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Rev up for a career in the motor industry

ROBERT Holt works as a vehicle technician at TSG Motors in Chalvey.

Some years earlier, TSG proprietor Tony Shoard had seen the potential in Robert who was about to leave school.

"My Dad was a lorry driver," says Robert. "I used to help him service the lorries in the school holidays. I'd be going around with a grease gun, helping him out."

The motor industry needs people who are proud of their ability and who want to go on learning and developing throughout their working lives. The skills are detailed and complex and take a long time to develop.

The industry offers skilled careers leading to what can broadly be termed 'master technician' level. These people are the best. They have very detailed knowledge and skills and often undertake the advanced diagnostic procedures on today's sophisticated vehicles.

Vocational training includes not only that which can be acquired through NVQs and college-based courses, but also the very extensive manufacturer-based training which develops the professionalism of large numbers of people in the industry.

There are currently 15 NVQ vocational qualifications available in the motor industry. Usually based on day-release and workplace assessment, the courses cover the full range of standards required to carry out a job competently. The qualifications are

The modern motor industry provides a wide range of training for all types and levels of staff. Richard Hill takes a glimpse at some of the opportunities and meets vehicle technician Robert Holt 25, from Dedworth.

competence based rather than adopting the more traditional exam based approach.

Training covers a variety of areas such as engines, cooling systems, fuel systems and suspension systems. Skills range from removing and replacing vehicle components to routinely servicing vehicles to maintain optimum performance.

Locally, the area is fortunate to be served by a recognised centre of excellence provided by East Berkshire College at their Windsor centre. The college has excellent motor vehicle workshops and equipment and provides training for over 250 local garages.

Courses available here include: BTEC First & National Certificates in Motor Vehicle Engineering and Motor Vehicle Repair & Servicing of Road Vehicles. Subjects are wide ranging and include: maths, science, motor vehicle engineering, technology/drawing, engineering fundamentals and information technology studies.



■ **VEHICLE TECHNICIAN: Robert Holt** 2589/a

The courses are designed to provide opportunities to develop practical skills, knowledge and understanding in relation to the service and repair of motor vehicles.

Robert, who qualified through East Berkshire College, describes his work at

TSG Motors as interesting. "I get to work on lots of different cars, different makes. Everyday's completely different."

Institute of the Motor Industry – www.motor.org.uk

Motor Careers – www.motor-careers.co.uk

Retail Motor Industry Training – www.remit.co.uk

East Berkshire College – www.east-berks.ac.uk Tel: 01753 793000