

Title: **Case Study
Hair & Beauty
in Wiltshire & Swindon**

Mary Kelso is training to become a beauty therapist at Salisbury College – and she’s enjoying every minute of it.

Her course allows her to gain practical experience working with real paying customers. And she loved moving on from school into the more grown-up environment of the college.

“It’s just fun to be learning about something other than maths and science,” she says. “You get treated more like an adult – you are given harder work to do and they really push you to do it. You grow up very quickly when you come here.”

Mary lives near Gillingham in neighbouring Dorset, where she attended Gillingham School. She left after taking her GCSEs and enrolled at Salisbury College.

She is so dedicated to a career in beauty therapy that she travels 25 miles each way to college every day, having recently passed her driving test.

In her first year she took an NVQ Level 2 in Beauty Therapy before moving on to take Level 3.

The facilities at college are designed to operate like a real beauty salon, and students work with members of the public who come in for beauty treatments at reduced rates.

Mary has gained experience of a variety of treatments, including facial massage, hair removal, eye treatments, manicure and pedicure. She also learned about health and safety, customer care and the day-to-day running of a salon.

“It’s extremely good experience,” she says. “You have to get on with everybody, you always have to be polite. This year’s course is much more intense than last year’s. We have to learn everything about the body and how it works.

“But it’s fun as well as being hard work and the lecturers make it really enjoyable – they come up with funny games to help you learn the muscles and layers of the skin.”

When she finishes her training, Mary aims to get a job as a beauty therapist in her area. To improve her chances she is going on a work experience placement with a local salon.

“Beauty therapy is something I’ve wanted to do all my life,” she says. “It’s the only thing I set my heart on doing.”