunities."*

Currently there are more than 5,000 apprenticeships funded by the Black Country Learning and Skills Council, available to young people in the region.

There are more than 40 different types of apprenticeship, from retail to plumbing, to choose from.

Anyone who wants to find out more about apprenticeships can call free on 08000 321 222 or go to www.therealapprentice.org

Pictured l-r are Louise Betteridge, school work-related co-ordinator, Chris Wood and Jo Robb, BCTG.

ENDS



t: 08000 321 222

Notes to editors:

BCTG (Black Country Training Group Limited) works with a range of training organisations across the West Midlands delivering a range of publicly and privately funded training initiatives.

BCTG works closely with a range of public and private organisations, including the Learning and Skills Council, which support many of our activities.

BCTG has four main aims:

1. Engaging with young people and adults to take up vocational learning
2. Working with employers to help develop the skills their business needs to succeed
3. To improve the quality of education and training delivered in the West Midlands
4. Building partnerships across all the stakeholders interested in improving education and training.

BCTG offers a wide range of information, advice and training services to suit the needs of young people, schools and training providers and employers.

For more information go to www.bctg.org.uk

For media inquiries call Jane Williams on 01902 751565 or 07961 048613

