

## Apprenticeships Case Study

### Employer - Ken Tallis

Abbey Butchers

### Apprentice:

Oliver Heeks – Level 2 Butchery



#### Brief company history:

Ken Tallis Foods was formed in 1982. It progressed from a wholesale company, selling cheese and cooked meats, into a mixture of wholesale and retail. The retail shop in Pershore employees five people.



#### 1. Why did you decide to employ an apprentice?

We found that the skill of butchery is fading away. People are retiring or moving on, which leaves a void that needs to be filled. Hiring an apprentice fills this void – it enables butchery to regenerate, and it brings new blood, fresh ideas and vibrancy to the business.

#### 2. What benefits has Oliver brought to your business?

Oliver has brought a younger element to the team. When the apprentices have finished their apprenticeship they will become more skilled, more confident and in turn there will be a natural growth in the business. Give it a few years and Oliver will have rewarded my investment.

#### 3. How many apprentices have you taken on?

Three.

For more information, visit: [www.worcsapprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.worcsapprenticeships.org.uk)



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## Apprenticeships Case Study (continued)

### 4. Where do your apprentices fit into your company's future plans?

Ultimately, they're to benefit my retirement. The big plan is to bring the two youngsters to a point where we can actually hand the business over to them.

### 5. What advice would you give to businesses thinking of employing an apprentice?

Focus on the future and encourage young people to take on the skills that are vastly diminishing. You must invest in them because the only way forward to secure your own long-term future is young people and apprenticeships.

### 6. What help did you get when hiring your apprentice?

We got in touch with Dudley College, who were offering a satellite butchery course, and that was the kick-off point, really. They do Oliver's on site examinations. I later received an email from Sue Owens at Wychavon District Council, who said they were running a scheme for apprentices. We responded and received a grant, which has been a great help in funding Oliver's apprenticeship.

