

# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF...

## ...a Signmaker

Alan Merryweather joined Lincoln-based Allen Signs as a Modern Apprentice in 2000. Having gained 11 GCSEs at Grades A to C, Alan wanted to utilise his aptitudes for art and sport. Though he successfully achieved a Diploma in Sports at North Lincolnshire College, Allan was unimpressed with Further Education and looked to gain employment that would utilise his design technology skills.

**A Modern Apprenticeship** as a trainee signmaker was offered by Allen Signs, and he has progressed rapidly in terms of his responsibilities and qualifications.

**His internal training** was linked to NVQ Level 2 – successfully achieved – and covered a range of skills from specifying and weeding out materials, through to sign design, production and installation. Part of his role is preparing the sign specifications, liaising with the customer to gain approval and ensuring the order is met to the highest standards.

**Alan likes his job** because it has a wide range of functions and responsibilities. In the past week, he has handled orders from organisations as diverse as the Local Police Force and commercial vehicle body builders. Travel also features in his day to day activities as signs are installed in different parts of the UK.

**His short-term ambition** is to further widen his skills as he wants to do more on fabrication and installation. He aspires to go into technical management in the future and confirms all his expectations of both the job and his Company have been met to date.

**He is very interested in technical innovation** and is involved in a current project to produce “braille and tactile” signs. He welcomes the investment in new technology by his Company and is always keen to be part of prototype jobs.

**Apart from his technical qualifications**, Alan has both risk assessment and first aid awards and plans to extend his vocational qualifications to NVQ Level 3.

**Away from work**, Alan's other passion is football – he plays both days at weekends and also supports Everton. At 22, he has impressed Allen Signs with his progress, skills acquired and his motivation and his performance has encouraged them to add two more apprentices to their staff.

