



Andrew Saoulis with Shell Step Local Final Winner Luke Varley

Step Up To A Great Opportunity

Wenta is the co-ordinator for the Shell Step scheme for Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire. Shell Step is a programme that matches university students with employers from small and medium sized businesses, to benefit from a dynamic work experience. Under the programme, organisations identify a unique project to complete. Last year saw businesses across the three counties benefit from the implementation of a new I.T. system, the creation of a new website and the launch of a new product to name but a few.

Wenta helps those companies wishing to take part to structure a project and clarify goals. Undergraduates with the right knowledge and skills are put forward for an interview and the successful applicant is taken on by the host company for eight weeks over the summer. Wenta will assist with selection and mentoring of participants, making the process even more time-efficient.

Out of last years participants, 96% of companies said Shell Step would have a positive impact on their future business performance. Having taking part in the scheme last year, Case Communications Managing

Director Andrew Saoulis said of his student, "We were exceptionally lucky to be assigned Luke Varley, who exceeded our wildest expectations". Luke went on to be awarded the title of 'Most Enterprising Student' in the Herts, Beds and Bucks Local Final.

Other recent host companies report that improvements developed by their Shell Step students will save them as much as £37,500 per year. What's more, it only costs the company around £200 per week for the students' weekly training allowance. This is free from National Insurance and tax contributions, ensuring a hassle free placement as there are no payroll issues. Companies can benefit from fresh, innovative ideas from a graduate calibre student, for a nominal cost.

The students who take part are in their second or penultimate year of study and previous students believe their employability has been greatly increased by the programme. 2007 Local Finalist, Emma Welland says "the Shell Step team at Wenta were very helpful and provided me with all the relevant information. I found the whole experience very useful to my future career".

"Our Shell Step student exceeded our wildest expectations."

*Andrew Saoulis
Case Communications*



Wenta

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