



# Case Study

## RMB Decorators

“When my business partner Dave Robertson and I were let go from our agency job on a production line making generators earlier this year, we were not sure where to go next,

“Then the agency put us in touch with Jean Thomson at Specialist Training Courses (STC), who told us we could retrain as painters and decorators, gain a City and Guilds qualification and get the course fees paid for. We thought about it for a moment, then asked, “Where do we sign up?”

Barry Briggs, Partner

**Project:** Response to Redundancy

**Business Sector:** Painting and Decorating

**Location:** Harlow, Essex

According to STC Operation Manager, Jean Thomson, candidates can be eligible for funding towards retraining if they are over 18, under formal notice of redundancy, or have been made redundant or unemployed in the last six months.

“Our courses allow successful candidates to gain NVQs at levels 2 and 3, and for some trades a City and Guilds qualification is available” explains Jean.

“When we’ve surveyed a sample of the 4,000 people we have trained in the last six years, we’ve found that 86% are self-employed and running their own business.”

And, as Dave explains, the training doesn’t just teach construction trade skills: “As well as learning professional painting and decorating skills, STC also provides you with the skills you need to run a business. That includes things like sales and marketing, book-keeping and basic accounts, plus CV writing and preparing tenders, estimates, quotes and proposals.”

Jean works with TCHC’s, Gill Clark, to make sure all the paperwork is in place, to confirm that candidates are eligible and to provide maximum support.

“We liaise regularly with STC and our learners, handling all the administration and form filling, so the candidates don’t have to,” says Gill. “We think it’s important to let them to focus on learning.

“Because we pay STC directly there is also no financial pressure on candidates at all, many of whom are having a tough time financially, having just lost their jobs.”

Barry and Dave are delighted with the training. Soon after completing their two week training with STC, they had secured their first job for the firm they set up in partnership – RMB Painting and Decorating.

We’re booked up for the next four months,” says Barry, “and we’re using our new business skills all the time!”

The duo even got a glowing testimonial from BBC Radio 2 presenter Janey Lee Grace after completing a job for her.

“Both STC and TCHC have been fantastic,” concludes Dave, “and we’ve now got a trade, as well as formal qualifications and the skills we need to run a successful business.



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