

APPRENTICESHIPS – OPEN TO ALL

Apprenticeships are not just for young people unable to succeed academically, as one student from **Truro School** proves by taking an apprenticeship with Chaucer over the traditional university route to a successful career

Here at the Chartered Insurance Institute (CII), we like to promote success stories. This particular example may not seem unusual on the face of it, but in fact clearly shows an important change of attitude towards apprenticeships.

Truro School student Otto Mead secured a place on Chaucer's Underwriting Apprenticeship programme and will receive full support towards studying for his CII professional qualifications and achieving Chartered status.

It was on a school economics trip to London that Otto first learned about the apprenticeship programmes on offer in the sector, when his class attended an interactive Discover Risk workshop run by the CII.

During this event, students had the opportunity to learn more about the vital function that insurance plays in the economy, and to speak to current apprentices.

The Truro School student says: "During our trip to London, we firstly visited a number of financial institutions. However, it was at the Discover Risk workshop where I found out about the apprenticeship opportunities."

Otto studied economics, geography and design technology A-levels at Truro School and will start his apprenticeship in September.

The school's head of economics, Harriet Thompson, comments: "I am incredibly proud of Otto's achievement and I hope that other Truro School students will be inspired by him to consider higher apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships

and other similar opportunities among their post-18 options."

TRIED AND TESTED

Truro School is not an inner-city comprehensive; it is the largest independent school in Cornwall. The fact that one of its students saw the value of apprenticeships over the tried and tested route of A-levels followed by university – and, importantly, was supported by the staff there – sends the right message to students and parents about this option. It

helps challenge the preconceived idea that apprenticeships are just for those who are unable to succeed academically.

Catriona McCaughey, a talent and development consultant at Chaucer and supporter of the Discover Risk campaign, explains the value of apprenticeships to the business: "The apprenticeship programme offers an extremely valuable way of attracting a diverse pool of talent to Chaucer. It provides a structured route into insurance for school leavers who do not want to go down the university route, while enabling us to build talent at an early stage.

"With a structured talent pipeline, our apprenticeship programme allows for progression opportunities and clear career routes beyond the apprenticeship programme. We therefore look for individuals who are keen to develop, learn and gain the skills needed to succeed within our profession." ●

→ If you want to know more about introducing apprenticeships in your business, or you want to support Discover Risk events in your area to enthuse more young people about apprenticeships and alternatives to university, email discover@cii.co.uk

