



Lancashire Apprenticeship
Ambassador Network

Newsletter

Issue 18 | Spring Summer 2021

Lancashire Apprenticeship Ambassador Network

Many of you, like us at Lancs Forum, will still be working from home and maintaining daily contact using the wonderful technology we have at our disposal



Team Lancs Forum #WFH Selfie

Some of our Ambassador colleagues work in the NHS, the Police and Lancashire Fire and Rescue, the teaching and the health and social care professions, and are continuing to go to work. I am sure that you would like to join us in applauding them for their hard work at this challenging time. Thank you to you and all your colleagues!! **#NHSThankYou #StayHomeSaveLives**



Association of Apprentices

A support network is now up and running to help boost the number of the work-based trainees staying on and completing their course.

The new support network for apprentices was founded by the government's apprenticeship ambassador Jason Holt, former Lord Mayor of the City of London Sir Peter Estlin and a co-founder of venture builder Blenheim Chalcot, Charles Mindenhall, in late 2019 but has been formally launched last week.

It gives apprentices access to information, advice and guidance about their programme – including what to do in events where their provider closes down or if they have been made redundant – as well as putting on social events for apprentices to network. Apprentices wishing to visit this website and get involved can [click HERE](#)

Lancashire Apprenticeship Ambassador Network

Lancashire Apprenticeship Ambassador Network's relationship with the North West Network continues to flourish. Many of our Employer Ambassadors who have signed up to the North West network have attended the weekly North West Network ZOOM calls throughout the past few months affording them a view of and an environment in which to share the challenges faced by employers throughout the region as a new normal emerges.



The relationship with Laura Kedward and Craig Watson of the North West Network and North West Board is strengthening with Tim being a member of the Board.

Sara McGinlay from Royal Mail is now the Lancashire lead within the North West structure. See Sara's experience below:

“ My role within the North West Young Apprentice Ambassador Network Board focuses on aligning apprenticeship activity across Lancashire with the wider apprenticeship activity in the North West region.

I work closely with the sub-regional leads across the North West to ensure the network, its activities and apprenticeships are being promoted and engaged with across each sub-region, creating connections between past, current and future apprentices.

As a lead in the Lancashire sub-region, it is part of my role to promote apprentice success stories, help to spread the word about apprenticeships in Lancashire, and to align with apprentices and employers to support the celebration, formation and future of apprenticeships.

My focus is to predominantly create some good news stories around apprentices, particularly from smaller businesses that make up a vast amount of Lancashire apprenticeships, and to ensure that apprentices and their employers were supported and celebrated in the North West”.



Lancashire Apprenticeship
Ambassador Network

The Autumn LAAN Conference took place on 1st October 2020 and was well attended by both employer and apprentice ambassadors. For the first time in the network's history given the circumstances we find ourselves in, the conference took place virtually, but this did not detract from the enthusiasm of the attendees and speakers.

The event was opened with a pre-recorded address from Anna Morrison CBE from Amazing Apprentices, and saw employers and apprentices split off into separate groups to receive updates from Laura Kedward and Craig Watson, Chair and Business Manager from the NW AAN, and Matt Newman and Sara McKinlay Chair and Lancashire Regional Lead from the YAAN.

Following these updates, all attendees took part in a Resilience workshop based on their lockdown experiences. This session was a fun session designed to highlight the importance of building individuals' resilience in the workplace and particularly so during these challenging times.

Initial feedback was that the event was useful and demonstrates that even during a time when we are unable to gather in a meeting room, the LAAN continues to be engaged and committed.

Meet the Ambassador: Neil Horner: Managing Director at P34B



“ Me, my career and my life has benefited from being an apprentice. I have recruited apprentices, worked with and coached apprentices within construction and project engineering contexts enabling them to grow through technical challenge, engaging with peers, leading initiatives and contextualising learning to industry & business objectives. I continue to maintain close contact and respect for peers who have developed their business skills through apprenticeships progressing to realise business and industry success through maintaining their personal commitment to proving and applying themselves to every challenge.”

Neil’s advice to anyone thinking about starting an apprenticeship is:

“Focus on what you enjoy and develop through exploring, listening, challenging and being challenged.”



National Apprenticeship Week #NAW21

National Apprenticeship Week took place from Monday 8th February 2021 and ran for a full 7 days. This year’s theme was ‘Build the Future’.

This year’s format was very different and yet early indications are that this year as successful, if not more, than previous years!! All events took place virtually and there was lots of social media content shared throughout the week. Let’s have a look at just some of the activity that took place in the Lancashire region:

+24 Marketing taking part in the #AskAnApprentice and #AskAnEmployer events

“Recognise you are concurrently learning, applying, understanding and growing by ‘soaking up’ technical, practical, industry, leadership and engagement experiences which will equip you well in your future, which ever avenue you take. Remember – the skills you learn outside of the technical ones will transverse many sectors, roles and industries – you are creating options for yourself and stories of achievement all the time. In time these demonstrable achievements and stories will become precious for you.

And to any business considering employing an apprentice is:

“Recognise that each apprentice is on their own journey, making a big step into a new world. During this transition apprentices need support, guidance, role models and opportunity to prove themselves to themselves and others around them. Don’t underestimate the power and potential within fresh perspectives who are naturally motivated to be the answer for the future. Remember – everyone has strengths – allow those still working out their strengths the time, space, variety and opportunity to find it – when they find it, you’ll be glad you did.”

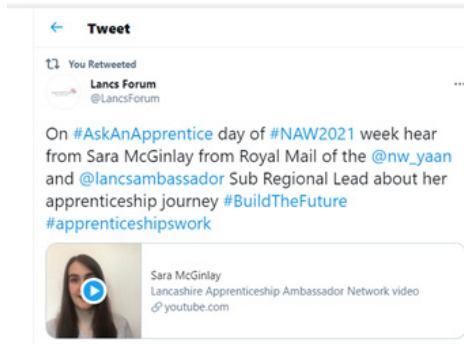
Employer Ambassador Becky Toal of Crowberry Consultants

Well done to one of our ambassador organisations who has been granted the status of Employer Champion with the Society for the Environment. On LinkedIn, Managing Director Becky Toal posted:

“ Happy to announce our new status as [#EmployerChampion](#) with the [Society for the Environment \(SocEnv\)](#) our team all receive training and development and can follow professional accreditation to support their career path. This status reflects our professionalism in the field of [#sustainability](#) and [#environmentalmanagement](#) consultancy, training and auditing.”

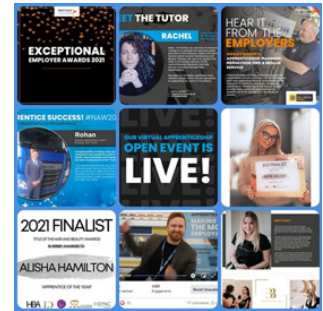


Sara McGinlay sharing her apprenticeship journey on Twitter
Retweet by NW YAAN of LF tweet



RT @LancsForum: On #AskAnApprentice day of #NAW2021 week hear from Sara McGinlay from Royal Mail of the @nw_yaan and @lancsambassador Sub R...
- @nw_yaan

Preston's College Virtual Apprenticeship Event – featuring video accounts from Employer Ambassador Jane Ward from Lancashire Constabulary



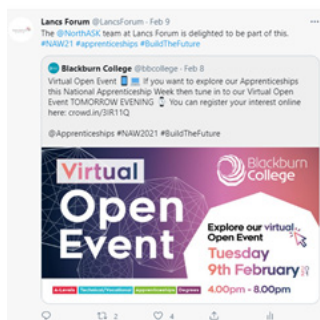
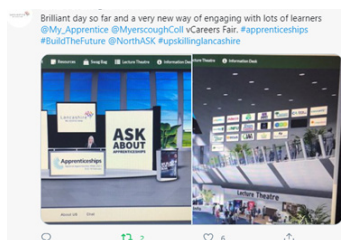
Neil Horner sharing his apprenticeship journey:



Forbes social media content



Lancs Forum's ASK Team attended 24 events throughout the week. Some of which was captured on social media:



Watch the NAW highlights film

Short on time? Watch the [short film](#) highlighting some of the best events that took place nationally during National Apprenticeship Week. Take a break with a cup of tea and watch our short round-up of the week, including interactive events for apprentices, students and parents!



The event took place 25th November 2020. And was hosted by Dan Walker sport broadcaster from the BBC. The event which took place virtually was opened by Gillian Keegan Minister for Apprenticeships and Skills and former apprentice, who welcomed and thanked everyone for attendance

Huge congratulations to Becky, Mary and their team for being awarded NW regional winners at the National Apprenticeship Awards 2020 'SME Employer of the Year'... what an outstanding achievement. [Here](#) is the full list of winners and those highly commended.



Apprenticeship Support
& Knowledge for schools

Now in the second term of the academic year and, despite the challenges both we and the schools and colleges face, the ASK programme is gaining momentum. More schools are engaging, and we have been successful in establishing contacts with some schools within the Cumbria region, which is new to our remit for this year.

We have regular communication with BL Training and the other delivery partners from across the North region and the North's representative from the ESFA has been in attendance at some of the meetings to hear updates from all partners. It is very encouraging to know from these meetings that we are performing well despite the obvious challenges, and that these challenges are common to ASK delivery partners nationally.



Our very own Forum Manager, Tim Cutler was one of the judges for the SUB 36 Awards and here is what he had to say about the event:

Inspiring young people honoured at Sub36 Awards

“It was an honour to be chair of the judging panel and my second year as a judge for the LBV Sub 36 Awards 2020. The winners were announced at an online event on Thursday 22nd October which was brilliantly put together, not quite the same as a trip to Winter Gardens but definitely one to note for carrying out virtual celebrations in the future. Well done to all the nominees and winners!”

Read the event article and the who won what [here](#).
Source: Lancashire Business View



Support for Lancashire Apprenticeship Ambassadors

We are all working in challenging times but there is a lot of support available to you during this time.

As apprentices/employees you will have support from your employer and your HR department. If you would like any further support from Lancs Forum, Tim and I are here to help however we possibly can.

Lancs Forum is working from home and are therefore contactable on:

- tim@lancsforum.co.uk
- cath@lancsforum.co.uk
- Forum mobile number [07495 051789](tel:07495051789)

Below are some links that might be of use.

Feeling Anxious - Department of Health and Social Care

<https://twitter.com/dhscgovuk/status/1243282829519106048?s=21>

Amazing Apprenticeships Wellbeing Workshops

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/wellbeing/>

NHS Every Mind Matters

<https://twitter.com/nhsuk/status/1242454798038970373?s=21>

Young Minds

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-you-re-anxious-about-coronavirus/>

Tips working from home/Tips for Employers and Leaders

<https://mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak/while-working>

BBC Tips on working well from home

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-51868894>

Government response to the Apprenticeship Programme

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-apprenticeship-programme-response>

Job Retention Scheme

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-of-coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-announced>

<https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme/>

Business Closures and Stay at Home Facts

<https://www.businesssupport.gov.uk/business-closures-and-stay-at-home-faqs/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-gives-support-to-millions-of-self-employed-individuals>



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

