

# THE ADVANTAGES OF APPRENTICES



**18 year old Antonia Awogboro is determined to become an accountant – and it will take her just as long as a graduate but without the debt.**

She is doing a three-year apprenticeship with a firm of accountants in Brighouse – and is loving it, it means that she will then be able to take a postgraduate qualification to become a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. People who leave university with an accountancy degree must then take this qualification.

Antonia, of Cowlersley, said: “I always wanted to go into accountancy but didn’t want to go to university and leave with a load of debt for myself and my family.”

Antonia left college with A levels in business, economics and IT and then found out about apprenticeships in accountancy via Connexions in Huddersfield. They gave her information about companies that provide further training and she joined YH Training Services who secured her Apprenticeship Employment with Brighouse accountancy firm Sleigh and Story

Antonia spends one day a week learning at YH Training, and a further 4 days per week in the workplace. Antonia said: “I’ve done a year of my apprenticeship so I’ve two more to do and then I’ll go on to do further qualifications. I’m certain I’ve made the right decision.” Her apprenticeship covers learning the basics of accountancy and tax, computer skills and basic book-keeping. Mr Sleigh said: “We pay our apprentices and also cover the costs of their training. Antonia is now on day-release to study with YH Training one day a week. “We feel that apprentices come with enthusiasm, a willingness to learn and add the vibrancy of youth to a business We like to help young people. There is a lot of youth unemployment. We have a sense of responsibility and try to do our best to help young people.”