

➤ When Alan Sugar's right-hand man (Nick Hewer) attended a business lunch at Stoke City's Britannia Stadium as the keynote speaker, KMF (Precision Sheet Metal) Ltd was more than happy to sponsor the event, as the link to apprentices was too good an opportunity to miss. Managing director Gareth Higgins says: "The apprentice link was just too strong. Our apprentice training scheme is going from strength to strength, and we will soon be looking to recruit our next intake. Therefore, anything we can do to highlight the advantages of apprenticeships to children and parents in Stoke on Trent and Newcastle under Lyme is well worth the investment." KMF has undertaken all apprentice training in-house for the past four years, and it recently opened a 'state of the art' training centre. The company reports that its current crop of students far exceeded expectations in their recent exams.