



OXFORDSHIRE
APPRENTICESHIP
Awards 2022

THURSDAY 19TH MAY

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PROGRAMME

We're delighted that we're able to come together to celebrate the fantastic achievements of the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards 2022 finalists.

This special event will shine a spotlight on our county's talented apprentices and those who support them on their journey.

Awards Categories

The Engineering Trust Careers Champion Award
Harwell Science and Innovation Campus School/College Engagement Employer Award
Owen Mumford Training Provider Individual Award
Abbott Diabetes Care Intermediate Apprentice of the Year Award
NielsenIQ Advanced Apprentice of the Year Award
Oxfordshire Advanced Skills Higher Apprentice of the Year Award
Blenheim and Pye Homes Special Recognition Award
Assure UK Apprenticeship Employer of the Year Award (<250 employees)
Oxford North Apprenticeship Employer of the Year Award (250+ employees)
Integration Technology Ltd Shining Star Award
The Fiona Wheeler Charitable Foundation Apprentice of the Year Award

Thank you for joining us to celebrate the achievements of the county's star apprentices at the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards 2022. Congratulations to all the finalists!

 @OxonApprentice #OAAwards2022



WELCOME

WELCOME TO THE OXFORDSHIRE APPRENTICESHIP AWARDS 2022

On behalf of the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP), I would like to welcome you all to this year's Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards.

Following-on from last year's successful online event, we are again looking forward to welcoming apprentices, employers, mentors and business leaders from across the county, bringing you all together to celebrate amazing apprenticeship achievements.

The past two years have posed many different challenges to us all and, for apprentices and those businesses running apprenticeship schemes, ensuring that young people are able to gain the full experience of an apprenticeship has obviously been a major challenge.

That said, the past 24 months has shown that we have an extremely resilient and determined workforce here in Oxfordshire.

It is therefore a real credit to the thousands of people in the county who benefit from these schemes – whether it's a business finding new talent for their organisation, or a young person making the most of an outstanding learning opportunity – to have continued to succeed, despite such a challenging economic period and indeed set of everyday situations.

Apprenticeships provide young people with the opportunity to gain new skills and on-the-job experience, whilst earning a fair wage and obtaining an industry-specific qualification. They each offer fantastic training opportunities to talented

individuals and benefit businesses too, with new ideas helping companies to stay ahead of their competitors. They have never been more relevant or, for that matter, needed too.

As the Local Enterprise Partnership for Oxfordshire, we have a key role to play in ensuring young people and their parents are aware of the opportunities available through such schemes, as well as making sure our business community have the confidence and knowledge enabling them to create new openings.

As I mentioned at previous apprenticeship awards, our high-performing economy continues to be globally-competitive, meaning those that consider apprenticeship schemes can access experiences very few can enjoy elsewhere in the UK.

I wish all of tonight's finalists the very best of luck and hope that your achievements will inspire someone to apply for an apprenticeship, or encourage a business to create one.

All that remains is for me to thank you for being part of tonight's event and wish you a fantastic evening – it's wonderful to see you receive the recognition you deserve.



Nigel Tipple
Chief Executive
– OxLEP



ABOUT THE OXFORDSHIRE APPRENTICESHIP AWARDS

The Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards were introduced in 2017 to celebrate the achievements of our county's apprentices and recognise the contribution they make to Oxfordshire's economy and skills landscape. We have been overwhelmed by the quantity and quality of entries each year.

The awards also recognise careers colleagues in schools and colleges, who play a crucial role in inspiring young people to consider and start an apprenticeship and training provider colleagues, who support apprentices throughout their apprenticeship. They also celebrate the

commitment of Oxfordshire's employers to providing high quality careers activities and apprenticeship opportunities.

The awards are business-led and self-funded, with employers sponsoring the categories and other aspects of the celebratory event. Category sponsors judge the entries and present the awards on the night.

If your organisation is interested in becoming a sponsor of the awards, please contact Melanie Ringer at: melanie.ringer@oxfordshirelep.com

THE OXFORDSHIRE APPRENTICESHIP AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards committee organise and run the awards and we'd like to thank them for their hard work and commitment to what is a year-round process. The committee comprises of Sarah Jaycock from High Spec Composites, Tanya Webb and Simon Newton from Darke & Taylor, inaugural Apprentice of the Year Chloe Penniston from The Burnside Partnership, Teya Agnese and Helen Johnson from the University of Oxford and Sally Andreou and Melanie Ringer from OxLEP. The committee members bring a wealth of experience and creative ideas to the process, as well as representing the views of apprentices and both small and large employers.



From left to right: Sarah, Tanya, Simon, Chloe, Teya, Helen, Sally and Melanie.

HEADLINE SPONSOR



MESSAGE FROM THE FIONA WHEELER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

We are supporting the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards as trustees on behalf of the Fiona Wheeler Charitable Foundation, which was established in memory of Fiona Wheeler, co-founder of West Oxfordshire based boutique client law firm, The Burnside Partnership. Fiona sadly died in December 2019 aged only 35 after a long and courageous battle with illness.

Fiona believed passionately in supporting young people in their careers and was instrumental in establishing The Burnside Partnership's apprenticeship programme. The firm won the Small Apprenticeship Employer of the Year at the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards in 2019 and subsequently sponsored the category for the next two years.

Fiona was a huge fan of the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards, having attended the first ever awards evening in 2017. Fiona, along with Anna Burnside, nominated Chloe (their apprentice at the time) for the Advanced Apprentice of the Year Award. Chloe went on to win this and also overall Apprentice of the Year, subsequently becoming an Apprenticeship Ambassador

with OxLEP Skills. Chloe has joined the Awards Committee this year and will award the 2022 Apprentice of the Year.

Being the headline sponsor for the awards means we can celebrate great apprentices and spotlight all of their achievements and hard work. Being a sponsor in the name of Fiona's charity means a lot to both the firm and also the Foundation as Fiona was a key part of this. It also means that we can continue to support brilliant apprentices, just as Fiona would have loved to have done.

Our Apprentice of the Year will be someone who has not only shown great success in their apprenticeship but also someone who is making exceptional contributions to their work. They will be dedicated to excelling in their career and have shown brilliant learning and development since the start of their apprenticeship.

Find out more about The Fiona Wheeler Charitable Foundation at theburnsidepartnership.com/the-fiona-wheeler-charitable-foundation



OUR HOSTS

TEYA AGNESE

Teya is a Clinical Trial Associate, working in women's health. Prior to that she was a Clinical Trial Support Officer in the Surgical Intervention Trials Unit, part of the Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences at the University of Oxford, where she completed both Level 2 and Level 3 Business Administration Apprenticeships with

Abingdon & Witney College.

Teya won overall Apprentice of the Year in 2020 for going above and beyond in her role, as well as going the extra mile as an Apprenticeship Ambassador. She co-hosted the awards in 2021.

Teya says: "I am delighted to be a part of the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards committee and to

co-host the virtual awards ceremony again this year to celebrate so many talented apprentices and businesses that support apprenticeships."



SIMON NEWTON



When not hosting, Simon is Managing Director of Darke & Taylor, an established local electrical business providing

design, installation and maintenance services.

Darke & Taylor's apprenticeship scheme and their apprentices have won numerous awards and the scheme itself has been in existence for over 50 years.

The company has sponsored the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards since their foundation in

2017 and Simon has been a member of the committee since then, representing larger employers.

Simon is delighted to co-host the awards once again and is really honoured to help celebrate and recognise the talent of apprentices throughout Oxfordshire.

OXLEP SKILLS & APPRENTICESHIPS

Promoting apprenticeships and unlocking the apprenticeship levy to meet the area's skills needs is the number one priority in our newly refreshed Oxfordshire Skills Action Report and Plan for the Department of Education.

We estimate that of the c.270 organisations in Oxfordshire that pay the apprenticeship levy, less than c.50 utilise their levy. What levy isn't used is returned back to HMRC, but 25% can be transferred to other businesses!

Over the next few months, we will be sharing information about our new Social Contract programme, which will be employing two full time Apprenticeship Advisors to support Oxfordshire business in unlocking/accessing the levy. The programme ambition is to help young people, job seekers, ethnic minority groups and those furthest from the workforce into apprenticeships/vocational courses, so everyone can benefit from Oxfordshire's economic growth.

The Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards is a fantastic example of how large and small business can unite by becoming either a category sponsor or supporter to celebrate all those involved with apprenticeships.

Without their support tonight's final would not be possible - thank you from all of us at OxLEP. We would also like to say a huge thank you to our awards committee for their invaluable time and guidance and our own Mel Ringer who constantly works on the awards year round.

Finally, huge congratulations to all the finalists and winners. We hope you have a wonderful evening!



Sally Andreou
Skills Hub Manager
- OxLEP

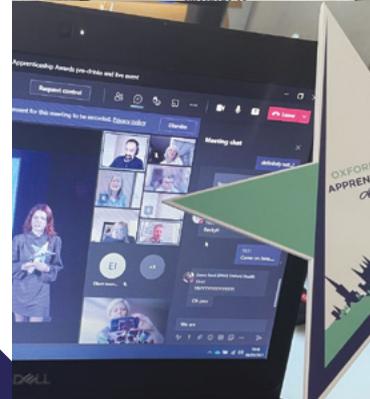
To register interest in supporting the 2023 Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards and/or learn more about the Social Contract programme and how it could support your business, please email skills@oxfordshirelep.com



OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

A huge thank you to all the generous sponsors and supporters, particularly our headline sponsor The Fiona Wheeler Charitable Foundation, who have made the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards possible. Your support is very much appreciated.



OXFORDSHIRE APPRENTICESHIP AWARDS 2020

OXFORDSHIRE APPRENTICESHIP AWARDS 2019



SIMON NEWTON,
MANAGING DIRECTOR

CAREERS CHAMPION AWARD



SPONSORED BY THE ENGINEERING TRUST

The Engineering Trust was set up as a registered charity in 1983 by a group of Oxfordshire engineering employers with the goal of promoting careers in engineering and manufacturing.

Much of our work takes place in schools and colleges, working with careers advisors and teachers to promote careers in engineering and manufacturing and providing information about routes into the industry, including apprenticeships.

The Careers Champion Award fits well with this and is a fantastic opportunity for us to recognise the hard work of the people who provide information, advice and guidance to those looking to find the next step in their education and/or career. Our winner

will have enthusiasm and a drive to help each individual to find the next step that is right for them.

T: 01993 882008
E: info@theengineeringtrust.org
www.theengineeringtrust.org



FINALISTS

Helen Haines, Burford School

Careers Leader Helen's energy, commitment and dedication is truly remarkable. She has delivered a range of experiences for students in spite of COVID-19 challenges, including work experience and mock interviews, developed a plan to improve careers in the curriculum and introduced a Careers Pathway to demonstrate how students are encouraged and empowered to make positive career choices.

Debbie Nicholas, Iffley Academy

Careers Leader Debbie's creative approach and blue sky thinking have not only changed outcomes for students but have also changed perceptions about careers for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Students have very diverse needs and Debbie works closely with each one to develop a unique pathway. Her innovative links with other SEND schools, introduction of initiatives have created a buzz around careers.

Michael Rafferty, The Warriner School

Michael's commitment and enthusiasm make him an exceptional Careers Lead who goes above and beyond to ensure that every student's career needs are supported, no matter how challenging this is. His creativity, tenacity and attention to detail has led to a broad and inclusive programme of advice, guidance, inspiration and above all, opportunity. Michael has introduced initiatives such as careers breakfasts and the Warriner Footpath which help to link learning with careers.

SCHOOL/COLLEGE ENGAGEMENT EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

HARWELL

SPONSORED BY HARWELL SCIENCE AND INNOVATION CAMPUS

Harwell is a place where experimentation is encouraged and technology that transforms people's lives is developed. We are sponsoring this award because we believe in the power of inspiring and demonstrating possibilities to young people of all ages and abilities.

Inspiring the younger generation and helping them to understand what is possible and where their academic studies can take them is a key part of our role working within a community and helping it to thrive. As a campus, it's important that we continue to sustain a pipeline of technical talent and skilled individuals for the broader benefit of the UK economy. Our award will be given to an employer

that has taken engagement with local schools and colleges to an exceptional level in order to inspire the next generation of talent.

T: 01235 250091
www.harwellcampus.com



FINALISTS

The Burford Recruitment Company

The Burford Recruitment Company is a small business with a big heart and huge commitment to education-business links. Three members of staff are Careers Mentors and Enterprise Advisors, supporting a number of local schools and colleges with initiatives such as mock interviews and CV writing workshops. They have recently launched a Graduate Recruitment Scheme and are supporting the roll out of T Levels at Abingdon & Witney College, advising them on how to engage businesses.

Explosive Learning Solutions

ELS has been supporting local schools and colleges since 2019 when they welcomed their first work experience student. They continue to offer a number of placements, providing exceptional mentoring and support for their students. Both of ELS's apprentices are OxLEP Apprenticeship Ambassadors, helping to inspire the next generation. They regularly visit schools and colleges to take part in mock interviews, give presentations about their experiences and advise students about starting employment.

Ignite Sport UK

As a community and socially minded business, engaging with schools and colleges is in Ignite's DNA. They have built excellent relationships with local schools and colleges, including special schools. Staff, including apprentices, attend an array of careers events for students in year 7 upwards. They are continually refining how they engage with students, such as delivering practical sessions and weaving in careers conversations. Ignite offer varied work experience placements, which lead to apprenticeships.

TRAINING PROVIDER INDIVIDUAL AWARD



SPONSORED BY OWEN MUMFORD

Owen Mumford is dedicated to developing innovative healthcare solutions for the management of a variety of medical conditions.

For decades, the company has welcomed apprentices into the business and understands the value of the unique insight and perspective they bring. Many of the company's employees began their journey at Owen Mumford as apprentices and have helped to shape the business into the innovator it is today.

Owen Mumford's chosen category, the Training Provider Individual Award, is fundamental to the success of an apprentice. Owen Mumford has worked with a variety of organisations focusing on apprenticeships and is proud to support

providers who offer a truly valuable experience. The winner will be supportive of their learners and an excellent communicator with a passion for providing the best possible experience for students.

T: 01993 812021
E: info@owenmumford.com
www.owenmumford.com



FINALISTS

Rob Alderman, The Engineering Trust

Training Officer Rob is always there for his learners, helping them to be the best they can be. He gets to know each apprentice individually and tailors his delivery and the workload to suit the ability of each learner, working closely with the employer to ensure the apprentice is at the heart of his delivery. Rob has enabled his apprentices to continue their apprenticeships during this challenging time through being innovative and flexible and providing exceptional support.

Kyle Bestley, Ignite Training

Kyle is an inspirational, motivating and enthusiastic tutor who has the ability to bring out the very best in all his learners. He tirelessly and patiently alters his delivery, adapting resources and tailoring his teaching style to accommodate the needs of each learner. He works very closely with their employers to tightly marry up the training with the needs of the business. Kyle is creative with face-to-face delivery and has mastered a range of e-platforms to engage learners virtually.

Stephen Whiting, BMet College / MINI Plant Oxford

Technical Training Assessor Stephen demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to supporting each and every apprentice individually. He provides exceptional support for learners with additional needs and is particularly good at helping apprentices develop wider workplace skills, ensuring they are work-ready. Stephen rises to challenges and leads by example, using his own experience and understanding of dyslexia to instil confidence.

INTERMEDIATE APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR



SPONSORED BY ABBOTT DIABETES CARE

Abbott Diabetes Care, based in Witney, has a clear vision for its sensor technology business taking it into high volume manufacture. At ADC Witney, we develop and manufacture a number of technologies used in the management of diabetes, including the next generation sensor technology used in the revolutionary new FreeStyle Libre Flash Glucose Monitoring system.

We have employed apprentices for over 20 years. Our award will be given to an enthusiastic and committed individual who has embraced the opportunity to mix learning and work experience to deepen their knowledge and understanding and who has demonstrated the ability to take their learning and apply it in the workplace.

T: 0800 170 1177
www.abbott.co.uk



FINALISTS

Milly Foxcroft, Blenheim Palace

Apprentice Gardener Milly brings enthusiasm and a fresh perspective to her team. Her ideas for the new gardens entrance at Blenheim have been put into practice, incorporating conservation, wildlife enhancement and pleasing aesthetic outlooks, which make a fantastic impact to visitors and have a lasting impression on the gardens. Milly works well in a team and her hard work and dedication saw her achieve distinctions throughout her apprenticeship. Milly is an asset to her workplace and to the horticulture industry.

Kelly Huggard, Blenheim Palace

Motivated and enthusiastic HR Apprentice Kelly has a can-do attitude and lets nothing faze her. Kelly shows great care for her colleagues and was instrumental in setting up and running a COVID-19 testing centre on site, helping to make them feel safe at work. Kelly bravely changed career to start her apprenticeship and is a fantastic role model for older apprentices. She has changed the way Blenheim think about apprenticeships and they now employ five older apprentices.

Wiktorija Pliat, Flawless Finish Hair

Wiktorija is a hard working, dedicated and skilled Apprentice Hairdresser. She is professional and attentive, providing an outstanding service to clients, which has led to her developing her own client base. Wiktorija truly cares about her job and the people she works with. Wiktorija has gained new clients and revenue for the business through her innovative use of social media. She has made fantastic progress in her learning in spite of lockdown challenges for the industry.

ADVANCED APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR



SPONSORED BY NIELSENIQ

NielsenIQ provides consumer packaged goods manufacturers and retailers with accurate, actionable information and insights and a complete picture of the complex and changing marketplace that companies need to innovate and grow. Nielsen has operations in nearly 100 countries, covering more than 90% of the world's population.

We launched our first apprenticeship programme in 2014 - our Level 5 Apprenticeship in Business Innovation and Growth. Since then, we have offered apprenticeships at Level 3 and at Level 6 - where our degree apprentices complete three-year rotations around the business whilst studying for a BA (Hons) degree in Business and Management Practice.

We have chosen to sponsor the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards as we believe they highlight to the wider Oxfordshire business community the value apprentices bring to organisations and can encourage businesses to support local people through apprenticeship programmes.

For more information visit:
nielseniq.com/global/en



FINALISTS

Jordan Davies, Abbott Diabetes Care

Engineering Apprentice
Jordan is a valuable asset to Abbott and has identified significant cost savings for the company. His outstanding engineering ability reflects his extra effort on site, at college and out of hours at home. He was given an 'outstanding skills and attitude' award in recognition of his hard work and dedication. Caring Jordan volunteers to mentor younger apprentices and always goes out of his way to make sure new team members feel welcome.

Lauren Hansen, Jacobs Douwe Egberts

Maintenance Planner
Lauren is highly motivated, keen to learn and willing to take on new challenges. Lauren played an important role during COVID-19, when she was asked to support in manufacturing on the coffee packing lines, using complex equipment in an area new to her. She was able to use knowledge gained in her apprenticeship to assist with breakdowns. Lauren is a fantastic role model for women in engineering and represented JDE during a visit from their local MP.

David Tomlinson, Oxford University Press

Throughout his apprenticeship, Digital Content Leader David has demonstrated resilience, determination and humbleness towards his management ability, qualities that OUP strives to see employees demonstrate. He is professional, highly diligent, intelligent and has the upmost integrity. His calm demeanour gives confidence to others and quietly commands respect. He has put his apprenticeship learning into practice to support his team.

HIGHER/DEGREE APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR



SPONSORED BY OXFORDSHIRE ADVANCED SKILLS

Oxfordshire Advanced Skills (OAS) supports many apprentices across a range of roles, both as a training provider and an employer. We are supporting the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards because we're passionate about championing local talent - we believe it's a great opportunity to showcase some of the amazing skills we have in Oxfordshire!

apprenticeship can offer and gone above and beyond what was required of them to exceed expectations.

T: 02476 701557
E: OASPhase2@the-mtc.org
www.oas.ukaea.uk

We've chosen to sponsor the Higher/Degree Apprentice Award as this is the perfect next step for an apprentice after they finish the level 3 or 4 training that we deliver at OAS.

Our winner will have really embraced their apprenticeship journey. They will have a real passion for their apprenticeship, have made the most of the opportunities an



FINALISTS

Jade Brooker, Assure UK

Organised, hard working and professional Assistant Manager Jade is working towards a Level 7 Professional Accountant Apprenticeship. In 2021, she helped Assure UK achieve their largest year of growth and exceed sales target by 53%. She is an OxLEP Apprenticeship Ambassador and her inspirational talks in schools have led to students applying for apprenticeships with Assure UK. Jade mentors new apprentices and is fantastic at engaging, supporting, motivating and encouraging others.

Anna Middlemiss, Milestone Infrastructure

Anna is a dedicated and respected Trainee Civil Engineer who is passionate about making life better for people. She won an 'injury free environment' award in 2021 for her work on designing health and safety posters, is a member of Milestone's inclusion and diversity network and coordinates a peer support group for apprentices and graduates. Anna gives up her time to inspire students to consider a civil engineering apprenticeship through her work with the early careers team.

Nicole Nielsen-Pike, Blenheim Palace

Nicole became a Guest Services Supervisor at just 19, having started her career at Blenheim as a Level 2 apprentice. Alongside her degree apprenticeship, she undertook an additional qualification to become a mental health champion and has supported her colleagues during COVID-19. She is also an access champion, helping to make the site more accessible. Nicole shows a great level of maturity and pride towards her work and supports new apprentices on their journey.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD



SPONSORED BY BLENHEIM AND PYE HOMES

Apprenticeships are highly valued at Blenheim and Pye. We have a 10-year plan in place to employ 100 apprentices in all areas across the Estate and Pye Homes, ensuring they are part of day to day life.

We support the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards to celebrate what apprentices achieve individually as well as raising awareness of how vital it is for local businesses to support apprenticeships.

We are proud to sponsor the Special Recognition Award, which is an important Award as it recognises someone who has overcome significant challenges.

Our award will be given to someone who has worked extremely hard and is an ambassador for their local community and

for apprenticeships in Oxfordshire, who is dedicated and has made a big impact on their employer.

T: 01993 810530
E: customerservice@blenheimpalace.com
www.blenheimpalace.com



FINALISTS

Emily Brandish, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Trainee Nursing Associate Emily is incredibly kind and compassionate. She worked on a COVID-19 ward for patients at the end of life and went above and beyond to bring them care and comfort when they weren't able to see loved ones, such as cutting their hair. As a result of the pandemic, Emily faced a change in circumstances, which presented significant challenges for her apprenticeship. She has shown great perseverance to overcome these.

Souad Elaroussi, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Trainee Nursing Associate Souad is hardworking and determined and shows kindness and compassion at all times. She has been challenged by language and academic barriers but has shown great resilience and enthusiasm throughout her apprenticeship in her motivation to succeed and to work to the best of her ability. She has a young family that she juggles with her apprenticeship but always gives 100% and is a positive role model to junior members of the team.

Dan Freer, Toolstation

Didcot Store Manager Dan maintained engagement and high quality work during a time when he was not only moving house but also closing his store to transfer it to a new location. He remained positive and driven, whilst ensuring his team were cared for during the transition, which shows how much he has developed. Dan has adapted and organised himself to ensure that personal and store challenges do not affect his deadlines and the quality of his work.

APPRENTICESHIP EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

(<250 EMPLOYEES)



SPONSORED BY ASSURE UK

At Assure UK, we provide specialised pension scheme audit, accounting and assurance services for some of the largest schemes in the UK. Our focus is on making a difference for all our clients.

Five members of our team have undertaken Level 7 Professional Accountant apprenticeships and we are looking to recruit an additional three apprentices to help our growing business. One of our apprentices is an OxLEP Apprenticeship Ambassador, which has enabled us to spread the word about what apprenticeships mean to the company and to individual team members.

As a firm who has previously been highly commended in this category at the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards, we

jumped at the opportunity to sponsor the category this year. Our winner will be an employer that goes the extra mile for their employees. They will do something different and not just what is expected from employers.

T: 020 7112 8300
E: info@assureuk.co.uk
www.assureuk.co.uk



FINALISTS

Ignite Sport UK

Ignite Sport UK's primary aim is to inspire people with sport, activity and wellbeing. They welcome participants of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. Ignite have been employing apprentices for over 15 years, providing exceptional support for apprentices throughout their journey and to help them prepare for their next step. At Ignite, the apprentice is at the heart of every decision made. They regularly take apprentices back to their old schools to provide role models for potential recruits.

Priory Cast Products

With a small, friendly and highly skilled team, Priory Cast Products has a focus on apprenticeships, education and reducing the manufacturing skills shortage. They started employing apprentices in 2020 and their team of 6 now contains 2 apprentices. As a small foundry, their apprentices get to work across all elements of the casting process and learn about the wider aspects of the business. They provide a supportive and nurturing environment in which apprentices can grow and flourish.

The Oxford Electrical Company

Former apprentices Nick and Ross formed The Oxford Electrical Company in 2014 and started employing apprentices in 2016. Of their 22 employees, 9 are current and 3 are former apprentices. Each apprentice is paired with a qualified electrician to give them consistent 1:1 support and mentorship. Where possible, apprentices lead (supervised) on jobs to improve their project and team management skills and boost their confidence.

APPRENTICESHIP EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

(250+ EMPLOYEES)



SPONSORED BY OXFORD NORTH

Oxford North will be a thriving and vibrant life sciences district, with innovation and sustainability at its heart. We're creating a unique new home and workplace for scientists, technologists and inventors.

Key to this is our future customers' talent and providing them with a place to help them retain staff and also attract future talent. Apprentices play a significant role in such businesses and their future.

We're supporting the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards because we have a passionate belief in the value that apprenticeships can create in increasing social mobility and supporting business to grow.

We're proud to sponsor this award to celebrate companies who are investing now in future talent. Our winner will be a positive role model that will inspire other individuals and companies to take a similar approach.

E: info@oxfordnorth.com
www.oxfordnorth.com



FINALISTS

Blenheim

In 2017, Blenheim launched its apprenticeship scheme and set an objective to train 100 apprentices by 2027. To date, 51 apprentices have completed or are undergoing apprenticeships, putting Blenheim on track to exceed its goal. Blenheim, with Pye Homes, offers a huge variety of apprenticeships, each of which provide different challenges and opportunities, attracting a diverse mix of people from the community. Blenheim regularly works with local schools and colleges.

Jacobs Douwe Egberts

Coffee manufacturer JDE's apprenticeship programme began in 1983 and they have employed 3-6 apprentices every year since. Apprentices who joined 30 years ago are now in leadership roles, which is always the aim for every apprentice. Apprentices are given exceptional mentoring support and additional training. They spend time rotating round different locations, learning the various processes in order to become multi-skilled. JDE engages with local schools and holds open events for prospective apprentices and their families.

Oxford Biomedica

Oxford Biomedica's mission is to deliver lifechanging gene therapies to patients. Apprenticeships are core to their strategy to develop emerging talent and grow the next generation of leaders. Their clear and strategic vision for their apprenticeship programme is admirable and the enthusiasm, wholehearted belief in apprenticeships and the value they bring, is key to their success. Apprentices receive outstanding support and development opportunities and participate in outreach activities.

SHINING STAR AWARD



SPONSORED BY INTEGRATION TECHNOLOGY LTD

Integration Technology Ltd is a pioneering designer and manufacturer of class-leading UV LED curing solutions for a wide-range of applications and market segments - our energy-saving UV LED systems are the gold standard!

We have been a long-time supporter not only of the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards but of apprenticeships in general. We look at apprenticeships as a means of recruitment and have rolled out various programmes over the years. Our CEO Adrian Lockwood is a former apprentice and very proud to be one. He is also Chair of the Oxfordshire Skills Board and passionate about supporting young people to start a successful career and encouraging local businesses to see how

apprenticeships can help them meet their skills requirements.

The Shining Star Award and its criteria fits the ethos Integration Technology promotes around apprenticeships.

T: 01869 233611
E: mail@integrationtechnology.com
www.integrationtechnology.com



FINALISTS

Nicole Nielsen-Pike, Blenheim Palace

Guest Services Supervisor Nicole is a fantastic example of the career progression apprenticeships can offer, having progressed from Level 2 to Level 6. Nicole has become a prominent figure at Blenheim and is an inspirational role model, both for new apprentices and to young people who may consider a degree to be out of their reach. Through her strength and resilience, Nicole has proved herself to be someone Blenheim can rely on in challenging and uncertain times.

www.oxfordshirelep.com/oaawards2022 #OAAwards2022

Ryan Taylor, Jacobs Douwe Egberts

Since completing a mechanical maintenance apprenticeship in 2019, Ryan's career has gone from strength to strength. He progressed into a maintenance shift technician role in one of JDE's high profile areas, the freeze drier, maintaining and operating complex equipment in temperatures ranging from -50°C to 30°C. He has now been promoted to the role of Apprentice Trainer, helping to make JDE a world class facility for apprentices to thrive and develop by sharing his passion.

Rachel Townsend, Oxfordshire County Council

Having completed 3 apprenticeships, Waste Strategy Project Officer Rachel is currently undertaking her 4th, showing an amazing commitment to her professional development and making her a fantastic ambassador for apprenticeships. She is creative, a strong communicator and an excellent team player, who brings an enthusiasm for the waste industry that inspires others to get involved.

AWARDS SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

HIGH SPEC COMPOSITES



High Spec Composites has been a passionate supporter of the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards, both as a committee member and sponsor since the awards launched in 2017. Having grown our small business through apprenticeships, we understand the great benefits apprentices

can bring to a company and are keen to share our positive experiences with a wider network, whilst celebrating star apprentices throughout Oxfordshire.

We have a 100% success rate with completion of our level 3 qualifications and all our apprentices have been offered full-time positions within High Spec Composites at the end of their learning.

We have found employing apprentices is not only cost-effective solution for expanding a small business, but also the perfect opportunity to train individuals to bespoke business needs.

T: 01869 243254
E: enq@hscomposites.co.uk
www.hscomposites.co.uk

DARKE & TAYLOR

The Apprenticeship initiative at Darke & Taylor has evolved over time to become the cornerstone on which the company and its progression is founded. Today it is a vital part of the business model of a company that recognises that success is about developing people.

Our scheme is special because it really delivers; over 50% of our senior management and the majority of our senior engineers completed their Apprenticeships with the company and at any one time up to 25% of the workforce are working towards an apprenticeship.

Our Apprentices and our scheme have won awards and we know what a positive impact this has on our business, which makes us all the more keen to support our local awards. We are delighted to be



sponsoring the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards for the sixth year running.

T: 01865 290000
E: mail@darkeandtaylor.co.uk
www.darkeandtaylor.co.uk

AWARDS SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

REACTION ENGINES



Reaction Engines is pioneering space access and sustainable technologies that have the potential to change the face of a wide range of commercial industries - from aerospace and automotive to energy.

As part of our commitment to investing in the next generation, we promote a popular engineering apprenticeship which has

become an enviable career opportunity for early career professionals. We launched our apprenticeship scheme 14 years ago and currently have 4 apprentices in the business. In total we have had 16 apprentices, of which 11 are still employed in roles across the company.

By supporting the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards, we are continuing to support our local providers and encourage and raise awareness for young people considering an apprenticeship. The awards are a great opportunity to celebrate talented, enthusiastic and driven young apprentices.

T: 01865 520200
E: enquiries@reactionengines.co.uk
www.reactionengines.co.uk

JACOBS DOUWE EGBERTS

It's amazing what can happen over a cup of coffee. At JDE, our apprentices have been raising the bar since day one, thinking fast and acting even faster to make a lasting impression that's felt around the business and around the world.

We have employed mechanical and electrical engineering apprentices at JDE for over 35 years, many of whom have stayed as technicians, but a very large number have also progressed into management roles - one former apprentice is now a plant manager in Australia. There are great opportunities to progress through the business and it all began because they started their journey as an apprentice.

JDE is very excited to be a part of the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards to promote apprenticeships throughout Oxfordshire.



Find out more at
careers-gb.jacobsdouweegberts.com

AWARDS SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

THE HILL GROUP



As a rapidly growing housebuilding business, The Hill Group recognises the need for new talent coming into the industry. We believe one of the best ways to train and develop is through an apprenticeship, where you can learn the technical knowledge alongside gaining practical experience.

Hill are passionate about the apprenticeship route. 17% of our staff have either been through or are currently on the Hill Management Trainee programme, achieving a degree-level qualification through an 'earn as you learn' role.

We are supporting the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards to commend the hard work and effort of the apprentices in the local region and recognise their aptitude to be nominated for these awards. As a local employer, we are committed to recruiting apprentices and hope to support a Hill nominee in 2023.

T: 020 8527 1400
E: info@hill.co.uk
www.hill.co.uk

SOUTH EAST APPRENTICESHIP AMBASSADOR NETWORK

The South East Apprenticeship Ambassador Network (SEAN) is a group of employers whose main aim is to spearhead the drive to engage new employers to commit to apprenticeship delivery across SE England.

Ambassadors undertake their role, on a voluntary basis, by supporting and influencing a wide range of key stakeholders including schools, colleges, employers and their supply chains, trade associations and employment bodies.

They champion and support marketing, publicity and events to raise awareness of apprenticeships. They also provide mentoring and support for employers looking to recruit apprentices for the first time.



There is also a well-established Young Apprenticeship Ambassador Network (YAAN) attached to the SEAN. The YAAN helps to promote apprenticeships to young people.

Find out more at sean.org.uk

AWARDS SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

OXFORD UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT



for staff and students and to develop innovation districts.

A number of sites have been identified for redevelopment by the University of Oxford, and Legal & General has committed c.£4billion of funding.

One of OUD's key commitments is towards apprenticeships and training. For all developments the organisation will be bringing forward over the coming years, requirements will be embedded to provide a range of opportunities for local people across a range of professions in real estate and construction, working closely with delivery partners.

Find out more at www.oud.co.uk

Oxford University Development is a major new partnership between the University of Oxford and Legal & General Group plc. This partnership will enable the University to move forward with its commitments to address the high cost of accommodation

ABINGDON & WITNEY COLLEGE

Abingdon & Witney College is an award-winning apprenticeship supplier. We work with thousands of local people, employers and wider stakeholders in the region to change lives and communities by delivering vocational, professional and technical training of the highest quality in an inclusive and responsive way.

As well as supporting employers with their apprenticeships, we employ our own apprentices at the College.

Every week, our apprentices take their first steps towards amazing careers in all types of industries. They are of all ages, from all walks of life and all have the opportunity to gain valuable skills and really make a difference to their organisation. We are incredibly proud of the role we play in



delivering apprenticeships and so it was only natural that we wanted to support this event.

T: 01235 555585
E: enquiries@abingdon-witney.ac.uk
www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk

AWARDS SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



have 280 apprentices training across our wider workforce (including in maintained schools) in a diverse range of roles from level 2 to 7. We deliver around 45 apprenticeship standards.

We have recently launched a supported apprenticeship scheme and have used our levy funds to start new social worker degree apprenticeships and operational firefighter apprenticeships.

We are proud to support the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards, which are a great opportunity for employers to celebrate their apprentices and recognise the people who work hard to make apprenticeships happen.

T: 01865 792422
E: apprenticeships@oxfordshire.gov.uk
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/apprenticeships

Oxfordshire County Council is the local authority for Oxfordshire, committed to delivering top quality services and value for money on behalf of the county's 680,000+ residents.

Since 2007, we have steadily built up the number of apprentices we employ and the range of schemes we offer. We currently



BECOME AN AWARDS SPONSOR

Being a sponsor is a fantastic way to raise the profile of your organisation within the Oxfordshire apprenticeship community, as well as giving you the opportunity to be part of this special occasion.

Are you interested in supporting the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards 2023? Please get in touch with the OxLEP Skills team to find out more.

 **07880 042658**
skills@oxfordshirelep.com
oxfordshirelep.com/oaawards2022

EVENT PARTNERS

OXFORD MEDIA FACTORY - MEDIA PARTNER



Apprenticeships offer such a great opportunity to both young people and those looking to retrain in their careers.

Our award-winning work comes from being partners with our clients. This allows us to produce something that resonates with the audience, as well as sparking interest and imagination. As ever, we will go above and beyond to make sure that the team, audience, finalists and winners of the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards get this experience for their special event.

We look forward to seeing you all on the evening!

T: 01865 522 678
E: hello@oxfordmediafactory.co.uk
[@oxmediafactory](https://www.oxfordmediafactory.co.uk)
www.oxfordmediafactory.co.uk

Oxford Media Factory is extremely proud to be the media partner for the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards. While we are a full-service video production agency based in Eynsham, close to our hearts is working with charities, community and youth projects, so being a media partner for these awards was a no-brainer.

WILLIAMS RACING - CELEBRATION EVENING VENUE SPONSOR

In Formula One, we always strive for winning and standing on that podium... and so Williams Racing are delighted to be able to support the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards 2022 as the venue sponsor. We are excited to host the Celebration Evening on 26th May and help to shine a light on those apprentices and employers who are standing out from the crowd and leading the way, which is something we care about.

We have a long history of employing apprentices and seeing them grow within our company. Most of those who start the apprenticeships with us end up staying on working within our factory or at the racetrack. Our apprentices learn and grow during their apprenticeships, becoming integral members of the team. We are proud of every one of them.



We see apprenticeships as excellent opportunities to find new talent, with practical learning and ability to make a difference to the team from the off. In an industry where every second counts, that's vital.

Find out more at www.williamsf1.com

DESIGN & PRINT

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD PRINT STUDIO



A huge thank you to the University of Oxford Print Studio for their generous support with design and print for the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards.

Bob Malloy, Print Studio Manager says: "It's a real privilege to be involved in the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards again this year. Our apprentices play a key part - Apprenticeship Ambassador of the Year 2019 Jordan has been involved in designing

and printing the certificates whilst Imogen supports the team in an administrative role.

Both Jordan and Imogen have been actively involved as ambassadors visiting schools and passing on their enthusiasm for this worthwhile scheme. We are proud of the work they are doing."

Imogen, Business Administration Apprentice at the print studio says: "I am lucky enough to be the first Business Administration Apprentice in the print studio. No two working days are the same and the on-the-job training means that I am learning new skills all the time, which will enable me to have a variety of job roles in the future and a satisfying and progressive career."

Find out more at estates.admin.ox.ac.uk/print-studio

EMMA DAVIS



Oxfordshire based Illustrator and Designer Emma Davis, 24, volunteered to design the fantastic Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards logo and branding back in 2017.

The stylish logo design depicts both the rural and city aspects of Oxfordshire within a star to represent the shining star Apprentices who the Awards recognise.

Over the last seven years, Emma has put her love of artwork into printed and web-based products, producing magazines, branding materials and print illustrations, including continuing work for the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards.

If you would like to learn more about Emma's design experience, please visit www.designems.com

