



EAST YORKSHIRE 2026 APPRENTICESHIP AWARDS



WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT

Apprentices, Employers and Providers Recognised for Remarkable Achievements



On Thursday, 18th June we held the Annual East Yorkshire Apprenticeship Awards, held at MKM Stadium, Hull. Guests were welcomed with a drinks reception kindly sponsored by the Stadium, followed by a three-course meal and, of course, the prestigious awards ceremony. We celebrated 13 award categories, recognising both outstanding apprentices and the employers and training providers who support them.

The awards serve as a platform to showcase the outstanding contributions of apprentices, employers, and training providers across East Yorkshire, recognising the vital role they play in developing future talent and supporting the region's economy.

Celebrating the individuals who have embraced the opportunities apprenticeship programmes provide and flourished within their chosen careers. Through dedication, ambition and hard work, they are building strong foundations for the future while making a meaningful impact within their industries. As the innovators, leaders and skilled workforce of tomorrow, they continue to inspire those around them and showcase the true value of apprenticeships.

Apprentices prove that it is possible to rise to the top, driving change and innovation in their workplaces while making significant contributions to the local economy. This celebration marks the achievements of a generation that is breaking barriers, investing in themselves, and playing a vital role in regional growth. We thank everyone who supports these rising stars, and to those embracing apprenticeships, for their contributions benefit us all.

A special thank you to our esteemed panel of judges, comprising industry experts, diligently reviewed every nomination to determine this year's finalists and eventual winners. The judging process was meticulous, reflecting the high calibre of submissions received across the region.

We extend our sincere thanks to our judging panel; they are;

Tegan Hinch, Production Office Governance Analyst - Santander

Katie Rankin, Emerging Talent and Careers Manager - Jet2.com and Jet2holidays



Keira Robbins, People Development Manager - URM Group

Ellie Jobes, Group People Director - Bagnalls

Lisa Marriott, Early Career Development Manager - Drax

Tegan Hinch was able to join us at the event, Tegan said before announcing the winner of the Professional Services Award "Before I reveal the winner I want to say a massive congratulations to all of the finalists here tonight. Your commitment to apprenticeships is what makes this community so special and I'm thrilled to see all of your hard work being celebrated".

Chris Burn, Head of business and features for The Yorkshire Post. Said "It is a real pleasure to be here at the third East Yorkshire Apprenticeship Awards to celebrate the fantastic achievements of companies, mentors and of course apprentices based in this region.

You may have seen the recent Government-ordered report into young people and work by Alan Milburn, which included some truly worrying figures.

With more than one million young people now not in employment, education or training, there is a national crisis in youth joblessness which needs to be addressed urgently. Mr Milburn pointed out that the current system has hollowed out entry-level apprenticeship positions but added that "where apprenticeships do work, they work powerfully".

Tonight is the perfect example of that; demonstrated by the many achievements of the companies, organisations, trainers and apprentices in the room this evening. Hopefully, Mr Milburn's important work will lead to changes that mean those who take on apprentices are no longer swimming

against the tide and battling the system.

Apprenticeships prove that practical skills are just as valuable as academic ones. They build confidence, drive economic growth, and offer everyone—regardless of their background—a direct, accessible ladder to professional success. They are vital to the country's future economic health.

I attend quite a lot of awards events in my job and the reality of them is most people do leave empty-handed - particularly if it is me at a journalism awards ceremony! So I think it is really important to say at this stage that being shortlisted for any award is a genuine achievement in itself and one that all the nominees should be proud of. But good luck to everyone.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank our judges for all their hard work in assessing the entries, picking shortlists and choosing winners. It is a really hard job to do that so thanks to all of them. Please could you give them a round of applause.

I'd also like to thank our sponsors and the team at MKM Stadium for their involvement. I hope everyone has a fantastic night - looking forward to the awards. Thank you".

During the event we organised a raffle raising funds for our Charity Partner Aphasia Support, who are dedicated to improving the lives of people with aphasia and their carers through tailored speech and language therapy and long-term support. Your generosity helps people regain independence, communicate with confidence, reconnect with loved ones and live life to the fullest. We are pleased to share that the raffle donation equaled £999

The event was hosted by Ben Shires, the award winning (and more often

losing) presenter of kids TV favourites Officially Amazing, Match of the Day Kickabout (CBBC) and Dig Detectives (Sky Kids), as well as the owner of a rather splendid quiff.

An unrepentant Yorkshireman, when he's not cheering on Leeds United or scoffing Yorkshire puddings, Ben is in demand for live event hosting, and has worked for many years with high profile organisations such as the Premier League, BAFTA and English Heritage.

He lives in York with his wife, children and a collection of over twenty Blue Peter badges.

Keep up to date with the event visit the website <https://www.eyapprenticeshipawards.co.uk/>





Intermediate Apprentice of the Year

Sponsored by Yorkshire Water



WINNER

Lucy Cox, The Groom Inn

Award accepted on Lucy's behalf by Micahel Sword
Presented by Ann Stanley,
Funded Learning Lead at Yorkshire Water

Lucy's apprenticeship has been a remarkable journey of growth, skill, and dedication, making her a standout in the dog grooming industry. As a Level 2 Dog Groomer Apprentice, Lucy has embraced every aspect of her training with enthusiasm, professionalism, and maturity beyond her years. She plays an integral role in the daily operations of her salon, from grooming to customer service, and is highly valued for her teamwork, punctuality, and positive attitude. Lucy's rapid mastery of technical grooming skills and her consistent delivery of high-quality academic work have set her apart. Clients and colleagues alike praise her calm, confident manner and her commitment to animal welfare. Her apprenticeship has equipped her with not only expert grooming techniques but also transferable skills in communication and organisation. Lucy's ambition to eventually open her own salon is well-founded; she is already a role model for fellow apprentices and a credit to her profession.



Advanced Apprentice of the Year

WINNER

Nina Delvenne, Green Ginger Digital

Presented by Mark Harsley, Iconic Events, Business Development Manager

Nina's apprenticeship at Green Ginger Digital stands as a shining example of what can be achieved through dedication, initiative, and a passion for learning. Joining as a Level 3 Multi-channel Marketer apprentice with Hull Business Training Centre, Nina quickly distinguished herself with her self-directed approach, earning two promotions in just eighteen months. Now a Paid Media Strategist, she manages a client portfolio exceeding £120,000 per month and leads Google Ads strategies for major brands like Face the Future. Nina's technical expertise is matched by her outstanding client communication and agility under pressure, which have helped deliver remarkable results—including a +55% sales increase for Face the Future and a +93% rise for PACK'D. Beyond her achievements, Nina mentors newer apprentices, embodying the values and success the apprenticeship pathway offers. As she completes her apprenticeship in Summer 2026, Nina's future at Green Ginger Digital looks exceptionally bright.



Higher Apprentice of the Year

Sponsored by BAE Systems



WINNER

Jasmine Sharf, Ings Primary School

Presented by Dave Beales, Brough Site General Manager

Jasmine's apprenticeship at Ings Primary School has been transformative for both her and the school community. Having made a bold career shift from electrician to Teaching Assistant Apprentice, Jasmine quickly became an invaluable asset within The Orchard, the school's alternative provision for Key Stage 2 students with special educational needs. She leads small group sessions in English and Maths, supports speech and language therapy, and is a constant source of emotional and behavioral guidance for her pupils. Jasmine's proactive approach extends to resource creation and classroom management, ensuring a well-organised and supportive learning environment. Over the past year, her confidence and independence have flourished, earning her the trust and respect of students and staff alike. Despite personal challenges, Jasmine's unwavering dedication and positive energy have made her the heart of The Orchard. Inspired by her experience, she now aspires to continue her impactful work as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant.



Degree Apprentice of the Year

WINNER

Josh Saunderson, BAE Systems

Presented by Chris Burn,
Yorkshire Post's Head of Business & Features

Josh began his Engineering Degree Apprenticeship in Software at BAE Systems in 2023, quickly establishing himself as an integral part of the team thanks to previous experience in the software sector. From the outset, he demonstrated professionalism and a strong commitment to supporting the Early Careers community. Josh played a lead role in enhancing the apprentice experience, contributing to STEM outreach, school visits, and open days, and developing a comprehensive Apprentice Handbook now used across the programme. He designed and delivered a structured induction programme for new apprentices, covering essential software and professional topics. Academically, Josh excelled, earning a Distinction in his Foundation Degree and the William Northam Prize for Outstanding Achievement, and is on track for First Class Honours. Despite challenges, including completing much of his apprenticeship alone, Josh has shown resilience, initiative, and leadership, making a lasting impact on both BAE Systems and his peers.



YorkshireWater



Engineering / Manufacturing Apprentice of the Year

WINNER

Lois Hazle, BAE Systems

Award accepted on Lois's behalf

Presented by Host, Ben Shires

Lois's apprenticeship has set a new benchmark in engineering excellence and professional development. From the outset, she demonstrated a deep passion for aerospace engineering, consistently pursuing new knowledge and embracing challenges with resilience and maturity. Lois excelled in five demanding placements at Brough, rapidly integrating into each team and contributing meaningfully across disciplines such as Flight Systems and Systems Engineering. Her initiative shone as she independently secured a technically challenging six-month placement at Filton, relocating and thriving both professionally and personally. Lois's leadership emerged organically: she regularly supported fellow apprentices, fostering a positive, collaborative environment. Her technical maturity was further evidenced by her key role in delivering strategic specifications for future aircraft systems. Ambitious and globally minded, Lois proactively secured an international placement in Japan, reflecting her determination and adaptability. Coupled with academic excellence—achieving a First-Class BEng—Lois's apprenticeship journey stands as a testament to her outstanding potential and impact in aerospace engineering.



Construction Apprentice of the Year

Sponsored by Hudson Contract



WINNER

Mollie-Mae Jackson, Hobson & Porter

Presented by Hudson Contract,
Managing Director Ian Anfield

Mollie-Mae, a Trainee Site Manager at Hobson & Porter, has excelled through her apprenticeship after impressing during a two-week work experience placement. Her proactive approach, professionalism, and dedication have seen her take on a wide range of responsibilities, from planning and coordination to health and safety and quality assurance. Gaining experience across various business functions has equipped her with a comprehensive understanding of the construction industry and the confidence to thrive on site, even in a male-dominated environment. Mollie-Mae has demonstrated a genuine enthusiasm for learning, progressing to read technical drawings, undertake measurements, and utilise key project management software. She has played a crucial role in supporting complex projects and improving site efficiency. As an Ambassador for Hobson & Porter, she inspires others through her outreach work with schools and colleges. Recognised as Apprentice of the Year, Mollie-Mae is committed to both professional growth and promoting inclusivity in construction.



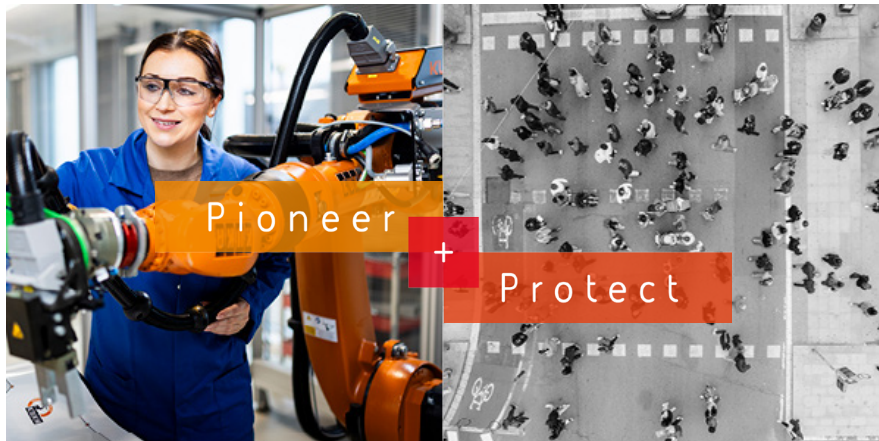
Health and Public Service Apprentice of the Year

WINNER

**Louisa Redhead, Rotherham, Doncaster & South
Humber NHS Foundation Trust**

Presented by Host, Ben Shires

Louisa's apprenticeship journey has been a remarkable example of professional development and organisational impact. As Continuous Service Improvement (CSI) Manager at RDaSH, Louisa chose the Level 5 Coaching Professional Apprenticeship to deepen her ability to drive transformation and embed a coaching culture within the Trust. By integrating coaching approaches into her leadership style, she has empowered teams, enhanced engagement, and supported the Trust's shift towards compassionate, staff-focused change. Louisa's achievements include leading the redesign of a mental health hospital, overseeing the consolidation of community buildings, and launching a new rehabilitation service—all while embodying the RDaSH Clinical Strategy and 28 Promises. Her commitment was further demonstrated by achieving a Distinction in her End Point Assessment during a complex ward move. Louisa's story is inspiring others to pursue apprenticeships, proving that academic excellence and operational delivery can go hand in hand in making a lasting difference.



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Professional Services Apprentice of the Year

WINNER

Katelyn Murray, Hudson

Presented by Tegan Hinch, Santander and YHAAN Co-Chair

Katelyn's apprenticeship journey at Hudson has been marked by enthusiasm, adaptability, and a strong drive to learn. Starting as a Customer Service Advisor, Katelyn immediately impressed with her bubbly personality and eagerness to take on new challenges. Throughout her first year, she progressed from basic administrative tasks to becoming a key customer-facing member of the team, adept at assisting a wide range of clients, from sub-contractors to managing directors. Her ability to handle complex situations—such as IT outages and payment issues—demonstrated her resilience and professionalism under pressure. Katelyn's commitment to personal development saw her eagerly embrace further opportunities, including a secondment in the accounts department, where she continued to exceed expectations. Her success inspired Hudson to recruit additional apprentices, and she has become a role model for new starters. Katelyn's inquisitive nature and positive attitude have set a benchmark, paving the way for future talent at Hudson.



Mentor of the Year

WINNER

Daniel Ward, Bishop Burton College

Presented by Yorkshire Post's Head of Business & Features, Chris Burn

Daniel's mentorship has been truly transformative for his learners. More than just delivering course content, Daniel creates a supportive and inclusive environment that fosters both professional and personal growth. He treats apprentices as developing professionals, encouraging collaboration, reflection, and open discussion. Daniel's personalised feedback, empathetic guidance, and practical strategies help his mentees tackle challenges in their roles with confidence. He demonstrates a deep commitment to understanding each learner's strengths and unique needs, especially when supporting neurodiverse individuals. By breaking down complex theories into accessible concepts and providing regular, constructive feedback, Daniel empowers his apprentices to become reflective, resilient, and ambitious practitioners. His encouragement inspires them to try new approaches, embrace challenges, and believe in their own potential. Daniel's influence extends beyond the classroom, shaping not only the careers but also the identities of those he mentors. His dedication exemplifies the impact of outstanding mentorship.



Apprentice Ambassador

WINNER

Yvonne Moir, Spencer Group

Presented by Host, Ben Shires

Yvonne's ambassadorial role has been instrumental in reshaping perceptions of apprenticeships as credible, high-impact routes into professional careers. As HR Director at Spencer Group, Yvonne has championed apprenticeships across education, industry, and the wider community, fostering long-term partnerships, most notably with Ron Dearing University Technical College. Through consistent advocacy, hands-on mentoring, and leadership in governance, Yvonne has ensured that young people gain real-world exposure, professional skills, and the confidence needed for career success. Her efforts have directly contributed to a marked increase in apprenticeship uptake and retention, with over 75 students securing roles at Spencer Group since 2019. Beyond her organisation, Yvonne shares best practices with SMEs, empowering other employers to embrace apprenticeship programmes. Her commitment to inclusive support and continuous improvement has created a sustainable talent pipeline, positioning apprenticeships as an aspirational first-choice pathway for the next generation. This impact underpinned her success as an ambassador at the event.

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The Hudson Foundation pays £250 per month towards the wages of an apprentice during their first year in our flagship sponsorship scheme.

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Scan to find out more





SME Employer of the Year

WINNER

LSTC Group Ltd

Presented by Host Ben Shires

LSTC has established itself as a leading employer of apprenticeships, offering a supportive and dynamic environment for early-career talent. Committed to nurturing professional growth, LSTC provides apprentices with hands-on experience, structured training, and mentorship from industry experts. This approach not only develops practical skills but also fosters confidence and a sense of belonging within the company's collaborative culture. Apprentices at LSTC benefit from working on real projects, contributing to meaningful outcomes while learning from diverse teams. The organisation's investment in apprenticeships reflects its dedication to building a skilled workforce and creating pathways for long-term career advancement. LSTC's inclusive approach ensures equal opportunities for all, encouraging innovation and fresh perspectives. Through its apprenticeship program, LSTC demonstrates its commitment to empowering the next generation of professionals, making it an employer of choice for those seeking to launch and develop their careers in a supportive, forward-thinking setting.



Large Employer of the Year

Sponsored by York St John University

WINNER

Arco

Presented by Thomas Burton,
Head of Apprenticeship Delivery



Arco's apprenticeship programme stands as a cornerstone of its talent strategy, delivering real impact for both the business and its people. Since 2015, Arco has supported over sixty apprentices across a diverse range of disciplines, from supply chain and warehousing to advanced data, finance, and sustainability roles. The company's "apprenticeship-first" approach is embedded in its Destination 2030 vision, focusing on both internal progression and the recruitment of external talent. Over 75% of apprentices are existing colleagues, many returning to learning with tailored support and mentoring, while external apprentices benefit from structured development and meaningful on-the-job experience. The results are impressive: 100% of external apprentices secure permanent Arco roles, with over 80% retained after a year. Apprentices are key contributors to business innovation, efficiency, and leadership, while the programme's external recognition and community impact reinforce Arco's status as a leading UK apprenticeship employer.



Training Provider / Programme

WINNER

First Intuition Yorkshire and Humber

Presented by Chris Burn,
Head of Business & Features at the Yorkshire Post

First Intuition is a leading training provider specialising in accountancy and professional development courses across the UK. Renowned for its student-centered approach, First Intuition delivers high-quality tuition for qualifications such as AAT, ACCA, CIMA, ICAEW, and more. The organisation prides itself on small class sizes, experienced tutors, and a supportive learning environment that fosters individual success. With a blend of innovative teaching methods and flexible study options—including classroom, online, and blended learning—First Intuition meets the diverse needs of learners from school leavers to experienced professionals. Its commitment to outstanding results is reflected in consistently high pass rates and excellent student feedback. First Intuition collaborates closely with employers to ensure that training is relevant to current industry demands, supporting workforce development and career progression. As a trusted partner in professional education, First Intuition continues to empower individuals and organisations to achieve their goals.

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