

**PRESS RELEASE – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

**SKY'S THE LIMIT FOR AIRPORT APPRENTICE**



Gloucestershire Airport's newest recruit, Billy Robins is about to join a rare breed of specialist engineers. The 20-year old from Cirencester is the Airport's new Air Traffic Control engineering apprentice. He's just commenced a 4-year course at Gloucestershire College and, when qualified, will be one of only a few hundred specialist Air Traffic Control engineers in the country. His training will include specialist equipment such as radar, runway lighting and the Airport's new Instrument Landing System as well as day-to-day IT infrastructure and telephones.

Airport head of operations, Darren Lewington said: "Air Traffic Control engineers are highly specialised. In addition to his coursework at Gloucestershire College, Billy will need to meet the training and certification requirements of the Civil Aviation Authority, learn about the equipment and systems in operation here at Staverton and will eventually be issued with a European licence. The skills he will acquire and specialist knowledge required to keep our Air Traffic Control facility fully functional and safe will put him in an elite group. We're currently offering a number of apprenticeship schemes. They're an excellent way for us to shape the operational needs of the company for the future and we're delighted to have Billy on board."

Zoe Hampton, Billy's Training Coordinator at Gloucestershire College said: - "Gloucestershire College is delighted to be working with Gloucestershire Airport. Billy will be studying towards a BTEC qualification in Electrical/Electronic Engineering as part of his programme, alongside an NVQ Level 3 in Engineering Maintenance. The training that Billy will then receive in the workplace at the airport to back up his college learning is unique, and will offer Billy many exciting options for his future career. I look forward to working with the team there and to monitoring Billy's progress throughout his programme."

Billy said: - "I'm delighted to have this opportunity; I can't believe I've landed on my feet!"