

James Sharples loves the Auto Service Tech Apprenticeship program so much that he'd love to live and sleep in the shop at McNair. In fact Brian Barenscoth, the teacher, often has to kick Sharples out of the school at 6pm.

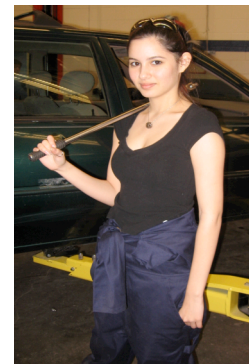


Sharples, who just returned from Australia for an exchange, is happy to be back in Richmond and is having a great time in the program. The Auto Service Tech Apprenticeship program covers the Level 1 Apprenticeship training and is in partnership with Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

Alvin Gounder, a grade 12 student, had taken regular auto classes and saw this program as a good opportunity to help him pursue his career in the auto industry. Gounder's love of cars started with the MatchBox cars he played with as a child.

The program runs all day, every day for the second semester and is hosted at McNair Secondary School. Both Sharples and Gounder enjoy the fact that class acts as a family, helping each other out and supporting each other.

Ashley Hughes has defied the norm by taking a program traditionally filled with male students. Her family and friends however, are all very supportive and think that it is great that she is in the program. Hughes thinks that more girls should enlist in this program so that women can have the option of dealing with a female mechanic if they wish to.



Barenscoth feels that he has an exceptional group this year – one that is very willing to learn and always wanting more shop time.