



Lancashire Apprentice
Ambassador Network

Newsletter

Issue 9 | September 2018

Our Ambassadors have been out and about over the last few months visiting schools and colleges and presenting Apprenticeship information at numerous events.

Here is just a small selection. Don't forget let us know what you have been up to so we can showcase the work your organisation has been doing to promote Apprenticeships.

Lancashire Police & Lancashire Care

Lancashire Police attended the Nelson & Colne College Careers Expo on Thursday 28th June and Hyndburn Apprenticeship and Careers Fair at Accrington Town Hall on the 6th July along with Lancashire Care. Both spoke to many young people and apprenticeship opportunities and the various roles available.



Apprentice Ambassador supports Upholland High School

Portia Taylor-Black attended mock interviews at Upholland High School on 19th July. Portia said "I really enjoyed supporting at the Up

Holland High School Mock Interviews on Tuesday 10 July. I believe this assistance from employers is very valuable in getting younger people ready for work and thinking of their future careers. It was fantastic to see how many local employers got involved!"

Employer Ambassadors support Apprenticeships at Clitheroe Grammar School

Four Employer Ambassadors, Mark Woodward (The Printed Cup Company) Natalie Bradley (Lancashire Care), Joanne Pickering (Forbes Solicitors) and Sam Keenan (+24 Marketing) attended a question time at Clitheroe Grammar school to help promote degree apprenticeships that are available for young people after they leave 6th form. The event was a great success and the students asked many questions. Some of the students were unsure of what they want to do after they have finished 6th form and many hadn't even considered apprenticeships as an option. After being given the information from the ambassadors, the students now have other options to consider.

Learn Live

Portia Taylor-Black was filmed for Learn Live on the 7th June. Portia stated 'Learn Live was a great opportunity for me to share my apprenticeship experience 'in the classroom' via live broadcasting. I champion and promote apprenticeships in my role as an Apprentice Ambassador, so being able to broadcast my experience to schools and colleges across the country was fantastic.'

Well done Portia

Following on from winning at last year's Apprenticeship Awards Portia also co-hosted this year's North West Regional Awards



Grace Bennett participates in Dragons Den

In July 2018 Grace attended a Dragons Den presentation competition at Ashton Community Science College in Preston. This consisted of Year 7 and year 8 pupils having to design a presentation on their versions of a healthy alternative to fizzy drinks. This competition helps them to develop their employability skills for the future, as well as improve their confidence. The afternoon groups were year 7's who had to present to Grace; another university apprentice and two fellow students. All groups had to be confident, memorise what their item was and work as a team to present to Grace and her fellow dragons. All groups were very impressive and the overall score was very high. Grace would like to thank Ashton Community Science College for inviting her along. Grace said "It was a pleasure to watch the individuals speak proudly and confidently about their concoctions and designs. It was also a valued experience for my own personal development view, due to all of my business knowledge, which I have gained whilst working on my apprenticeship at Cotton Court Business Centre."

Forbes Solicitors looks at e-safety.



Following a session delivered by Mark & Karen at North Lancs Training Group; Forbes Solicitors shared this learning with their BTec Apprentices. This session was part of the monthly Apprenticeship workshop days Forbes deliver to their Apprentices, which helps

with team building and supports the Apprentices in getting to know one another from across the firm, given Forbes has over 320 staff and nine offices.

The training covered the key aspects of e-safety such as looking at common scams, phishing attempts and privacy settings when using social media. Our Apprentices found examples of the dangers of people using social media and online communications to groom and harm others as well as activities such as catfishing and online bullying to be particularly interesting and useful. The session

certainly raised their awareness of the risks of using social media as well as considering how to create a positive and professional digital footprint. Following the course one of the delegates commented that it had brought the issue in to the forefront of their mind and highlighted the need to regularly check privacy settings.

Forbes would like to thank Lancashire Work Based Learning Forum for arranging and NLTG for delivering the training and sharing the resources to help increase awareness of online safety. Forbes said they are aiming to spread the word to future Apprentices and this will be a standard feature of the Apprenticeship programme going forward.



Lancashire County Council support their Apprentices up to a Level 7 Qualification

Natalie Bradley (Apprentice Ambassador) joined Lancashire County Council after leaving school. She is now on her Level 7 CIPDA apprenticeship. Lauren has written a brief article on her success in order to promote apprenticeships.

‘After leaving school, I joined Lancashire County Council as a Business Administration Apprentice in the Income Team. I believed it would open up opportunities, was a good place to work and would give me experience as well as gaining a qualification at the same time.

Since then, I have been lucky enough to work in numerous teams within the Finance Department, gaining new responsibilities, good work experience, working with great people and progressing in my career. I completed my Business Administration qualification and decided

to study AAT in my own time to help with my own progression.

I am now an Assistant Accountant in the Capital Team and deal with reporting and monitoring the finances of projects. I communicate with many people and am able to see what is happening around the Council and community. I’ve learnt a lot in my last 5 years at the council but still transfer and use skills I learnt as an apprentice, such as invoice raising, manipulating reports and using different systems, in my current role.

I have recently become an apprentice again, but this time at Level 7 and undertaking a CIPFA qualification. I’m hoping that this will help me learn more about the financial side of the authority and improve my knowledge at work.

I am very grateful of the experiences and opportunities I have had so far within LCC and would recommend an apprenticeship here to anyone.’

The Printed Cup Company attend Marsden Heights High School

Mark Woodward from The Printed Cup Company attended Marsden Heights School to talk to the students about career opportunities and Apprenticeships. Mark said how much he’d enjoyed the events and how important he believes it is for schools and businesses to work together to prepare school/college leavers for interviews and the world of work. His wife Jenny was a teacher for 20 or so years, so working with local schools and students, and doing work experience placements has always been close to their hearts.



Learn Live Broadcast by an Employer Ambassador – Brownlow Utilities

Learn Live seeks to inspire and aspire the next generation through engaging and interactive live broadcasts direct into the classroom.

As a growing business with an aspirational management team, Brownlow Utilities has a passion to support, direct and inspire the young. The apprenticeship route helps to fulfil this passion with the company now employing 5 young apprentices and another one soon to join. Sharing their apprenticeship approach and personnel experiences with pupils in the classroom seemed a great way of demonstrating the power and flexibility of apprenticeships.

‘Meet the Apprentice’ was broadcast live in May this year including Shaun McClarnon, Managing Director, Joanne Mulroy, Energy Procurement Manager (Apprentice) and Luke Connelly, Flexible Purchasing Manager (University graduate). A video introducing the talk and the following discussion can be found by following the [link](#):

Shaun McClarnon, Managing Director at Brownlow Utilities said; ‘I am an advocate of the apprenticeship scheme. Working with Learn Live has been a great opportunity for us to connect with young people to give them insight into what our business does and what careers are available within our business. I believe that apprenticeships bring life, energy, ideas, fun, new ways of working and longevity to our business’.



Employer Ambassadors support the Lancashire Skills Pledge



Becky Toal from Crowberry Consulting spoke at the Launch about the benefits of employing apprentices and how important skills and training are in Lancashire. Becky is very passionate about the network and supports it in many ways. Her Office Manager Mary Finnegan is an apprentice ambassador and has completed her Level 2 in Business Administration and is about to start her Level 3 apprenticeship in Business Administration. Becky has also recently recruited three internships to support growth in her company.

Joanne Pickering from Forbes solicitors gave a talk on the benefits of being part of the Lancashire Apprentice Ambassador Network.

Joanne has been an ambassador from the start of the network and supports the network in various ways and always promotes it at every opportunity. Joanne is passionate about apprenticeships and the network.



The Lancashire Skills Pledge seeks to support businesses by providing information and signposting to relevant initiatives locally and giving recognition to those who are already engaged. The Skills Pledge portal provides one point of contact for you to find out more about skills and training initiatives and to record that commitment.

Pledging your commitment is simple; complete the form and you will receive an acknowledgement email. If you are already supporting initiatives in the region; complete the form so you can start to get the recognition from your hard work. The link to the form is [here](#).



Lancashire Apprentice Ambassador Network Event

The latest networking event for our Ambassadors was held on the 18th June. Sara Gaskell gave information on The Skills Pledge Launch and on ESCALATE, the tool to enable adults to find opportunities available to them in Lancashire. Jennifer Clough and Bernie Markham spoke about South Ribble Council's launch of The Apprenticeship Factory.

Josh Thompson one of our newest Apprentice Ambassadors spoke about his role in Head Start and how much he values apprenticeships and helping young people.



Josh Thompson, Macaulay Tudor, Mollie Brennand and Helena Tranter (Apprentice Ambassadors)

Portia attends NW YAAN Board meeting

Portia Taylor-Black one of our longest standing ambassadors attends on behalf of Lancashire, the North West Young Apprentice Ambassador Board meetings. The meeting in August was held at united Utilities in Warrington.

The picture below shows Portia with real life water pipes which were cut and made into meeting pods.

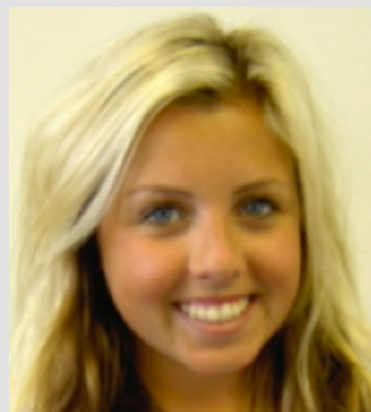


Natalie White - National Nuclear Laboratory

Congratulations go to Natalie who has been selected as a North West finalist in the National Apprenticeship Awards 2018.

Regional ceremonies will take place between the 11th – 26th September with the National Ceremony on the 28th November.
Good Luck Natalie.

For more information on the National Apprenticeship Awards 2018 [visit the website](#).



Vacancy Snapshots

A new web platform has recently been launched to advertise upcoming vacancies from some of the country's leading apprenticeship employers. Employers include Sky, BBC, Coca-Cola, Amazon, Unilever and Transport for London, amongst others. Information available on each employer includes these features:

- An overview of the employer and the roles available
- A listing of the key benefits that apprentices will be entitled to access
- A summary of the apprenticeship programme(s), what they will learn and how it will be delivered
- A listing of vacancies expected to be available in the next cycle
- Information about the application process, including hints and tips for how the applicant can prepare
- A unique look behind the scenes to meet existing apprentices.

Find out more about [Vacancy Snapshot](#).

If you have any content for future issues, please send to Cath cath@lancsforum.co.uk.