

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2012

## Shropshire apprentice in running for top education award

**A Shropshire based apprentice has been named a finalist in the National Apprenticeship Awards and is now in the running to be named The Pearson Intermediate Apprentice of the Year. Laura Pringle, who works as an Apprentice Aircraft Carpenter with the Royal Air Force Museum, has beaten off competition from hundreds of other apprentices around the country and is now one of just three people in the running for the top prize.**

The Awards, run by the National Apprenticeship Service, recognise the nation's top apprentices who have made outstanding contributions to their workplace as well as demonstrating commitment to their own professional development. The overall winners will be announced at The Skills Show at the NEC in Birmingham on 14<sup>th</sup> November.

Laura, who has been working for the Royal Air Force Museum Cosford since August 2010, was selected due to some of the things she does over and above her daily tasks. Particularly noteworthy is the work she does giving career advice and practical training to West Midlands school children; Laura leads our team that looks after work experience students here at the conservation centre as well as visiting schools where she demonstrates her craft and explains what it is like to make the transition from school to work.

On hearing about making the finals, Laura said:

*"I am overwhelmed with excitement and seeing the pride on my mums face when I told her has made all the effort worthwhile"*

Mick Shepherd the Royal Air Force Museums Training Manager said:

*"Laura initially applied to become an engineer specialising in the restoration of metal aircraft. However, during her interview she showed such an enthusiasm for the work being done in our carpentry workshop that we asked her to be our first aircraft carpentry apprentice. Laura's progress so far proves it was the right decision for us as well as Laura"*

David Way, Chief Executive of the National Apprenticeship Service, congratulated Laura on her success:

*"It is an incredible achievement to make it to the finals of the National Apprenticeship Awards. Laura is a real local success story whose outstanding contributions in the workplace have already made a huge difference to the company. Laura has shown what can be achieved through determination and hard work and I would like to wish her every success for the future."*

To view the full list of finalists or for more information about Apprenticeships, please visit [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk).

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## **Editor's Notes**

### **National Apprenticeship Awards 2012**

The ninth National Apprenticeship Awards are a celebration of apprentices and employers involved in Apprenticeships across England. The award categories are:

#### Employer Categories

- Rentokil Initial Small Employer of the Year
- Nuclear Decommissioning SLC Award for Medium Employer of the Year
- BAE Systems Large Employer of the Year
- Gen II Macro Employer of the Year

#### Apprentice Categories

- The Pearson Intermediate Apprentice of the Year
- EAL Advanced Apprentice of the Year
- Virgin Media Higher Apprentice of the Year
- City & Guilds Apprenticeship Champion of the Year

### **National Training Awards 2012**

This year marks the 26th anniversary of the National Training Awards (NTAs), sponsored by City & Guilds, which is run in association with Investors in People and delivered by the National Apprenticeship Service. These awards recognise and showcase employers that can demonstrate outstanding benefits by directly linking the training needs of their people to the business needs of their organisation. The award categories are:

- Small Employer of the Year
- Medium Employer of the Year
- Rolls Royce Large Employer of the Year
- Macro Employer of the Year

### **National Apprenticeship Service**

The National Apprenticeship Service focuses on increasing the number of apprentices in England. We work with employers to help them introduce apprentices into their businesses, help those looking to start their careers find an Apprenticeship opportunity and contribute towards the costs of the training and qualifications within an Apprenticeship. We engage with a wide range of partners to help design the frameworks for apprentices and we implement all Government policies aimed at setting the high standard of quality Apprenticeships.

We promote excellence in Apprenticeships and vocational training with awards, campaigns and skills competitions including National Apprenticeship Week and WorldSkills UK.

### **RAF Museum Cosford**

- Royal Air Force Museum, Cosford, Shifnal Shropshire, TF11 8UP
- FREE admission
- Open daily 10am – 6pm
- For further information and all media enquiries please contact Michelle Morgans on 01902 376 212 or [michelle.morgans@rafmuseum.org](mailto:michelle.morgans@rafmuseum.org)
- RAF Museum Cosford images & logo available at: <http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/research/media-vault.aspx>