



**“YOU GET A SENSE OF BUSINESS IN AAT. THE WAY IT’S SET UP IS FOR PEOPLE IN BUSINESS - IT WIDENS YOUR HORIZONS.”**

### Putting in the work

Similarly to Sophie, Becky Glover FMAAT completed her qualification after deciding that sixth form and university wasn't for her. Becky's father had studied with AAT and recommended it to her, so she started her AAT qualification by distance learning while working at her first job in the accounts department of a solicitors' office.

“I was getting some finance experience but it wasn't technical,” she says. “Then I moved into practice because I felt that to get good finance and accounting knowledge, that would be better. I moved to a small firm where a lot of the work was for clients who were sole traders.”

Becky says she found distance learning quite tricky, and later began to attend college every few weeks. “I had come out of school where you have someone holding your hand the whole time, then all of a sudden it comes down to you and how much work you are putting in,” she explains. “I needed the structure of going to a classroom every few weeks.”

Becky notes that having other trainees around her as a support system was helpful when she was studying. “Qualifications are hard, and while all your friends are going out, you've got to stay in and revise,” she says. “The course was massively eye-opening because I hadn't studied anything at school that fed into it. Debits and credit were completely alien, and now it's second nature. I think if you can go through AAT it says something about your character – it shows people that you are committed to yourself and your own learning and that you could also put that commitment into being an employee.”

### BECKY'S ADVICE

- “If there is something that you really want to do, it's going to be scary. That's just natural, but you have to push through that comfort zone and just go for it.”
- “There's no such thing as an overnight success. You have to plug away at something every single day – and just believe in yourself. Because if you believe in yourself then other people will start believing in you.”

Becky Glover says her AAT qualification gave her the knowledge and confidence to be able to set up her own business, Elizabeth Rose Wines

### Valuable experience

She qualified with AAT, but knew she wasn't going to leave it there – she wanted to get some exposure with larger clients, so she moved into a bigger practice and went on to complete an ACCA qualification. Her next step was moving away from practice and moving into industry.

“I always knew I didn't want to stay in practice for too long,” she explains. “While I really think that the practice experience is valuable, I wanted to get

my teeth into something for a bit longer – whereas in practice you complete one thing and then you're onto the next. It was such a great experience and there are so many positives to training in practice. Until you've left practice you don't even realise that you just do things automatically or you think a certain way about things.”

Becky joined a biotechnology business as its accountant, where she spent more than two years before joining VNC Automotive as finance director. However, she says her passion has always lain more in wider business, not just in technical accountancy. So in 2019, along with her school friend Sara Thake, Becky started her own business – Elizabeth Rose Wines.

“You get a sense of business in AAT. The way it's set up is for people in business – it widens your horizons. If I hadn't done AAT, I wouldn't have had the confidence to say: ‘I actually do know a lot about business, so I'm going to set my own up.’ I think as well as the technical side of things, you get the confidence.”

### Finding the right balance

Elizabeth Rose Wines specialises in selling English and Welsh wines online, showcasing great local products from hundreds of different vineyards around the UK.

“We tried the wines, visited as many vineyards as we could and, if we liked it or could imagine a friend enjoying it, we stocked it,” Becky explains. “We wanted people to see there are local vineyards to everyone. On our site, you can sort by county and we're working on an interactive map.”

Elizabeth Rose Wines has enjoyed success since its launch last year, and Becky currently balances working on the business with her full-time finance director role.

“We don't have huge overhead costs because we don't have a shop or a big warehouse, so at the moment it fits in really nicely with our full-time work because we can bend it to what we need it to be. At the moment, we take days off and visit three or four vineyards in one day.”