



## Foundation Learning Case Study:

### Billy Coughlin

January 2011



Billy, aged 17, has always been very keen to get a job and work. He left George Green's School with no GCSEs, but went on to gain a City & Guilds in Plumbing at The Hub. In his spare time, Billy enjoyed fixing cars, pedal bikes and motorbikes, and realised he might be more interested in working as a Mechanic.

**'I didn't like school because I couldn't read or write well. I didn't like having to go there and then not learn anything. I didn't want to do any training, I just wanted a job.'**

After speaking with a Careers Advisor who told him about Quest's Foundation Learning programme, Billy knew that in order to work as a Mechanic, he would need to train for it. Billy started the programme in September 2010, and has since achieved Entry Level 3 qualifications in Maths, English and ICT. He has also gained a Level 1 award, certificate and diploma in Motor Mechanics.

As part of his training, Billy is currently on a 1-month placement at KPM garage – which he is really enjoying. He has been learning a lot whilst servicing the new Mercedes cabs, including checking light bulbs, suspension and anything else that comes under warranty.

**'It's brilliant here. Before my placement, I thought I knew a lot – but now I'm here and it's really hands on, I've realised I didn't know everything – but I've picked it all up now.'**

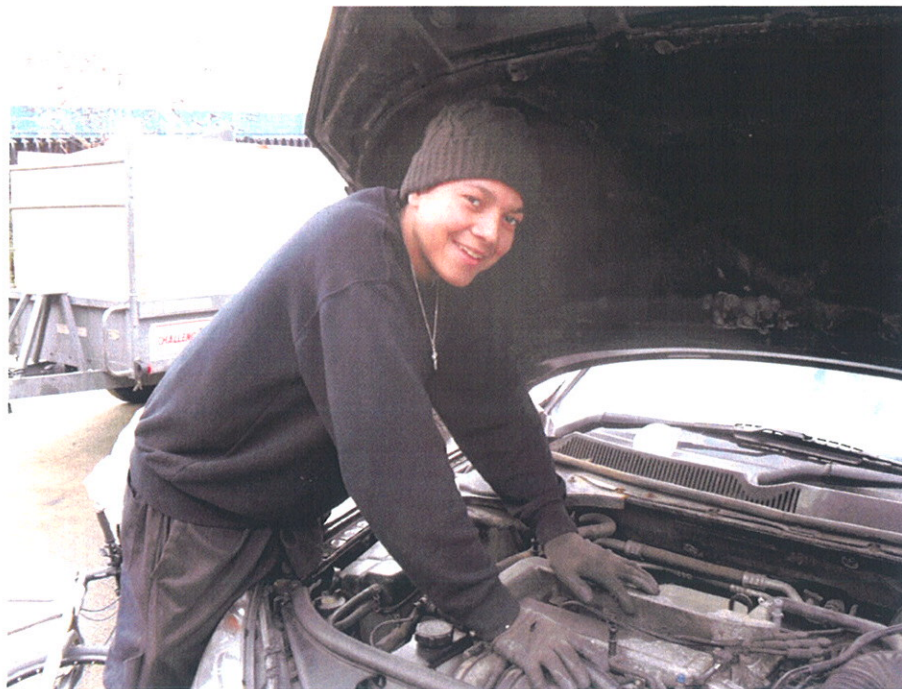
**The mechanics at KPM have taught me what they know – as soon as I got here, they put me straight on a job, and I did it. I've taken out an engine, rewired it and got it started – that was really good.'**

Billy is now hoping to undertake an Apprenticeship in a garage, so that he can work, learn and get paid – which has been his goal from the start.

**'I want to work in a garage, and Quest has definitely helped me to get there. Other young people should go for Quest – they're more modern than other training providers. They should give it a try – it's worth doing.'**

# Foundation Learning Case Study: Alexander Okegbenro

January 2011



Alex is aged 16, and lives in Custom House, Newham. Since summer 2009, he has taken part in several Quest projects based at Beckton Activities Centre, and started Quest's Foundation Learning programme last September.

Alex has had an interest in working with cars since primary school - his older brother owns and runs his own garage. During Year 10 at Royal Docks Community School, Alex took a Motor Mechanics option and successfully gained a City & Guilds Entry Level 3 qualification. It was during this class that he met Dave Marling, a Quest trainer, who encouraged him to find out more about what Quest could offer him. Alex left school with few GCSEs, but knew what direction he wanted to head to.

**'I wanted to be a mechanic so I decided to go to Quest as they take you to the next level – you learn more here as they've got more resources. The training at Quest is better than school as the teaching is different – it's easier to understand. You actually work on cars instead of just reading.'**

With Quest, Alex has gone on to achieve an Entry Level 3 qualification in Maths, English and ICT as well as a Level 1 award, certificate and diploma in Motor Mechanics.

Alongside his training, Alex has completed on a 3-month work experience placement at Motech Vehicle Services in Hainault (where one of his co-workers, now aged 25, also completed his training with Quest). Alex enjoyed his placement and got on well with the management team there.

**'I now trust myself to do more things on my own in the garage – I'm more confident. The things I'm learning during my training with Quest, like servicing cars and MOT testing, I've used at my work placement.'**

Alex is now starting an Apprenticeship with Motech Vehicle Services. After that, he'd like to stay on there for as long as possible, and one day would eventually like to work as a mechanic for Porsche.

**'You've got to be interested in the work. If you enjoy it, you put all your effort into it – that's what I do.'**