

PRESS RELEASE



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AWARDS CELEBRATE STAR APPRENTICES

Yeovil College has celebrated the success of its apprentices with a ceremony held at Haynes Motor Museum.

Nearly 30 top apprentices received awards in 22 categories at the event on Friday 18 November 2011. The star students were selected from over 400 apprentices studying at Yeovil College, the Construction Skills Centre and the North Dorset Skills Centre, Shaftesbury.

There were winners for every Intermediate and Advanced Apprenticeship offered by the College, including Business Administration, Carpentry, Electrical, Childcare, Hairdressing, Print, Engineering and Performing Manufacturing Operations. There were also representative awards for students who had competed at national level as part of their course and Level 2 and Level 3 Apprentices of the Year awards.

Samantha Hawkes of Yeovil won the Hairdressing Level 2 (Yeovil College) award. She said *"I work for Caines and Co in Yeovil. I'm really pleased to have won an award, it's quite an accomplishment. I really enjoyed the course and Caroline Helyar, the course Training Co-Ordinator, and all the tutors were really helpful."*

Yeovil District Hospital employee Steven May of Yeovil won the award for Health Level 2. He said *"I'm very excited to be here tonight and very honoured to have won an award. I've thoroughly enjoyed my apprenticeship and couldn't have completed it without the full backing of the staff. It's quite intimidating for mature students like me going back into education, but apprenticeships offer the ideal work/study balance."*

An Employer of the Year award was also presented to highlight the valuable role played by employers in apprenticeship training. Cyril Gallie of Cyril Gallie @ The Hair Shop, Yeovil, was selected from a shortlist of eight local businesses to receive the Employer of the Year award. Yeovil College Vice Principal Jayne Lewis said during the presentation *"The quality of Employer Engagement at Yeovil College made choosing an overall winner very difficult. Every employer who undertakes the commitment to have an apprentice is giving that person a future of opportunities. Mr Gallie is a good supporter of the*

College who trains his apprentices to a very high standard. He is always up-to-date with the latest styles, products and hairdressing developments and happy to share his knowledge with staff.” Mr Gallie’s supportive salon staff were also praised.

The guest speaker, Jack Fleming of the National Apprenticeship Service, also praised the work of employers. He said *“Apprenticeships have been one of the great skills success stories of the last decade and employers across many sectors have once again become engaged with the Apprenticeship brand. New employers and new sectors have become engaged for the first time and individual interest in Apprenticeship opportunities has also rocketed. Apprenticeships are now increasingly recognised as being one of the best ways of plugging skills gaps, encouraging staff retention and achieving commercial competitiveness. An apprentice is not just a cost effective way of recruiting young people, it is a tried and tested means of developing the skills employers need.”*

A special recognition award presented to Lynne Fernquest on behalf of the Western Gazette newspaper. It was presented in recognition of the publication’s strong support during the highly successful 100 in One Hundred Apprenticeship Challenge, which took place earlier this year. The project aimed to gather one hundred pledges of placements from employers in one hundred days.

The event also included a raffle in aid of Children in Need. Prizes included gift vouchers for the Da Vinci restaurant and Nexus Hair and Beauty salons at Yeovil College, along with wine, biscuits and toiletries donated by staff and employers. There were also three hampers, including one donated by Sharpham Park. A total of £150 was raised, which pushed the total raised by the College as a whole up to over £1200.

James Hampton, Principal of Yeovil College, introduced the ceremony and talked about the long tradition of apprenticeships. He also praised staff, students and employers for the success of the scheme. He said *“I am immensely proud of our apprentices and their role in the economy and I am delighted that we have been able to share their success stories through this event. Each year, Yeovil College helps to train nearly 600 apprentices and, last year, our success rates were more than 17% above the UK average, making Yeovil College one of the country’s outstanding apprenticeship providers. We feel that it’s very important to get the message of the importance of apprenticeships out there. The apprentice gets a future, the employer gets the skills they need and this country gets people who can help us to compete successfully in global markets. This event is a great opportunity to celebrate the people who will be vital for our country’s future. Our apprentices are great ambassadors for Yeovil College, their employers and for the apprenticeship scheme. We wish them the very best for the future and good luck.”*

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Notes to Editors

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Complete List of Award Winners

Award	Winner	Employer
Business Administration Level 2	Andrea Davey	Elite Scaffolding
Business Administration Level 3	Craig Summerbell	Babytec
Contact Centre Level 2	Nicole Dyke and Elliot White	Screwfix
Carpentry Level 2	Josh Vincent	Kingston Construction
Electrical Level 3 (North Dorset Skills Centre)	Chris Conway	Wessex
Electrical Level 3 (Construction Skills Centre)	Gary Oliver	Southern Electric
Fire and Security Level 2	Matthew Squibb	Wessex Fire and Security
Plumbing Level 2	Jason Cave	Albino Builders
Engineering Level 3	Sam Chinn	Talon Engineering
Childcare Level 2	Harriet Pickup	Smartees Day Nursery
Childcare Level 3	Tia Webb	Next Steps
Health Level 2	Steven May	Yeovil District Hospital
Health Level 3	Tracy Ludgate	Yeovil District Hospital
Hairdressing Level 2 (North Dorset Skills Centre)	Alison Sealy	Utopia
Hairdressing Level 2 (Yeovil College)	Samantha Hawkes	Caines and Co
Hairdressing Level 3	Stacey White	Cyril Gallie @ The Hair Shop
Performing Manufacturing Operations (Level 2)	Tom Haigh	Sharpham Park Farm
Print Level 2	Helen Long	Southern Print
Machine Print Level 3	Grant Aven	Butler Tanner and Dennis Ltd
Representative Award	Jack Kendall Richard Atherton Kieron Lees Luke Smith Adrian Sammons Matthew Doyle	Wessex Group Wessex Group CIA Fire and Security CIA Fire and Security Centreal Southern Security Ltd Crimehalt Fire and Security
Level 2 Apprentice of the Year	Tom Haigh	Sharpham Park Farm
Level 3 Apprentice of the Year	Sam Chinn	Talon Engineering
Employer of the Year	Cyril Gallie @ The Hair Shop	
Special Recognition Award	The Western Gazette	