



Apprentice Makes His Mark September 2006

An apprentice insurance underwriter has been offered permanent job just nine months into a two year training programme.

Craig Curtiss was recruited by BiB Group in Darlington while he was still a student at the town's Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College.

The company has formed a close partnership with the college to raise the profile of the insurance industry among young people and to offer long-term careers for local teenagers.



Craig, 19, from Darlington, has now accepted a full-time position with BiB Underwriters, based in Valley Street.

He joined BiB in September, having opted to go straight into work after A levels rather than going to university.

Craig said: "Before we were told about BiB at college I didn't know we had a successful insurance broker and underwriter in Darlington. By the time my friends leave university I'll already be four years into a career."

He is continuing his training and is working towards professional qualifications with study time and mentoring provided at BiB.

Steve Record, managing director of BiB Underwriters, said: "Craig's excellent progress is evidence not only of his own commitment and keenness to learn but also that our school leaver training scheme is working very well, providing BiB with talented young people and offering them genuine career opportunities.

"Colleagues here are dedicated to bringing on new, young members of the team and everyone involved in Craig's training has played a part in his success."

Steve added: "The insurance sector is rarely offered as a potential career choice because it's not seen as a sexy industry in spite of its complexity and influence on the financial markets and the fact that it requires specialist skills and technical expertise.

"We are a growing local employer with local clients and I'm delighted that we are able to offer career paths for young people locally by having these links with education."