

Recognition for an outstanding Apprentice



Minister Boles (left) and Katie Henderson (right) collecting her certificate

Katie took her Level 3 Apprenticeship in Business and Administration through NLT Training Services Limited – a Group Training Association and a registered charity. With sites in Chesterfield and Scunthorpe, NLT Training provides work-based learning. It holds an SFA contract to deliver Apprenticeships to 16 to 18-year-olds and both Apprenticeships and other Workplace Learning to adult learners, and also provides private full-cost commercial training. All its Business Administration and Functional Skills are delivered via OCR.

October 2014 saw Advanced Apprentice Katie Henderson at the Houses of Parliament – where she was a runner-up in the first ever GTA England National Apprenticeship Awards, sponsored by WNT (UK) Ltd.

We spoke to Katie about her day, which included meeting with Nick Boles MP, Minister of State for Skills – and about her Apprenticeship. We also chatted to the training officer who put her forward for the award – Sarah Woodmansey at NLT Training Services Limited.

Finding a solution

After leaving college at 19, Katie Henderson didn't want to go to university as, at the time, she didn't feel it was for her or that she was ready to go. She had suffered with dyslexia and anxiety quite badly at school and college. Katie said:

"I wanted to continue with my education and I also wanted a job so an Apprenticeship seemed like the perfect solution to me."

Real inspiration

Katie got an Apprenticeship with Whitworth Chemists. A job role created around her, she's now able to use skills she learnt at college and progress within the workplace. Katie told us: "I think the most inspiring thing I found from doing my Apprenticeship was the help and support I received from everyone at Whitworths, especially my manager Louise. I always worried about getting an office job and, having dyslexia, that I wouldn't be able to cope or be up to it. Louise has helped me so much and my dyslexia hasn't kept me back."

NVQ Assessor/Training Officer at NLT, Sarah Woodmansey put Katie forward for the award. "When asked if I had any Apprentices that I wanted to nominate, Katie immediately came to mind. She has consistently produced work to an extremely high standard. Her work demonstrates her ability to organise and her creative flair."

A “very enjoyable” day

Katie received her award at the Houses of Parliament, when GTA England held their annual conference on 14 October 2014. Katie was runner-up in the Apprentice of the Year 2014 Business Services category, and received a framed certificate and a crystal glass plaque.

"Attending the Houses of Parliament... was an experience I will never forget. The afternoon tea with the MPs was a great experience and after that we found out who had won. I found it rather scary going up in front of everyone to collect the award but I was really honoured to have come second in the country for my category. After the awards we found out that we had won an all-expenses-paid trip to Austria and Germany to see one of the sponsor's state-of-the-art premises."

A highly practical choice

We asked Katie whether she would recommend an Apprenticeship. She said: "I would definitely recommend an Apprenticeship to others... in fact I have! I think it's a great way to get into the workplace and gain work skills without having to go to university. Having learning difficulties, I feel it is a great way to get into work and not let anything get in the way."

So what's next?

Katie's really looking forward to starting her Level 4 NVQ and being able to assist her manager Louise with more complex tasks. She's working more in the marketing department and developing her skills there too.

“Friendly and obliging” staff at OCR

Sarah told us she's found that our support's always readily available – including from the External Verifiers, the External Quality Assessors and from the Functional Skills team over the phone.

Sarah added: "There is more than sufficient information made available to centres for running and managing the qualifications, however, if something isn't clear or I've questioned anything, the staff at OCR are always obliging and helpful to answer any queries."



Katie Henderson (centre) received her award at the Houses of Parliament with Louise Trought (left) and Sarah Woodmansey (right)

Congratulations to Katie from all of us here at OCR!

Find out more about our Apprenticeships: ocr.org.uk/apprenticeships
Call: 02476 851509 email: vocational.qualifications@ocr.org.uk