

Apprenticeship News Letter 3 June 2009

Apprentice of the Year Competition

Citroën's own Apprenticeship Programme is now in its' 2nd year, delivering apprenticeship training for the Citroën Dealer network.

Each year the programme recognises the achievements of the apprentices by awarding the top achievers from each academic year with a trophy and certificate. This year the programme improved this with the addition of a formal competition to find the overall apprentice of the year from participating dealers across the UK.

The first and second year apprentices were recognised and presented with a bespoke glass trophy and certificate at their place of work.

The award winners this year for these categories were:

1st Year Technician Apprentice Kaylee Roberston from Central Garage Shetland

2nd Year Parts Advisor Apprentice Daniel Veznaver from Citroën Manchester

The Apprentice of the Year was decided through a tough competition run from Citroën National Learning Services facility in Slough.



Five candidates were invited to compete for this award. These five candidates were picked by the Citroën Apprenticeship staff through assessing their past training and achievement and their commitment to their training programme and employer.

The five candidates were:

- Umar Butt Citroën Birmingham
- Sam Ford Wyatt Poole
- Ashley Smith Bristol Street Nottingham
- William Parker The Verve Coatbridge
- Andrew McLachlan Cars to Citroën

The competition was based on the ATA (Automotive Technician Accreditation) scheme. Each of the five candidates had to complete an online assessment and 6 demanding practical tasks based on various systems on the vehicles. All passed this assessment proving their ability to be able to carry out these kinds of jobs in their workplace to a high level. These five apprentices were the first five to achieve their ATA award with the apprenticeship programme; we aim to deliver this to all future 3rd year apprentices when they have achieved their qualification.

The competition was followed by a formal dinner and presentations held at the Copthorne Hotel in Slough. Apprentices were joined by Dealer representatives, family and guests together with representatives from the Learning Skills Council and the Institute of the Motor Industry for a private awards event.

Presentations and motivating speeches were given during the event by Andrew Didlick, Director UK Network Training and Brian Steele, Manager Network Training and Development.

The Overall Apprentice of the Year was awarded to Sam Ford from Wyatt Poole.



Special thanks to Citroën Service and Parts, Press Department and Facom Tools for supplying the prizes for the finalists and winner.

Christopher Newton Operations Manager Peugeot Citroën Apprenticeships said:

“I believe that this event really brings home the efforts all of the apprentices and the staff put into the training and achievement of the apprentices qualifications. Apprenticeships clearly work for those employers prepared to engage with them, these five finalists are a product of what apprenticeships are about and are a great asset to their employer”

First Year Apprentice of the Year

The first year apprentice of the year was awarded to Kaylee Robertson from Central Garage in Shetland. Kaylee has proved herself to be a real achiever since starting with the Citroën Apprenticeship Programme. She has great motivation towards her studies and is always at the top with her course work. At work Kaylee produces excellent quality of work and is learning all the time with more complicated jobs coming her way.

Kaylee should have no problems in achieving her level 3 apprenticeship qualifications and I know she will not stop there as she has higher levels in mind.

Well done Kaylee.



Second Year Apprentice of the Year

This year the second year award goes to one of our parts apprentices. This apprenticeship is becoming more popular with employers as it is now predominately delivered in the dealer on the job so needs less time away from work to attend training blocks.

Daniel Veznaver is the winner of this award, he is an example of what we are trying to achieve within apprenticeship training and development.

Dan, from Citroën Manchester, has attended all training blocks with enthusiasm and a keenness to learn all aspects of his role.

Dan took hold of his qualification from day one and has produced a high standard of work throughout his time on the programme. Dan has also used the training blocks to help improve his dealerships parts operations by creating accessory guides and also applying his sales skills. Dan is committed to the brand and even talks about moving through the ranks into management. Dan also acted as Health and Safety representative for his dealership. He has completed his level 2 qualification with much detail and his level 3 will no doubt follow in the same way.

All feedback from his manager has been positive and his interaction with his colleagues is excellent.

Dan aspires to be the future of his business in Citroën parts and we believe he will continue to remain focussed and committed to the brand even when the qualification is behind him. Well done Dan.



Robert Foster Award

The special Robert Foster Award, for overcoming barriers and commitment to the job and brand, went to Paul Calgie from Donnelly Citroën Enniskillen this year. Paul had a near fatal car crash over a year ago and is now back at work part time. He has pushed himself through therapy to get back to work at a tremendous rate. He is keen to get back into the workshop at some point when he is fit enough. Meanwhile Paul is doing a great job helping in the warranty office and still putting in 100%.

