

# The future's bright

We're celebrating the next generation of industry talent in an 11-page special on training, starting with the latest winners of our annual Best Apprentice Plumber awards

**Our Best Apprentice Plumber awards recognise and reward the achievements of the next generation of talent across our industry. Now in their 32nd year, they are a testament to the hard work and skill that is showcased on a daily basis by our trainees.**

The awards see the different colleges we work with nominate their best SNiPEF-registered apprentice with the winners handed a £100 Amazon gift card each.

Here we meet the outstanding individuals who are making sure the industry's future is in safe hands.

**AYRSHIRE COLLEGE**

**Aiden McIlroy, employed by Derek Campbell Plumbing, Heating & Gas Services**

Aiden said: "My favourite aspect of being an apprentice plumber is that I'm able to experience new challenges daily and use the knowledge I've obtained over the course of my apprenticeship to help me solve these problems. I've been able to use different skills and

improve them over time, and this helps massively when on the job.

"I feel that starting my apprenticeship has opened a wide range of opportunities for me and was the right choice for starting my experience in the world of work. For anyone who is enthusiastic, a keen learner and hard worker, it is absolutely the path you should choose regardless of

**“My favourite aspect of being an apprentice plumber is that I'm able to experience new challenges daily and use the knowledge I've obtained over the course of my apprenticeship to help me solve these problems”**



Aiden McIlroy



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age or your experience. It was a huge surprise to me winning the Best Apprentice Plumber award. It is a massive achievement for me, my employer, and my college. I know there are loads of talented apprentices out there and I'm incredibly grateful to win this award."

Aiden's employer, Derek Campbell, said: "We are all very proud of Aiden's achievement in attaining this award. He has a very enthusiastic attitude, is always eager to learn new skills and is quick to put these skills to use on the job. Aiden also has a very pleasant nature that I regularly receive compliments about from customers and other trades we work with. He works well within our team and has become a huge asset to our business."

**BORDERS COLLEGE**

**Stephen Cairns, employed by Mike Cairns Heating & Gas Services Ltd**

John Rafferty of Borders College was glowing in his praise for Stephen.

He said: "Stephen is an absolute pleasure to have in class, he has a thirst for knowledge and always invests heavily in any topic being covered in class. He is an asset to his employer and recently represented the college at the SkillPLUMB competition."

**DUNDEE COLLEGE**

**Gregor McNee, employed by Tayside Boiler Services**



Hubert Parysek

Andrew Thomson, SNIPEF Training RTO, said of Gregor: "He recently won the SkillPLUMB lead competition, despite having very little experience and not undertaking lead work at his workplace. Gregor has been trying for a number of years to achieve his qualification at college and has been working as a plumber's labourer for 10-plus years. He gives 100 per cent to any task, whether in college or at his workplace."

**EDINBURGH COLLEGE**

**Jack Forbes, employed by A Alexander & Son (Electrical) Ltd**

SNIPEF RTO Elaine Whitehead said: "Jack came third at the SkillPLUMB copper bending

competition and, as a result, has gained a place in the National competition. This is a great achievement. Well done, Jack."

**FIFE COLLEGE EAST**

**Owen Robertson, employed by Alistair Thorpe Cupar Ltd**

Owen said: "What I love about being an apprentice is learning the skills from multiple qualified engineers. I would

tell others considering an apprenticeship to think about where you will be in four years' time, not where you are now.

"I'm speechless at winning. I don't do what I do for the awards, I do it because it's the job I choose as my career. Receiving this award solidified for me that I'm doing it well."

The college's Robert McCulloch added: "Owen is hard working in class and his attendance exemplifies his performance. His workshop work is excellent in both pipe work and lead."

**FORTH VALLEY COLLEGE**

**Hubert Parysek, employed by Comfort Systems Plumbing & Heating Ltd**

Hubert said: "I love the job variety and satisfaction after the job is completed. I never get bored doing the same thing over and over again because on a usual day on site I do four or five different jobs, like helping out with a boiler and a minute later fitting shower screens or helping out on customer care.

"Starting an apprenticeship is a massive learning curve, and I often found that when I was starting to think I understood something, that was only the beginning. There were times when I was getting more things wrong than right, and for the people that know me, you'll know I hate it. However, it



Owen Robertson





**TRAINING SPECIAL**

does get better and with every mistake I became a little more confident in learning from them and enjoying what I do. Winning feels amazing, knowing that other people recognise my dedication and hard work. It motivates me, even more, to continue putting in the extra work."

Hubert's employer Neil Doris added: "We are really pleased with Hubert's progress and achievement. On completion of his apprenticeship we think that he will be in the position to run his own site within the company, something very few people manage."

And the college's Steven Adams added: "Hubert is a fantastic apprentice. His attitude, ability and willingness to get the job done mean he is a pleasure to work with. From day one in college, this ethos was visible."



Kyle Shanahan

**GLASGOW CLYDE COLLEGE**

**Kyle Shanahan, employed by Emtec Group**

Kyle's employer Victoria Cameron said: "Emtec is extremely proud of Kyle and his achievement winning SNIPEF's Best Plumbing Apprentice. Kyle has demonstrated great skill and ability throughout his apprenticeship. His hard work and dedication have paid off by gaining this award and we are delighted to have him as part of our team."

The college's Iain Boyle added: "His overall attitude



is great and he was also a competitor at SkillPLUMB 2022."

Grant Hunter was praised for his hard work

**GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE**

**Matthew Strachan, employed by Axwell Technical Services**

The college's Sam Thomson said: "Matthew has shown great commitment to his SVQ Level 3 Plumbing and Heating course and has performed very well in theoretical and practical applications."

**INVERNESS COLLEGE**

**Kirsty MacLean, employed by Alex Matheson (Plumbing & Heating) Ltd**

Neil Foxcroft, SNIPEF Training RTO, said: "Kirsty has had a constant level of application

throughout the programme. She is determined to develop her skills and competence and is a deserving winner of the award."

**MORAY COLLEGE**

**Sean Esslemont, employed by McDonald & Munro Ltd**

Sean's employer, Miguel Gomez, said: "Sean has progressed really well since he began his apprenticeship. When he started with us, he was a little shy, with very little experience in the industry. It's great to see his progression into a confident and polite young man who's very capable when assisting his colleagues. It gives me, and the journeyman he's worked with, great pleasure to see him doing well in these competitions."

**NORTH EAST SCOTLAND COLLEGE**

**Grant Hunter, employed by Willie Gault Plumbing Heating & Renewables**

Grant's boss Wullie Gault said: "Grant has worked hard in all aspects of the job and I am really happy that he has won Best Apprentice Plumber 2022. Grant is always enthusiastic to learn new skills and I believe he has a bright future in the plumbing industry."

The college's Neil Robertson said: "Grant has shown great promise. He has a good attitude when attending college and has produced high-quality work that is neat and easy to understand.

His practical work has also been of a good standard. Grant has been a credit to himself and his employer and I'm sure he will maintain this high standard."



Daniel Van Wyk

**PERTH COLLEGE**

**Daniel Van Wyk, employed by D M Plumbing**

Daniel said: "Being an apprentice is great. There is

**Matthew has shown great commitment to his SVQ Level 3 Plumbing and Heating course and he has performed very well in theoretical and practical applications"**

so much to learn and seeing the end result makes you feel great. Every day is different, you learn a great skill and you'll never be without a job once you've done the training.

"To win this amazing award is so good. Hard work does pay off. Thank you so much."

Andrew Thomson, SNIPEF Training RTO, added: "Daniel has to travel long distances to college and manages to get himself there on time. He has successfully achieved all college assessments first time and comments from his lecturers suggest he always applies himself to his studies and gives his training 110 per cent. At his workplace, his employer David McGurk has confidence in his practical skills and relations with customers and often leaves Daniel to install new bathroom suites by himself. A great achievement for a first-year apprentice."

### **SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COLLEGE**

#### **Tom Gillies, employed by BS Plumbing & Heating Services**

Tom's employer Alan Callaghan said: "Huge congratulations to our plumbing and heating apprentice of the year. We're so proud he's part of BS Plumbing & Heating Services along with all our hard-working guys. I hope he enjoys his voucher and I'm sure our Managing Director will match it. Keep up the excellent work, Tom. To all our apprentices, this is why we invest in you as we strive for you to be the best."

James Jamieson from the college added: "Tom is a worthy candidate for this year's nomination."

### **TULLOS TRAINING LTD**

#### **Adam Myron, employed by Heatcare Oil & Gas Ltd**

Adam said: "My favourite thing about being an apprentice is learning new skills and putting them to use. You can use them on the job and even to help around your house."



Tom Gillies

**“ This is in recognition of outstanding achievement. Paul has not only done extremely well in both theory and practical lessons, but he has also been a huge support and help to others on the course”**

"I'd tell anyone interested in being an apprentice that it's one of the best decisions you'll make. It will be worth the hard work and dedication once your time is served.

"I was chuffed to bits receiving the news on being the best apprentice plumber. It really does motivate you to do your best at work and college." The centre's Stuart McLeod added: "Adam is enthusiastic, interested and keen, with a good knowledge of systems within the plumbing industry."



Adam Myron

### **WEST COLLEGE SCOTLAND (CLYDEBANK)**

#### **Ben Anderson, employed by The Boiler Repair Man**

The college's Allan Bauld said: "This is recognition of Ben's outstanding academic achievement and great attitude towards learning."

### **WEST COLLEGE SCOTLAND (GREENOCK)**

#### **Ritchie McArthur, employed by James Paterson & Sons Plumbing & Heating Ltd**

The college's Lee Clark said: "Ritchie works extremely hard all year, producing high-quality work with a great attitude. He is also very helpful to other members of class with elements of the course."

### **WEST COLLEGE SCOTLAND (PAISLEY)**

#### **Paul Marshall, employed by James Frew Ltd**

The college's Allan Bauld said: "This is in recognition of outstanding achievement. Paul has not only done extremely well in both theory and practical lesson, but he has also been a huge support and help to others on the course." ■