

National Apprenticeship Awards 2021 national winners unveiled

The 18th Annual National Apprenticeship Awards took place last night, Wednesday 1st December.

For the first time ever a hybrid event was hosted with finalists, sponsors, Education Secretary Nadhim Zahawi and Minister for Skills Alex Burghart in attendance at 30 Euston Square, London. The event was also live streamed with family, friends and supporters from across the apprenticeship community able to join in the celebrations online.

Strictly Come Dancing and BBC star Dan Walker returned to host the Awards for a second year.

Apprentices, at all levels and from sectors including retail and commercial, digital and manufacturing, alongside employers from the science, public services and engineering and manufacturing sectors were announced as winners. Ten winners and 18 highly commended finalists were recognised from across all nine English regions.

The National Apprenticeship Awards shine the spotlight on business and individual success in apprenticeships, and how apprenticeships can boost business success and lead to dream careers.

Education Secretary Nadhim Zahawi said:

I would like to pass on my personal congratulations to all the award winners and highly commended entries.

It was a pleasure to attend the ceremony, and to have the opportunity to take part in a celebration which recognises the very best apprenticeship employers and their dedicated and driven apprentices.

Apprenticeships are key to supporting the country to level up skills and opportunity, and recognising the commitment of these employers and individuals further highlights their importance.

The National Apprenticeship Awards 2021 winners and two highly commended in each category are:

National Result	Category	Employer	Region
Winner	The BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT Award for SME Employer of the Year	Lander Automotive Ltd	West Midlands

National Result	Category	Employer	Region
Highly Commended	The BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT Award for SME Employer of the Year	Higgins Partnerships	East of England
Highly Commended	The BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT Award for SME Employer of the Year	McCarrick Construction Co Ltd	North East
Winner	The British Army Award for Large Employer of the Year	Wakefield Metropolitan District Council	Yorkshire and the Humber
Highly Commended	The British Army Award for Large Employer of the Year	Great Ormond Street NHS Trust	London
Highly Commended	The British Army Award for Large Employer of the Year	Flagship Housing Group	East of England
Winner	The Maersk Award for Macro Employer of the Year	J.C. Bamford Excavators Limited	West Midlands
Highly Commended	The Maersk Award for Macro Employer of the Year	Lloyds Banking Group	Yorkshire and the Humber
Highly Commended	The Maersk Award for Macro Employer of the Year	Royal Navy	South East
Winner	The NCFE Award for Recruitment Excellence	LabCorp	Yorkshire and the Humber
Highly Commended	The NCFE Award for Recruitment Excellence	Go-Ahead Group	London
Highly Commended	The NCFE Award for Recruitment Excellence	Royal Navy	South East

National Result	Category	Region	Name	Employer
Winner	The Marshall Award for Intermediate Apprentice of the Year	East Midlands	Gemma Smith	Waitrose and Partners
Highly Commended	The Marshall Award for Intermediate Apprentice of the Year	South East	Ben Gray	Slough Borough Council
Highly Commended	The Marshall Award for Intermediate Apprentice of the Year	South West	Henry Powell	Barratt Developments PLC
Winner	The BT Award for Advanced Apprentice of the Year	London	Jessica Liddy	Google
Highly Commended	The BT Award for Advanced Apprentice of the Year	West Midlands	Gavin Archer	JCB Earthmovers Ltd
Highly Commended	The BT Award for Advanced Apprentice of the Year	North East	Eden McGlen	Unipres (UK) Limited
Winner	The Royal Navy Award for Higher or Degree Apprentice of the Year	East of England	Adam Hearn	Braintree Precision Components

National Result	Category	Region	Name	Employer
Highly Commended	The Royal Navy Award for Higher or Degree Apprentice of the Year	North East	Kate Todd-Davis	Rolls-Royce plc
Highly Commended	The Royal Navy Award for Higher or Degree Apprentice of the Year	North West	Khadija Al-Selini	IBM
Winner	The Lloyds Banking Group Award for Rising Star	West Midlands	Nihal Dhillon	JCB Excavators Ltd
Highly Commended	The Lloyds Banking Group Award for Rising Star	North West	Cameron Ackroyd	Bentley Motors
Highly Commended	The Lloyds Banking Group Award for Rising Star	East of England	Erin Maciejewski	GlaxoSmithKline plc
Winner	The Royal Air Force Award for Apprenticeship Champion of the Year	North East	Ian Green	Nissan Motor Manufacturing
Highly Commended	The Royal Air Force Award for Apprenticeship Champion of the Year	East of England	Claire Wright	Rose Builders
Highly Commended	The Royal Air Force Award for Apprenticeship Champion of the Year	South West	Becca Thurston	Wessex Water

The National Apprenticeship Awards 2021 also recognised how employers and apprentices are contributing to business recovery and highlighting those who have shown their ongoing resilience as we move toward a post Covid-19 world through 'Apprentices in Action'.

Apprentices submitted their stories, verified by their employer, as entries for this year's Special Recognition Award in association with EY – with the winner announced as Paige Orwig from AstraZeneca.

When COVID-19 pandemic was declared and the UK went into lockdown, Paige Orwig was part of a team of Drug Metabolism Pharmacokinetic scientist's whose work was considered by the government to be essential research for cancer research and as such, when lab work was required, scientists made the exceptional effort to continue to visit the site and carry out their work under extraordinary circumstances.

In April 2020 it was announced that AstraZeneca, GSK and the University of Cambridge would be collaborating to build a lighthouse COVID-19 testing lab. Paige immediately volunteered for this opportunity, willing to put her time, effort and expertise into the fight against this global pandemic.

Within her main role in sample preparation Paige quickly established herself

as an organised, professional and extremely capable scientist and within weeks was assigned as deputy team lead for her sample preparation room.

Paige adjusted her study time around her new role, and through all the adversity was successful in her Chemistry Foundation Degree in Chemical Sciences at the University of Kent as well the SIAS Laboratory Scientist Level 5 Apprenticeship with a distinction.

Paige's exceptional and voluntary support of the Cambridge COVID-19 Test Centre shows her passion for science and improving the lives of patients across all disease areas. Paige quickly became an integral member of the team at the test centre and her hard work posed as an inspiration to her colleagues and fellow apprentices.

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