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College and Contractor Builds Bright Future for Apprentices

News - Thursday, 17th March, 2016

One local firm that is proactively using Apprenticeships to develop future talent and prevent the skills gap from biting is Matthews & Leigh Civil Engineering Ltd.

The North West construction and civil engineering contractor turned to ROI Solutions at Preston's College for help in December 2015 after recognising a shortage of skilled talent in the region.

The on-campus team, which provides businesses across Lancashire with a positive 'Return on Investment' through the provision of Apprenticeships, bespoke training, CPD programmes, e-learning and higher education courses, organised an apprentice recruitment event at the firm's headquarters in Coppull, Lancashire.

More than 25 budding candidates were selected to attend the event, which included a company presentation, assessments and interviews.

A total of 11 young people aged 16 to 25 were offered full-time Level 2 Civil Engineering Apprenticeships with Matthews & Leigh, which commenced in January 2016.

The inaugural Apprenticeship programme has proven so successful for the Chorley-headquartered contractor that it has now launched its own specialist education and skills company, entitled Mathews & Leigh Training Ltd.

Karen Cushion, Training Manager at Matthews & Leigh Training Ltd, said: "Preston's College has fantastic links with employers and an ability to deliver niche skills requirements. This, and their flexible approach to delivery, made partnering with ROI Solutions an easy decision."

"We've been delighted with how our first cohort of apprentices have gelled within our workforce – they're enthusiastic and willing to learn new skills.

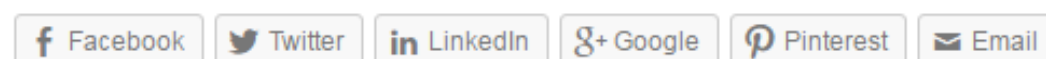
Keith Rea, Training Manager at Matthews & Leigh Training Ltd added: "Skills development is now firmly entrenched into the business following the launch of Matthews & Leigh Training and we look forward to our learners progressing onto a Level 3 Apprenticeship and hopefully recruiting another group of Level 2 apprentices in the near future."

Lisa Edge, General Manager of ROI Solutions at Preston's College, added: "It's great to see apprentices making a big impact on a business in such a short amount of time.

"The civil engineering and construction industry is enjoying a revival following the recession and Matthews & Leigh are one of so many firms across Lancashire that are recognising the benefits that apprentices can bring to developing the next generation of talent and ultimately future proofing your workforce.

"Our number one goal is to help businesses boost their bottom line by ensuring they've the very best in-house skills and access to a wider pool of work-ready individuals."

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