

# THE EARWIG

UPDATES FROM WEST BERKSHIRE TRAINING CONSORTIUM

**WBTC**

**HIGH QUALITY  
APPRENTICESHIPS  
AND TRAINING**

[wbtc-uk.com](http://wbtc-uk.com)



## Dear Members

*I'm pleased to say that we have started our gradual return to our training centre in readiness for the summer. We are open to give advice and guidance to school and college leavers (by appointment only) on what to do next. As youth unemployment is set to rise due to lockdown, it is more important than ever to get the right advice for the next steps. Get in touch with us if you or someone you know needs help by emailing [rachel@wbtc-uk.com](mailto:rachel@wbtc-uk.com).*

*Our English and maths programme is going great guns. It's ideal if you're considering going for a promotion, doing higher-level qualifications or applying for a new job. We've even had some parents who are home schooling their children who wanted to improve their own English and maths to help with school work. Any adult who has yet to achieve their Level 2 English/maths is eligible for this free programme. For more information email [karen@wbtc-uk.com](mailto:karen@wbtc-uk.com).*

*Matt Garvey - Managing Director*

## RISING STARS - THE FINALISTS

As you may know, our Graduation and Rising Stars Awards have been rescheduled to Wednesday 28th October 2020. We are fully committed to running a safe and inspirational event and after such a challenging time, we all need something to look forward to! So all being well, our apprentices *will* graduate and we *will* present our awards in October. Our panel of judges have been busy selecting three finalists in each category (see below). Well done to everyone who was nominated and to all our finalists. We will be in touch to arrange the official photographs for the awards in due course.

### 2020 Rising Stars Awards - Finalists

#### Large Employer of the Year

Sponsored by Newbury Weekly News

Kennet School  
Publica Group  
Thames Valley Police

#### Medium Employer of the Year

Sponsored by EJBC Chartered Accountants

Benchmark  
Gowrings Mobility Limited  
Newbury Building Society

#### Small Employer of the Year

Sponsored by The HR Department

Firstxtra Financial Services  
Sharp's Autos  
Vectorworks UK Limited

#### Micro Employer of the Year

Sponsored by Dovetail Recruitment

Durrants Calleva  
Opus Accounting  
PAC Conference & Event Management

#### Great Start Learner of the Year

Sponsored by James Cowper Kreston

Owen Armstrong  
Cameron Doswell  
Holly Sunderland

#### Mentor of the Year

Sponsored by Bayer Plc

Jane Boshier - Newbury Building Society  
Helen Law - Vectorworks UK Limited  
Donna-Louise Gwatkin - Bayer Plc

#### Apprentice of the Year 19+

Sponsored by SPX Flow

Stevie-Leanne Chadwick - Sovereign Housing Association  
Lewis Slyfield - Bayer Plc  
Francesca Timms - Big Group Insight Limited

#### Apprentice of the Year 16-18

Sponsored by Benchmark Furniture

Alice Dearlove - Newbury Building Society  
Aimee Richardson - Firstxtra Financial Services  
Jezanne Sahota - Bayer Plc

*If you had already confirmed your attendance to the May event, your place has been transferred to the new October date. If you believe you should have been invited to the event but haven't heard from us yet, please email [matt@wbtc-uk.com](mailto:matt@wbtc-uk.com).*



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST ACHIEVERS



## **Congratulations to Ella Joyce of Northwood Investors for achieving her Advanced Business Administration Apprenticeship**

Ella said, "My apprenticeship has given me the skills to be able to complete tasks, such as project management. The part I enjoyed the most about my apprenticeship was the social aspect; meeting everyone at WBTC as they were all in the same situation as me and had not wanted to go to university. Anyone thinking about taking up an apprenticeship I would say do it, especially business administration as these skills can be transferred to any industry sector."

Andrea Wood, Ella's Training Consultant said "It has been great working with Ella, her work was always to a high standard and I have seen her grow and develop in her role. Ella has secured a permanent role incorporating HR, accounts and property and I wish her all the best."

Find out more about Northwood Investors: [www.northwoodinvestors.com](http://www.northwoodinvestors.com)

**“ Anyone thinking about taking up an apprenticeship I would say do it... ”**

## **Congratulations to Owen Powell of James Cowper Kreston for achieving his Advanced Assistant Accountant Apprenticeship.**

Owen said "I started my job at James Cowper Kreston knowing nothing about accountancy; the amount I have learned in the last 15 months is much more than I had expected. I am really happy in my job and pleased that I made the decision to go into accountancy. The best part of an apprenticeship is the social aspect, meeting new people and making friends for life, but at the same time still learning. I would say to anyone thinking of taking on an apprenticeship to go for it, as it's a great way to learn whilst working. There is no better way to learn than applying knowledge to different real-life job scenarios."

Andrea Wood, Owen's Training Consultant, said "Owen has become a successful member of the audit team, he has developed his accountancy skills over the year. He is focussed and career driven and his next step at work is to start being the senior on audits. I am pleased that I will be continuing to work with Owen as he is progressing to a Higher Accountancy Apprenticeship."

Find out more about James Cowper Kreston: [www.jamescowperkreston.co.uk](http://www.jamescowperkreston.co.uk)



**“ I would say to anyone thinking of taking on an apprenticeship to go for it, as it's a great way to learn whilst working. ”**



## SUMMER PROGRAMME

Do you know someone who is leaving school or college and doesn't know what to do? Our summer programme is a flexible and safe way for young people to explore what they can do next.

The programme is held at our training centre in Newbury for half a day a week for six weeks throughout July and August. Workshops include:

- Writing a CV
- Individual advice and guidance
- Confidence building
- Applying for jobs or college courses
- Exploring career pathways and apprenticeships
- How to interview online through Zoom

For more information email [natalie.elliott@wbtc-uk.com](mailto:natalie.elliott@wbtc-uk.com) or [rachel@wbtc-uk.com](mailto:rachel@wbtc-uk.com)

# EMPLOYERS, DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR APPRENTICE



As businesses start to open and get back on their feet, taking on an apprentice might not seem like a priority to many. However, as things change we would hope to see a sharp increase in economic activity towards to the latter part of 2020.

Our Enhanced Traineeship programme enables employers to interview and select their apprentice now, when applications are high, but with a plan to start full time between November 2020 and January 2021.

The programme bridges the gap between when applicants are available and when employers feel more confident about taking on an apprentice. From now to November/January, the applicant will undertake work experience in your organisation and have high quality training from WBTC.

You essentially 'reserve' your apprentice now, slowly introduce them to your business and then start them full time later in the year. Benefits include:

- Select and secure your first choice apprentice now
- The Enhanced Traineeship is non-employed and will not add to payroll costs
- Gradually ease them into your business on a flexible basis
- Have the opportunity to get to know each other

Find out more: <https://www.wbtc-uk.com/enhanced-traineeships-employers/>

County Lines are drug networks that use public transport to spread drug dealing out of cities and into neighbouring towns and villages. County Lines often exploits young people as drug couriers and with many young people out of school, on furlough or unemployed, there is ample opportunity to recruit new dealers.

Signs a young person could be being exploited include:

- Sudden and unexplained wealth
- Becoming secretive in their behaviour
- Frequent/short term disappearances
- Evidence of unexplained public transport trips
- Increased texting perhaps on multiple mobile phones

During the potentially challenging months ahead we all have a duty to be aware of the safety of young people. The instant cash of drug dealing may be a huge temptation to those who find themselves out of education or work.

If you have any concerns, please contact [martyn@wbtc-uk.com](mailto:martyn@wbtc-uk.com).



Martyn Staines  
[martyn@wbtc-uk.com](mailto:martyn@wbtc-uk.com)

## COUNTY LINES ON THE INCREASE



# REMINDER: CONTACTING WBTC DURING LOCKDOWN

Being at home may make it difficult to call or speak with someone, especially if the abuse is in the family home.

Our available safeguarding officers are:

Natalie.Elliott@wbtc-uk.com  
Martyn@wbtc-uk.com  
Tony@wbtc-uk.com  
Matt@wbtc-uk.com

Get in touch with us in a confidential and discreet way:

## Email, Text or Phone

Email or text any of the safeguarding officers above including the word 'RED' in a sentence. You can also phone us and say 'RED' in a spoken

sentence. This will alert us that you are in some kind of immediate risk of harm.

Examples of using RED in a sentence:

*"Yes, I've sent the work in a RED file"*

*"I underlined all the bits that were important with a RED pen"*

*"He often wears a RED t-shirt"*

Remember you can also contact the police using the non-emergency number 101 for situations that do not require an immediate police response, or 999 if you are in immediate danger. If you aren't able to talk press 55 and this will alert them that you can't speak.

If you would like further advice and guidance then contact [martyn@wbtc-uk.com](mailto:martyn@wbtc-uk.com).

## DISCOUNTS FOR APPRENTICES!



NUS Apprentice extra is the discount card for UK Apprentices with lots of discounts in-store and online, helping your hard earned cash stretch a little further!

There are hundreds of participating retailers, restaurants and online sellers. Discounts are available for fashion, food, driving lessons, flights and many more. Some of the well-known participating organisations include: Alton Towers, Amazon, Apple, ASOS, Co-op, Domino Pizza, Durex, Microsoft Odeon cinema, Prezzo, RED driving school and Soletrader.

It costs £11 and you can start saving immediately. It's open to apprentices of any age and you'll need to apply as a WBTC apprentice. For details visit: <https://www.apprenticeextra.co.uk/buy-now.aspx> for more information.



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