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## Extended Work Experience Case Study: Sian

Sian is a year 11 learner attending Sir Jonathan North Community College. She has been attending Terex Coalville on an extended work experience placement every Friday since the beginning of 2011.

Terex Coalville is an engineering company based in Leicestershire that maintain and repair equipment and machinery for the aggregate industry. Sian is based in the office at Terex and undertakes many varied tasks as part of her work experience.

Julie Hackett is Sian's supervisor whilst she is on placement and has been very impressed with how she has been getting on and how much she has improved in the few weeks she has been there. Sian is responsible for the stationary cupboard as one of her tasks and when she starts work on a Friday she will get straight on with this. Julie wanted to make it as close to real life as possible when she is on placement which is why she has given her a responsibility that she can get straight on with when she gets in on a Friday morning as in a real job you "go in and get on with your job". Sian has picked up the work very quickly, she was shy to start with but her confidence has improved greatly. She answers external telephone calls which she was nervous about to begin with but is now "second nature".



Sian has really settled in and has become "one of the team" since attending her work placement. She is very "proactive, she doesn't wait to be given work she will ask for it." Sian has helped with a recent celebration event and got to meet lots of new people which was a really positive experience for her.

Sian wanted to participate in an extended work experience placement at Terex as she wanted to get experience in Business as she is hoping to study Business and Public Services at college after taking her GCSE's in the summer. She feels the placement has really helped her to decide that this is the career she wants to pursue. It has also given her an extra push to work harder to get into college. She was very surprised at the fact that she actually looks forward to going into work on a Friday and she is enjoying the placement especially the "computer work" she has been doing which has involved doing some online research and then typing and presenting it.



Julie said that work experience has been really positive for them as a company. It has been encouraging for staff to see a new face in the office after a period of restructuring; it gives staff a positive message about the company. It has also been a really good development opportunity for Julie to take on the role as Sian's mentor and they would recommend work experience to other employers.