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The number of years new Timewade managing director Jordan Westcott has worked for the company

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» Bertram Fairbanks' expanding team of trainee solicitors, left to right, Cherry Wong, Joe Crispin, Naomi Moyle, Kirstie Johnson and Georgia O'Brien

School leaver joins commercial law company to stay local

AN Exeter law firm has appointed its first apprentice.

Bertram Fairbanks, a niche commercial law firm, actively recruits people who have a personal or direct connection to Exeter and the region.

Its latest intake sees Cherry Wong, who studied law at the University of Exeter, join as a legal assistant, and Exmouth's Naomi Moyle becomes its first apprentice. They join trainee solicitors Kirstie Johnson, Joe Crispin, and Georgia O'Brien, who joined last year.

Managing partner Neal Bertram said: "We are a growing firm of commercial

lawyers located in the city and committed to a recruitment drive to attract like-minded people to join our friendly team and (are) delighted to welcome Cherry and Naomi.

"What makes us different from other law firms is investing in the local community by engaging new recruits connected to the region. By providing valuable training and career development opportunities, we're committed to recruiting and developing new talent."

Bertram's policy is to support trainee solicitors through the new SQE route of qualification, which was set up by the

Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA). This means each trainee undertakes 10 hours of self-study a week in addition to gaining experience working on-the-job training in the office as well as monthly mentoring sessions.

Naomi, the youngest member of the team at 19, joins from Exmouth Community College.

She said: "It's always been my dream to be a solicitor. I'm initially working with the litigation department and finding the cases and the clients really interesting. In my first week, I sat with Neal Bertram on a mediation case, which

was an amazing experience and fully included by the team, which is giving me a hands-on opportunity to learn on the job."

She added: "The apprenticeships available for school leavers in law are quite new and with such limited availability a lot of people my age are looking for the same things, so hardly any firms do this. Bertram Fairbanks is a forward-thinking company and ahead of the game on recruiting trainees, so to be given this fantastic opportunity is incredible, particularly as it's so close to home and I don't have to relocate."

Former apprentice promoted to city tech firm's new managing director

by ECHO REPORTER

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THE new managing director of city-based technology firm Timewade joined the company in 2008 at the age of 16 from an Exeter school.

Jordan Westcott was promoted this month after working his way around the firm, a technology partner for SMEs in the South West.

He joined from St Lukes School as an apprentice engineer, a role which ignited his passion for technology and client service. Over the years, he has gained experience across various roles, developing an understanding of every part of the business; from working on



» Jordan Westcott is Timewade's new managing director

the service desk to advising clients as a consultant.

He succeeds Julian Wills, who has become chief executive.

Mr Westcott said: "I am excited to step into the role of managing director. Timewade has been my home since the beginning of my career, and I've had the privilege to witness its growth and evolution over the past 15 years.

"I am looking forward to building on our legacy of exceptional client service, innovation and a vibrant company culture."

As operations director since October 2019, Mr Westcott has been instrumental in executing the company's strategic vision, driving the company's development strategy and fostering strong customer relationships. Under his guidance, Timewade has solidified its position as a trusted technology partner

for SMEs, serving as a catalyst for their growth and success.

Based in Exeter, the firm was established in 1984 as Cash Register Services, originally selling and refurbishing cash registers before broadening its offering to technology support and IT solutions.

Mr Wills has been a guiding force in Jordan's journey.

He said: "Watching Jordan's growth within Timewade has been immensely rewarding. From his beginnings as an apprentice to his pivotal role as operations director, he has consistently demonstrated his unwavering commitment to our company's values and goals. I am confident his passion and dedication will lead Timewade to new heights."