

Spring 2013

pmnews



Welcome from Will

Welcome to the first issue of PM News for 2013. It's been a busy time with PM Training playing a key role in national issues by being highlighted as an inspirational model in BIS's new traineeship programme and also setting an excellent example with the Social Value Act.

The Act demonstrates the strength of feeling on the issue of social value. We welcome organisations to become a partner of SEWM, plan ahead on what social impact you'd like to achieve, be honest, aim high and not to compromise.

PM Training has also engaged with more young people than ever in its 30 year history.

This issue also reflects more local successes, with apprentices being praised and awarded for their achievements. None of this would have been possible without the support of local businesses and partners.

I hope that 2013 proves to be another successful and inspirational year for us all.

Enjoy your read.

Will Nixon, chief executive

PM Training enjoys record successes

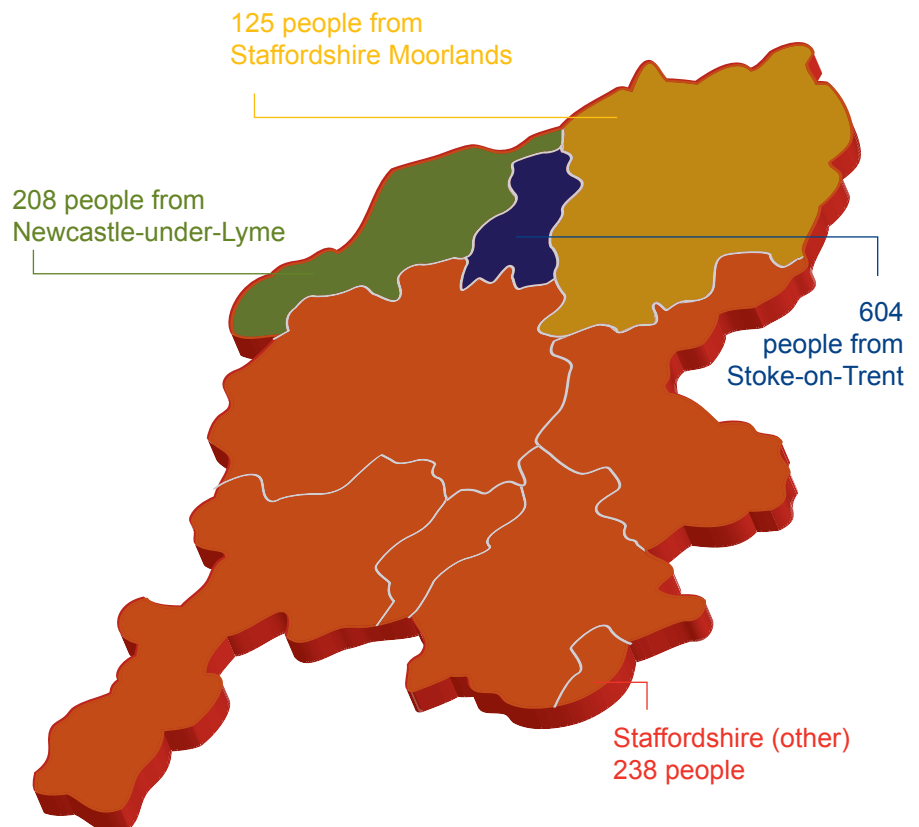
PM Training enjoys record successes by engaging with more young people than ever before in its 30 year history as a local training provider.

This in turn has enabled PM Training to create 262 real apprenticeships for 16-18 year olds within local businesses and donate £270,000 to the Aspire Group's regeneration charity – the Realise Foundation. The charity will reinvest this money back into the

local area and help improve the life chances of individuals as well as transforming communities.

Will Nixon, chief executive of PM Training, said: "We could not achieve this success without our partnerships with various organisations and I would like to thank them for their continued support.

1,175 people joined PM Training.



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Firms urged to focus on social value when buying services

Public organisations are being urged to change the way they buy services with the new Social Value Act.



Social Enterprise West Midlands (SEWM) marked the launch of the Act by publishing in Social Value ezine examples of best practice organisations, including PM Training, who are already focusing on social value when procuring contracts.

The Act requires public bodies to consider how they can improve the social, environmental and economic well-being of local communities when they commission contracts. It will apply to a range of organisations, from NHS trusts, councils, government and police to housing associations.

SEWM already provides membership services, brokerage, consultancy, networking, training and events for more than 400 members, partners and stakeholders in the West Midlands. It helps create and

grow social enterprises in order to create greater social and economic benefits for the region.

Melanie Mills, chief executive of SEWM, says: "We welcome the Act – we now have a platform where social value can become fully established as a key criteria in public procurement.

"We will share our best practice, our pioneering relationships, our game changing commissioning strategies and the transformation results of the Act. We're not expecting overnight changes but we encourage companies and local authorities to show their commitment and think about running their businesses differently, creatively and intelligently."

'A copy of the Social Value ezine is available at www.socialenterprisewm.org.uk'



Police event success

Staffordshire Police worked in partnership with PM Training recently to host a key supplier event at Acton Trussell. The event was a success with 50 companies attending.

Photo: Will Nixon, Steve Holdcroft from Holdcroft Heating & Gas Fitting Ltd, ACC Julian Blazeby and Liam Nicholls helped make the event a success

Thank You

David Serjeant, Secretary of Stone & District Cricket League, thanks PM Training for sponsoring a Charity Cup match, raising £750 for Douglas Macmillan Hospice.



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Macca chisels out a casino career

Maccauley's passion for joinery paid off as it has led to an apprenticeship making roulette wheels!

Maccauley (known as Macca) first became interested in manual and practical work when he worked with his dad in a joinery business and repair shop in Leek. In Year 11 he attended PM Training on day release for one day a week and quickly gained his NOCN Step Up qualification in Construction, alongside other GCSEs.

He then joined the Foundation Learning programme after leaving school and was successful in gaining a place to start his Level 1 Construction BTEC. The combination of his BTEC and work experience meant that Macca soon became "work ready".

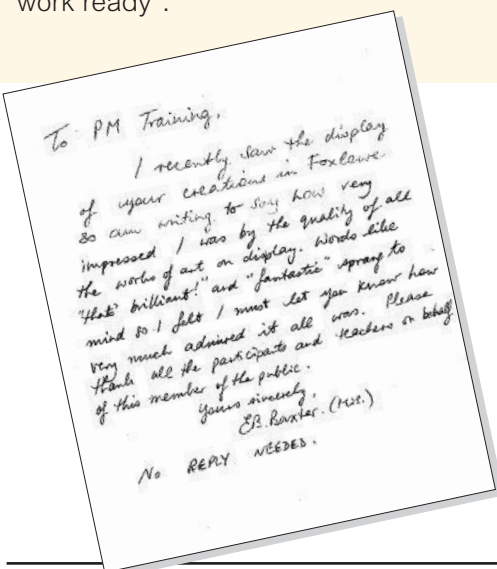
He sent in his application to TCS John Huxley at Festival Park in Hanley and was shortlisted for interview with nine other candidates. His dedication paid off and he was selected for a work trial.

Macca's dedication to the work and his commitment to catching an early bus to arrive in Hanley at 7.30am, followed by a 25 minute walk, led to Macca getting an apprenticeship.

He's also mixed well with many other staff members and is part of a car pooling scheme which makes his travelling to work much easier. Well done Macca!!

Keith Jones, woodwork supervisor, said: "Having completed 7 weeks in the woodwork department of the production area Maccauley has learnt how to produce tabletops and stands, and also developed his joinery skills when completing roulette wheels, Blackjack tables and other Casino furniture. He has worked very hard and is obviously dedicated to his apprenticeship."

Richard Howle, assistant production manager, said: "Maccauley impressed myself and the rest of the team by always showing commitment with excellent time-keeping, listening skills and the right attitude to work. He has become a valued member of the team."



Artworks impress visitors

Visitors attending the Artworks exhibition at Foxlowe Arts Centre recently enjoyed the items on display. Here is a letter from one of them.



“It’s a buzz to see how youngsters change on this course”

So far there have been two successful cohorts, with only one person dropping out. Young people aged 16-21 attend a one day introductory session that lasts four weeks before going onto a 10 week work placement.

Robert Clay, 19, who lives in Tamworth, said: “This has helped me – it gets me out of the house and I’ve learnt so much. I’d like to work in retail.”

Luke Edwards, 16, agrees. “I now know how to write a CV and fill in an application form. I’ve got a work placement at a garage – I want to be a car mechanic.”

Kirsty Edwards and Chloe Gilboy, both 16, live in Stafford. Kirsty said: “It’s helped me learn new skills – I want to go into hairdressing.”

Chloe said: “The mock interview went OK – I feel more confident now.”

Alex McGrath, 17, from Burslem, said: “I want to be a tattooist and live in America. My dream is to have a fast car and a tattoo shop will help me to do that!”

Mark Bailey, 16 said: “I’ve learnt that you need to go to bed before dawn so that I can get up in time to go to my course.”

PM Training Stafford has teamed up with Staffordshire County Council to provide a Foundations to employment course for those leaving care. The idea is to help young people increase their skills, knowledge and self-confidence, learn about discipline in the workplace and provide positive work experience.

PM Training co-ordinator Craig Davis said: “The courses have gone well. Although challenging it’s a buzz to see how youngsters change from their first day to confident adults. It’s a great journey to witness.”

Deb Oakley from PM Training Stafford said: “Some of the youngsters have no concept of the real world – we help them see what is real by providing our support.”

Staffs County Council Foundation to Work co-ordinator Alan Cooper said: “This project works well with PM Training. It’s amazing to see how a disadvantaged group of young people can learn skills that will give them a better chance in life.”



Pupils thank apprentices

Pupils at St Andrew’s Church of England Primary School were so pleased with their new classroom and ‘buddy bench’, that they wanted to thank PM Training learners in person along with other contributors at a celebratory event.

Head teacher Paul Hayward said: “The pupils badly needed a classroom to work in so were absolutely delighted when PM Training offered to provide their services. Now each year group can study in a classroom of their own. The buddy bench is also a positive way for children to have somewhere to go to if they want to talk to someone during playtimes.”



Jake - right first time



Companies want to get it right first time when they invest in an apprentice, so Wernick Hire Ltd were delighted when Jake Punchard, 16, "could not be faulted."



Jake joined PM Training after leaving St Peters Academy in Penkhull last year. After an interview, he started at Wernick Hire on a four week free trial.

After successfully completing the trial Jake officially joined the company in November. He passed the CSCS Health & Safety Awareness course in December and is now on an apprenticeship which ends in 2014. Wernick are eligible for a £1500 government AGE grant for taking on an apprentice.

Depot Manager Jan Slater said: "Jake has settled into work life remarkably well and has become a real asset to the running of our depot. He is very well liked by all and is like a breath of fresh air!

"PM Training work very closely with Seddon, securing apprenticeships within their organisation. Seddon are one of my biggest customers and were very happy to hear that we were taking on a PM apprentice."

Jake said: "I didn't want to go to college as I wanted to do something more hands on. I have really settled into this apprenticeship and like working at Wernicks."

Jake is a keen footballer, being captain of a local football team for the past 10 years. Apparently when he was 8 he was approached by Stoke City, Aston Villa and Port Vale but turned them down because he wanted to play with his mates – something he now regrets!

Speedy Hire staff say thank you

Employees from Speedy Hire successfully passed their qualifications and celebrated with a certificate photoshoot.

John said: "We've been extremely pleased to work with PM Training to develop our staff. As a company we have recently launched our new leadership message and this partnership with PM Training helps us move towards our vision and values of being the leading integrated service provider and having driven people to enable us to do this. "Customer service is vital to our company and the training provided for our staff has increased their confidence, enabling us to reach operational excellence and improve our customers' experience. "

Employee Lorraine Lea said: "I've gained extra confidence to enable me to do my work, especially in maths. I was a little concerned when I started the course if I'd be able to do it but I'm really pleased I've achieved something."

Jean Johnson said: "As a mature student I'm really pleased I was able to complete the qualification."

Debbie Archer agreed, saying: "I would definitely do another qualification if I was given the opportunity."



Pictured are: Claire Wood, Claire Bailey, Lorraine Lea, Jean Johnsons, Debbie Archer, Gemma Farmer, Nick Widdows, Spencer Roots (Manager) and John Horsley (Senior Operations Manager).

Learning the law of success



At a key supplier event, a local solicitor was so inspired by the work that PM Training does, that he kindly volunteered to spend a day with business admin/customer service foundation learners in Shelton.

Mushtaq Khan, 45, is a partner at Freeth Cartwright Solicitors. "We work with Aspire, providing them with legal advice and wanted to play a constructive role in helping them, so I offered a day of my time," he said.

The group learnt about realities of office life and the attitude they need to have to be successful in work, followed by individual mock interviews so that they got a feel for what it will be like in the real world.

Mushtaq was very philosophical, offering useful tips to the young learners. "I think all the learners today have potential," he said. "I'm helping them to see that successful people like Alan Sugar or Adele, for example, needed to have a plan to get where they are today."

And what did the learners think of Mushtaq? "I've never had a job interview before," said Dezrin Ward, 17. "So talking to Mushtaq today has helped put me at ease."

Liz Myatt, tutor at PM Training, said "The learners have really enjoyed today – Mushtaq has helped give them confidence to prepare for an interview."

Mushtaq concluded: "PM Training is making a real difference. It is not a typical college; it's about people being fit for work or training. Freeth Cartwright is keen to make a positive difference in the wider community. We want to support initiatives, change people's lives and give them a helping hand."

If you are a local employer and would like to volunteer some of your time to help prepare young people for work, please contact Debbie Sturridge, Business Development Team on 01782 279121.

Apprentices inspired by Hoard to create £20,000 'plate'

PM apprentices Jak Forester and Dan Cutter have used medieval techniques to create a £20,000 replica of a piece of the Staffordshire Hoard.

The 'plate' which weighs three quarters of a tonne, stands proudly on the Phoenix Retail Park in Longton, funded by St Modwen.

The original 'plate' is gold and features a design of two eagles holding a salmon between them.

Jak and Dan were inspired by their work on the Saxon statue. Jak said: "I feel really proud of the plate...It is a piece of our heritage which I think everyone can relate to."

Dan said: "It's given us an appreciation of the original piece and the skill which must have gone into making it."



Partnership with DJ Ventures

PM Training is pleased to announce a partnership with DJ Ventures to offer cleaning services to its client base



Locally based DJ Ventures have been trading for over 25 years, forming long and lasting relationships with many clients. Cleaning teams are trained to deliver a high quality service to a professional standard.

DJ Ventures offer a wide range of services for clients that include:

- housing associations
- housing management companies
- private residential flats complexes
- office complexes
- construction and building industry
- industrial/retail estates
- sports clubs
- retirement complexes

DJ Ventures also run a sister company – Sporting Ventures – which is a not for profit community interest company based in Stoke-on-Trent dedicated to the positive role that sports can play in furthering the lives of people across Staffordshire.

Dan Canavan, Director of Operations, said: “We are proud to work with DJ Ventures who through Sporting Ventures work with young people to improve their lives – values which match those of PM Training. Through this partnership, clients of PM Training are able to access value for money cleaning services through DJ Ventures.”

To receive a quote for cleaning services or find out how DJ Ventures can help your business with your cleaning needs, please contact Steve Broadhurst, DJ Ventures on 01782 618937 or 07918 054479.



spotlight



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Workshop manager Andrew Felthouse
with PM Apprentice Ryan Shaw

Barrington Engineering Ltd offers a specialist bespoke engineering design, manufacturing and installation service across numerous business to business sectors. The business is active both locally and internationally.

They supply the ceramic industry with specialist drying, glazing and ducting equipment, to process equipment for chemical and automotive well known brand names and internationally they are developing innovative drying systems for a number of clients.

Building on this specialist knowledge and skill base new Directors John Carr and Phil Mitchell are expanding its offerings into the low carbon and associated energy area.

Phil says: “Our workforce is highly skilled and key to the business growing and to retain this knowledge we are actively engaging with PM Training with their Foundation Learning Programme to support the up-skilling of new and existing employees.”

Barrington Engineering has one PM engineering apprentice, Ryan Shaw, who started in 2012 and they plan to take on more in 2013, both in the workshop and administration areas of the business.

John adds: “As every job coming through the workshop is unique our experienced time-served engineers give specific mentoring to our apprentices which gives them an excellent grounding in a wide range of skills. This helps the apprentice, it helps the business and it enriches our mature engineers in passing on their knowledge and skills to a younger generation just starting out on their working lives.”

Employer Incentive – could it help you too?

Apprenticeship Grant for Employers of 16 to 24 year olds (AGE 16 to 24)

AGE 16 to 24 has already helped thousands of employers to grow their business by employing an apprentice and due to its success the grant has been extended to 31 December 2013 so it can support even more.

The National Apprenticeship Service is providing grants to employers (with up to 1000 employees) recruiting 16 to 24 year olds with a value of £1,500 to encourage new employers to take on new apprentices.

Eligible employers are those who have never employed an apprentice before or who have not recruited one in the last 12 months.

Subject to budget availability and the employer's commitment to support the apprentice to the end of their programme, up to ten grants can be made to any one employer.

PM Training is further supporting employers wanting to offer young people employment by providing an extra £500, in addition to the £1,500, courtesy of the Aspire Group's charity, the Realise Foundation. This is a unique regeneration charity created to unleash the potential of people and communities across North Staffordshire.

To find out if you are eligible to receive a grant and take advantage of this offer, please contact Steve Rushton or Jo Reid on 01782 279121.



Thank you

Lister Trade Frames' production manager Alan Howley was trained by Mike Canavan at PM Training to become an NVQ tutor. Alan wanted to teach his staff to meet the highest possible standards expected by the company.

Daniel Shaw, Marketing manager at Listers, said: "PM Training has been integral to the growth of Listers over the years by supporting our workforce with apprentices, and many of them have gained full time employment with Listers."



Production Manager Alan Howley with Mike Canavan.

Dates for your diary

16-18 April 2013

Visit us at FIT Show

Telford International Centre

PM Training will be on the Master Fitter Competition stage as well as giving one to one advice about our GQA qualifications. The FIT show is a new event aimed at the UK window, door and conservatory industry www.fitshow.co.uk. For more information contact Caroline Manley Business Development Support Officer 01782 279121 caroline@enterprisingfutures.org.uk



6 May 2013

Darts knockout

**Gardeners Club,
Oak Street**



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