

**PLASTERING AND
INTERIOR TRADES**

TRAINING AWARDS

2024



THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER

**Plasterers' Hall
One London Wall
London EC2Y 5JU**

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FINISHES & INTERIORS SECTOR


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Market Manager

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Saint-Gobain Formula is a key sponsor of the annual Plasterers and FIS Training Awards, which is an annual event that aims to recognise the work of colleges and independent training providers.



Check out our new look packaging!



Introduction

PLASTERING AND
INTERIOR TRADES

TRAINING
AWARDS

2024

The Training Awards are a collaboration between FIS and the Worshipful Company of Plasterers to recognise achievement and excellence in plastering and interior systems.

The awards celebrate::

- The achievement of apprentices
- Students who have exceeded expectations
- Training delivery by colleges and training providers
- Training delivery by an FIS member company
- Mentors and others who have supported sector training
- The rising stars forging a career in the sector
- Lifetime contribution to sector training.

THE JUDGES SAY:

It was a privilege to be a member of the judging panel for this year's Training Awards. The standard of entries across all categories was incredibly high, each supported with very positive endorsements from students, colleagues and employers.

Regardless of their final positions, all nominees should be proud of their individual achievements and take heart from the comments of their peers, supervisors, managers and tutors.

Congratulations to all nominees - we wish you all the very best for the future. Our sector is in good hands!

THE JUDGES



Philip Brown
FIS Immediate
Past President



Anthony Frayne
CITB



Matt Morgan
Construction
Apprenticeship
Consultant



Beena Nana
FIS Head of Skills
and Training



Adam Summers
Saint-Gobain
Formula



Helen Tapper
FIS Board
Member



Terry Wright
Worshipful Company
of Plasterers

APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR - PLASTERING

Paige Martin

Drywall Contracts



Pictured from left: James Minett (Master, Worshipful Company of Plasterers), Ian Strangward (FIS President) and Paige Martin

JG ROBINSON TROPHY

Recognising and rewarding the achievements of exceptional apprentices in plastering

Originally envisaging a career in the beauty sector, Paige had a change of heart after her mum struggled to find anyone to do some building work. "I realised there was lots of work available and wanted to know how to get into a trade," Paige recalls.

She started attending sessions with Think Sandwell to find courses and vacancies. Paige took a construction taster course that included training for a CSCS card – she passed with 100% – then took up an opportunity with Drywall Contracts on the Windsor Olympus Academy site. Arriving early every day during her work experience, she showed such enthusiasm and promise that she was offered a three-year plastering apprenticeship starting in April 2023.

Paige has had to work hard to overcome her learning difficulties. But she is described as "a whirlwind" whose energy and personality shine through on site. Anna Bishop from Sandwell College says: "She has outworked people twice her size and is always willing to take on extra work or do more hours." Jason Davis, her on-site mentor, adds: "She's always been eager to learn; she's always up and ready to work. Paige's attitude is refreshing; she always sees any situation as positive and jokes in stressful situations."

JUDGES' COMMENTS

These outstanding testimonials pay tribute to a learner's journey that shows an articulation of energy and a passion to be a female role model.

APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR - PLASTERING

RUNNERS UP

Newton Robinson, Andrew J Winner Plastering

Starting as a full-time Level 1 plastering student at Leeds College of Building in 2022, Newton was named Level 1 British Gypsum Student of the Year. Securing a plastering apprenticeship with Andrew J Winner Plastering, Newton went on to win the regional SkillBuild competition in 2023 and a gold in the final. A shy student, he has overcome this with quiet determination, building on 100% attendance and a keen eye for detail. Leeds head of construction crafts Wayne Chappelow comments: "Newton's transformation from a shy student to a confident leader has been truly inspiring. He has become a role model for his peers."



Oliver Berwick, Decorative & Ornamental Plastering

Oliver, a fibrous plastering apprentice at Decorative & Ornamental Plastering, joined the College of North West London in September 2022, where he has completed "excellent theory work and distinction-level written assessments". Lecturer Steve Lockwood comments: "His ability has shone through; Oliver takes his time on everything and is very methodical in his approach to all aspects of the task in hand." Oliver has also won praise for his work ethic, attention to detail and ability to finish a task to a high standard. Polite and hard-working, his attendance has been noted in the workplace and in college – he is "always an asset to the team he is working with".



PROFESSIONAL APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR - INTERIOR SYSTEMS

Jake Jones

Measom Dryline



From left: Ian Strangward,
James Minett and Jake Jones

SIR JOHN PIRIE CUP

Recognising and rewarding the
achievements of exceptional
apprentices in interior systems

Although only three years into his six-year apprenticeship, Jake has developed a lot with Measom, managing his own projects and achieving first-class results at university. Jake's work at Measom links with his university modules. He has also attended a contract training CPD course through work, giving him real-life experience, and happily volunteers for anything.

Jake is seen as a reliable member of Measom's commercial team. When a team member left abruptly, for example, he took over and completed the projects. Jake has been the single point of contact for several sub-£1m projects and, under supervision, has completed tasks such as monthly applications and cost value reconciliation reports. He is credited with a determination to succeed as a QS, learning from mistakes and any challenging situations. He is an ambitious person, always wanting to take on new responsibilities and keen to prove himself to the rest of the team. Jake has never missed a deadline and maintains a healthy balance between work, university and his personal life. He feels passionate about mentoring the next generation and is happy to get involved with projects outside the commercial team, assisting HR with career events at his previous secondary school, for example.

JUDGES' COMMENTS

Jake is a hard-working, confident and committed employee who thrives when working independently. His contribution to the organisation is commendable and in addition to his own tasks, he's always happy to lend a hand to his colleagues. Jake's assistance to others is not limited to any specific area; instead, he steps up whenever there's a need, truly embodying the spirit of teamwork.

APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR - INTERIOR SYSTEMS

RUNNERS UP

Ben Holden, OCL Facades

Ben has successfully balanced his HNC studies with QS training at OCL. He has completed all internal mandatory iHASCO modules, continues to develop himself by shadowing senior QSs on major drylining projects and has run his own project. Ben seeks opportunities to enhance his skills and knowledge, contributing to his growth and the success of the projects. With a maturity beyond his age, he has exceeded expectations in terms of efficiency and precision, adaptability, responsibility and relationship-building. Ben is known for his proactive attitude and strong ambitions. He is always ready to get involved, asking questions and offering assistance to colleagues.



Michael Dillon, OCL London

As an apprentice in OCL's estimating and surveying department, Michael is committed to his development. While excelling in his QS degree, at OCL he has gained hands-on experience with estimating and surveying software tools, as well as completing iHASCO courses. His college tutor comments: "Michael is one of the most dedicated students I have had the pleasure of teaching. His enthusiasm and determination set him apart." Michael regularly attends seminars and workshops and is an active member of CIOB. He suggests improvements that benefit clients and his ability to provide detailed estimates has helped OCL win bids. A natural team player, Michael arrives early for work and approaches each task with meticulous attention.



STUDENT OF THE YEAR - PLASTERING

Alicia Johnson

City of Liverpool College



Alicia was the only woman among 23 men starting the Level 2 diploma course last year, but she took it in her stride. She was awarded Plasterer of the Month within her first few weeks, scored highly in her exams, and in January completed a week's work experience with subcontractor SAL, in partnership with Morgan Sindall. Feedback from SAL and Morgan Sindall lauded her hardworking approach, resilience and friendly nature. On achieving her Level 2 in June, she was also awarded the college Gold Standard Certificate.

Alicia is seen as hardworking and reliable, with an excellent record of attendance and timekeeping and a positive attitude. This despite an early life coping with undiagnosed ADHD, as well as acting as a carer for her mother, who has several severe medical conditions, and her brother, who has mental health problems. At the start of her course, Alicia was also working as carer for a quadriplegic patient, which often led to 28 hours of continuous work. In February, Alicia was able to take another job as a delivery driver, with more flexible hours. Her tutors are in no doubt: "She has faced triumph over adversity, simply by showing up to learn every day."

JUDGES' COMMENTS

Alicia has proved herself through good professional development and practical work, while assisting others. Despite having ADHD and struggles at school, she has overcome these challenges to show skill and progress in work.

THE COLLINO TROPHY

Recognising and rewarding the achievements of exceptional individuals training in plastering

RUNNERS UP

Ruby Hillary, Coleg Llandrillo



As a selective mute with autism and ADHD, Ruby already has plenty of challenges. But a taster day at Coleg Llandrillo in June 2023 inspired her to start a course that September, on which her lecturer hailed her as "by far the most talented young plasterer I have come across in over 20 years". Ruby completed her first-year exams with top marks, won Plastering Student of the Year and an in-house competition, while completing her English and Maths GCSEs, aged 16. Ruby's determination and eye for detail have secured her work with a local housing association, participation in SkillBuild Wales, and private jobs for her family and others. Ruby is described as a stickler for timekeeping, with "fantastic housekeeping skills".

Tyler Davies-Brown, The College Merthyr Tydfil

Balancing his studies with a part-time job to support his young family, Tyler has nevertheless remained focused on becoming a skilled plasterer. He has excelled in practical and theoretical knowledge, consistently achieving high marks and advancing from basic techniques to intricate plastering methods. Tyler's performance in practical tasks has been outstanding, with attention to detail and precision, consistently producing work of the highest standard. Lecturer Bradley Mundy says: "Tyler's personal qualities make him a standout candidate among his peers. His exceptional timekeeping and reliability ensure he is always prepared and punctual, setting a positive example for others."

APPRENTICE/STUDENT OF THE YEAR - INTERIOR SYSTEMS

Shaun McKenna

Errigal Contracts (student)



From his first week at Errigal, Shaun stood out as someone determined to succeed. He achieved his CSCS, CSR and Irish Safe Pass accreditation within his first two weeks. At the end of his first year he had completed his Level 2 diploma in drylining and also now has his NVQ Level 2 in interior systems. And despite being a shy 18-year-old, Shaun now mentors other apprentices and is working towards site supervision. Shaun competed in two SkillBuild cycles in drylining, winning the 2023 Northern Ireland heat and a gold in the final. Shaun has developed into a competent dryliner, in demand on all the firm's sites. He helps other learners with their NVQs, shows exemplary attendance and timekeeping and has been noted for his ability to organise himself and others. Shaun's biggest challenge has been working away from home, moving to London to rent with other new apprentices. Moving from site to site across the capital, he has demonstrated a willingness to succeed, even saving from his wages to expand his tool collection. Shaun is seen as a credit to his company, is used as a role model for new apprentices and spoken of highly by all his site managers.

JUDGES' COMMENTS

Shaun is a confident and motivated individual with huge ambition for his future. His commitment to the team is commendable and his ability to appreciate and respect different approaches to working showcases his adaptability. He demonstrated an aptitude for managing high-pressure scenarios effectively and taking the initiative when necessary. Shaun is highly deserving of this award and particular acknowledgement is given for his commitment of living and working away from home.

THE THOMAS KELLY TROPHY

Recognising and rewarding
the achievements of exceptional
individuals training in interior systems

RUNNERS UP

Jason Russell, Measom Dryline (apprentice) (pictured below left)

A 29-year-old who decided to retrain in the sector, Jason is advancing quickly through his interior systems apprenticeship. He is from Surrey but has been working at Full Sutton Prison in York. Asked to live in York during the working week, Jason offered to transport fellow southern apprentices there and back each week. Jason's attendance and timekeeping have been excellent. He is a self-starter who encourages fellow apprentices to work efficiently, defending colleagues when they have made mistakes and keeping up spirits on tougher days. He has the qualities to be a project manager and his commitment, teamwork and dedication have all been recognised by Measom.



Jacob Milsom, Tapper Interiors (apprentice) (pictured above right)

Contracts director Mark Tapper sums up Jacob's achievements: "His progression has been astounding. He arrived in 2022, a shy, retiring, slight young boy who has grown into a competent, confident, likeable young man who does everything within his power to become a respected member of our team." Determined to build up his strength and agility, Jacob heads to the gym every evening after work and looks forward to a time when he can run his own business. Colleagues cite his excellent attendance, timekeeping and skills – "He is happy to travel and arrives on site with a smile on his face; absolutely everybody likes Jacob."

COLLEGE/TRAINING PROVIDER OF THE YEAR - SMALL ORGANISATIONS

Carlisle College



Carlisle College's achievements have been broadly welcomed. DMB Building, which has one apprentice there and two more starting, says: "They make having an apprentice easy. The apprentices have passed their courses with flying colours, a lot of the time early, which is mostly down to the staff at Carlisle College."

Meanwhile, GA Wilson Plastering Contractors has built up a strong relationship with the college over the past few years, enrolling all its apprentices onto the solid plastering apprenticeship course. "Carlisle College has communicated with us very well over the years, introducing changes that have occurred in plastering standards. It's not all been plain sailing, but any problems have been listened to and resolved." Last year, for example, GA Wilson had three apprentices ready for their EPAs but the college faced challenges getting its construction academy ready. As a result, the EPAs were arranged at Darlington College, which went smoothly and led to all three apprentices passing.

Finally, trainee Nathan Burns praises the college's high percentage of qualifying apprentices, adding: "I feel I've learned a lot... and been supported during my course, and it's made me ready to go into full-time work."

THE REGENCY VASE

Independent training providers or colleges that deliver the highest standards in training and qualifications for plastering and interior systems occupations

RUNNER UP

Craven College

Ryan Glynn from Ryan Glynn Plastering continues to reap the benefits that he himself received as an apprentice at Craven 12 years ago, applauding the college's "exceptional standards" and "good support network".

Liam Timmins agrees: "They go above and beyond with every student. My apprentice has had a lot of time and effort put into him. The tutor has been fantastic; without that input, my apprentice wouldn't have got as far as he has."

And trainee David Gannaway says: "My experience of Craven College has been altogether positive: training has been varied and well supervised by a very knowledgeable tutor; the support has been excellent and well tailored, even towards mature students like me."



COLLEGE/TRAINING PROVIDER OF THE YEAR - LARGE ORGANISATIONS

NPTC Group of Colleges

South Wales



Josh Hartson completed his plastering Level 3 NVQ at NPTC four years ago and has since started his own business. "I believe the training at NPTC stood me in good stead, with lessons on how to quote for jobs, tender for big projects and complete schemes of work down to the smallest detail." Josh says he still phones his former tutor for advice and guidance – proof that the college relationship doesn't end once training is completed.

Justin Powell from Watts Construction has been sending apprentices to NPTC for the past six years. He admires the plastering section's "outstanding record of success in qualifying apprentices". The training covers all aspects of plastering, even spray rendering, and he describes their communication as "fantastic – I am always updated on how apprentices are progressing". He also appreciates the flexibility offered: if an apprentice is needed in work, NPTC sends the coursework electronically so the student doesn't miss out.

Finally, trainee Brandon Harvey, who recently completed his Level 3 plastering at NPTC, found his training a "fantastic experience". After a career change from IT to construction, the college helped him settle in quickly, offering interesting but testing sessions. Brandon went on to be named British Gypsum Student of the Year.

JOHN HARMER CHALLENGE BOWL

Independent training providers or colleges that deliver the highest standards in training and qualifications for plastering and interior systems occupations

RUNNER UP

Llandrillo College, Rhos on Sea

Natasha Williams heaps praise on her Llandrillo tutor, Richard Jones: "He had emotional intelligence and the ability to support a range of ages and abilities. He always found time to explain everything in detail and always with a smile." Richard nominated Natasha for Student of the Year, an accolade she won and which she says helped her set up her own business, NL Williams Plastering. As well as supporting her in college, Richard helped her find opportunities elsewhere. Two years on, he still plays a part in her career. "I can't think of another person who deserves the recognition more than him – nothing short of a medical emergency will keep him from being there for his students."



CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT AND LONG-TERM FUTURE OF FIBROUS AND GRG PLASTERWORK

South Lanarkshire College



Awarded by Saint-Gobain Formula, a global leader in the supply of specialist gypsum plasters used in traditional fibrous and heritage plastering.

South Lanarkshire College (SLC) prides itself on delivering fibrous plasterwork to all plastering students, even as this type of training falls away in the UK. SLC trains all second-year apprentices in fibrous. Many thrive on this and move onto the advanced craft programme in their third or fourth year. SLC is investing in workshop upgrades to facilitate this growth, helping students with geometry, mathematics, creativity and organisational skills. In Scotland the apprenticeship framework comprises the Professional Development Award, taught and assessed in college, and the Scottish Vocational Qualification (SVQ) competence-based units, assessed on site. The frameworks for all SVQ apprenticeships are being redesigned and SLC staff have been involved – SLC has always been the loudest voice to ensure fibrous training remains an essential part of apprenticeships.

JUDGES' COMMENTS

By insisting on training all students in fibrous, SLC makes a significant contribution to the long-term future of FP and GRG. Many other UK colleges train only to what the employer wants. I am pleased SLC continues to fight for the inclusion of FP in the SVQ as well as the PDA. The fact that SLC trains all second-year apprentices in fibrous works and has 35 apprentices due this year is a huge factor.

FIS MEMBER TRAINING PROGRAMME

Zentia

Recognising FIS members that have delivered outstanding benefits to individuals and their organisation through their in-house plastering and/or interior trades training programmes



FIS
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Zentia training programmes aim to enhance core competencies, leadership skills and technical abilities. Every new starter attends the Zentia Installation School for at least one day, and thereafter takes continuous learning and development, including product refresher courses to suit. The school, a previous winner of the FIS Member Training Programme of the Year, has trained thousands of ceiling contractors since the 1990s. It also provides one-day courses for experienced ceiling installers as part of the Pinnacle by Zentia Partnership scheme, after which participants become a Pinnacle Supervisor and their business a Pinnacle Approved Partner.

Zentia evolved from Armstrong Ceiling Solutions in 2020, becoming a standalone brand in November 2021. It is now a leading manufacturer of complete ceiling solutions and has launched some 500 installers from its school since 2023. Pinnacle by Zentia is one of the main ways the firm supports the interiors sector, driving specifications and installation. It is also involved in the TransFIRe Hub, which investigates how the cement, metals, ceramics and glass, paper and chemicals sectors can reduce energy and resource use. Zentia is committed to offering apprenticeships in partnership with Gateshead College, as well as learning resources including CPDs, lunch-and-learns and bespoke training packages. Its Innovation Centre also offers a North East hub for architects and specifiers.

TRAINING CHAMPION AWARD

Kate Kerslake

carringtonLIME Heritage Skills Training

Recognising individuals who have excelled at mentoring others in achieving success in plastering and/or interior trades through tuition, coaching, support, advice and guidance.

Kate has proved herself a force to be reckoned with. The business started out as a building company but after realising there was no training route for lime plasterers, Kate decided to create a route. After a few years running short courses, Kate left her job at a local heritage site to work on training full time. In the past three years the firm has gone from eight courses a year to at least one a week. An accredited training organisation, it offers qualifications in lime and, as a not-for-profit, has invested in training bursaries. The firm is now the largest lime training provider in the UK.

Kate manages the day-to-day management, wrote all the courses and regularly reviews them. "She takes a lot of time to understand everything we do," says co-founder Ben Kerslake. "She attended a course to be in the shoes of a student, trained to be a teacher so she can be in the shoes of the trainers, regularly attends CPD sessions so she's up to date."

Kate is the first person most students talk to by phone or email. Many are nervous about attending so Kate ensures she attends every course and puts them at ease. This year she also trained as a domestic energy assessor and retrofit assessor so she could advise students; she is running a plastering fibre research project; and she has secured funding for subsidised training. "We could find another plastering tutor or conservation officer or business coach," says Ben. "We couldn't find another Kate."

JUDGES' COMMENTS

Kate has made an outstanding contribution to lime training, earning good testimonials for her professionalism and bringing past skills into running training for the plastering sector. Exceptional candidate.



RISING STAR AWARD

Edward Tapper

Tapper Interiors

Recognising those currently working in the finishes and interiors sector, shining a light on exceptional talent demonstrating the highest level of excellence during their career journey.



From left: James Minett, Ed Tapper, Nourdeen Al-Gharib (FIS Fit-Out Futures Network)

When Tapper Interiors became principal contractor on the £2.8m project for Lotus Cars in 2022, it turned to 30-year-old Ed Tapper to be site manager. Ed had started with the firm in 2009 as an apprentice, qualifying as a site manager in 2021. Yet Lotus' David Aldcroft was in no doubt about the choice: "Ed proved to be an exceptional manager for the wide array of trades and skills on site. Right from the start, Ed was first on site and last to leave. He was exceptionally knowledgeable, quick to respond, managed the full team and adhered to all legislative and contractual needs. Our central London site meant there were many challenges... but everything was achieved on time and within budget." Ed has nearly completed his HNC building qualification at Coventry University, which he attends one day per week. He will then move into management and quantity surveying. As the son of director Mark Tapper, he has had a tricky path to tread, but he has proved himself through hard work. Ed is a considered, calm, well liked man who knows that to gain the respect of the workforce requires not just hard work but talent.

JUDGES' COMMENTS

For the Lotus contract, Tapper Interiors took a leap of faith – they could have turned to more experienced site managers in the firm – but Ed made an almost impossible task look easy, coordinating more than 20 trades in a tight site to bring this complex contract in on time and on budget. Well done Ed!

ACHIEVEMENT

Wayne Chappelow

Leeds College of Building

LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD



Following a successful career as a plasterer, Wayne has spent more than 25 years with Leeds College of Building (LCB). He works tirelessly to ensure qualifications are fit for purpose – with IFATE to develop standards in plastering; with City & Guilds and NOCNs developing qualifications and writing exam questions; in construction T-level groups; and now with CITB developing a competency plastering standard. Wayne also supports competitors for SkillBuild, creating a dedicated role for this at LCB. Wayne ensures all programmes comply with awarding bodies and college policy. As designated safeguarding officer, he ensures all students are treated safely and fairly. He is a member of many industry groups, part of a CITB working group on modern methods of construction and supports the West Yorkshire Consortium of Colleges on net zero/sustainability. And as LCB's head of construction crafts, Wayne manages joiners, bricklayers, roofers, painters and decorators, roof slaters and tilers, multiskilled operatives and students with high needs. "His continued level of commitment is rare but to work so significantly with so many external stakeholders is a credit to him."

JUDGES' COMMENTS

Wayne has a complete commitment to training, passing on knowledge to apprentices/students in a considerate fashion but also by supporting industry and training groups to improve training standards and awards. A plasterer turned lecturer turned head of construction with a record second to none.



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We're committed to leaving a positive legacy and helping the next generation of plastering and drylining professionals find a route into the industry, as well as supporting the development and upskilling of the current workforce.

Through our installer, specifier, site manager, reseller and distributor training courses, our training academies deliver training to over 2,500 people every year.

Our skills partnership team supports the development of over 3,500 new entrants through partnerships with 65 colleges and training providers, designed to drive and improve skills standards across the industry, as well as supporting initiatives to attract new talent to the sector.

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FINISHES & INTERIORS SECTOR

FIS is the not for profit representative body for the £10 billion finishes and interiors sector in the UK. The organisation exists to support its members, improve safety, minimise risk, enhance productivity and drive innovation in the sector. FIS has a dedicated skills team to help members and the wider community with information, advice and guidance on sector careers, apprenticeships and funding.

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