

**PLASTERING AND
INTERIOR TRADES**

TRAINING AWARDS

2025



TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER

**Plasterers' Hall
One London Wall
London EC2Y 5JU**

**thefis.org
plastererslivery.co.uk**

FIS
FINISHES & INTERIORS SECTOR



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF
PLASTERERS



At Saint-Gobain Formula, we believe in the power of tradition. As a proud UK-based manufacturer of high-performance plaster solutions for fibrous and decorative applications, we're passionate about supporting the next generation of skilled craftspeople.

That's why we're thrilled to once again sponsor the Training Awards, celebrating the talent and dedication that keep our industry thriving. These awards shine a spotlight on the artistry and precision that define fibrous plastering; skills that transform natural raw materials into timeless architectural beauty.

From ornate ceiling roses, intricate cornices to the modern creations in GRG, our plasters are the backbone of countless iconic interiors. Made from

natural gypsum, our products offer exceptional workability, consistency, and finish—trusted by artisans and contractors across the UK and beyond

With over 300 years of heritage and a commitment to sustainability, Saint-Gobain Formula continues to lead the way in delivering innovative, reliable, and locally manufactured solutions for the decorative plastering community.

Let's shape the future—together.

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Introduction

PLASTERING AND
INTERIOR TRADES

TRAINING
AWARDS

2025

The Training Awards are a collaboration between FIS and the Worshipful Company of Plasterers to recognise achievement and excellence in plastering and interior systems.

The awards celebrate:

- The achievement of apprentices
- Students who have exceeded expectations
- Training delivery by colleges and training providers
- Training delivery by an FIS member company
- Mentors and others who have supported sector training
- The rising stars forging a career in the sector
- Lifetime contribution to training.

The judges were bowled over by “fantastic entries” across all the categories this year. The plastering apprentices were “of an exceptional standard, reflecting the high level of skill, dedication and professionalism emerging across the sector”. Plastering students were praised for “their passion for this amazing trade”, while interiors students showed “great commitment and outstanding personal development”. Key to this success are the colleges, judged as “really impressive, showing a clear commitment to developing skills and trying out new ways to deliver training”. The judges concluded: “Overall, it’s clear that FIS members take training seriously and are doing some great work.”

THE JUDGES



Anthony Frayne
CITB



Dave Hall
Freelance Assessor
and Advisor



Matt Morgan
Construction
Apprenticeship
Consultant



Paul Mulinganie
Saint-Gobain
Interior Solutions



Beena Nana
FIS Head of Skills
and Training



Ian Playsted
Saint-Gobain
Formula



Adam Summers
Saint-Gobain
Formula



Helen Tapper
FIS Board
Member



Terry Wright
Worshipful Company
of Plasterers

APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR - PLASTERING

Jake Waite

Wannop



Pictured from left: Ian Strangward
(FIS President), Jake Waite and John Telling
(Master, Worshipful Company of Plasterers)

Jake joined Carlisle College as a Level 1 student, securing an apprenticeship with Wannop for his Level 2. He has achieved first place at NCG Skills, third in SkillBuild regional heats, and was named British Gypsum's Apprentice of the Year 2024. Jake exceeds expectations at work and college, putting himself forward for every opportunity and creating a healthy competitive environment among his peers.

Training adviser Marshall Parkinson comments: "Jake's maturity and positive attitude make him a standout candidate for this award. He has shown a genuine desire to be successful in plastering. He has achieved 92% attendance this year, with 100% punctuality in college - any gaps in attendance were due to requirements of his employer. Jake has become an asset to his class - he's always at hand to help out classmates. His hard work, great attitude and excellent attendance make him the model apprentice."

Carlisle College has been "incredibly impressed by the aspirational attitude Jake has applied to every element of his career". His site manager says: "He is never late for work, always conscientious and works to a high standard - you never see him on his phone. We must thank his parents for bringing up such a polite, friendly guy!"

JG ROBINSON TROPHY

Recognising and rewarding the
achievements of exceptional
apprentices in plastering

JUDGES' COMMENTS

Jake demonstrates an aspirational attitude and competitive drive. He has high-level practical skills and competition success, exceeding expectations on site and in college. Mature, enthusiastic and reliable, he supports his peers and encourages learning and healthy competition, earning praise from his employer for his work ethic, professionalism and skill.

APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR - PLASTERING

RUNNERS UP

George Stamp, Locker & Riley (Fibrous Plastering)

George's tutor throughout his two-year apprenticeship at the College of North West London hails him as "a joy to have in the classroom and workshop". "George came to college as a reserved young man but quickly became a valued member of class, demonstrating a commitment to learning and self-development." His colleagues applaud his "dedication and craftsmanship" and "can-do attitude" and as "a great lad with bags of potential". The judges sum up his track record: "He has proved himself reliable and proactive on live projects; calm, level-headed and attentive to detail; and collaborative with his peers, offering guidance and support."



Damian Hayes, Thomas & Wilsons

Overcoming his learning difficulties, Damian has exceeded expectations in every aspect of his course and site placements. His attention to detail, work ethic and determination have won widespread praise. The judges note his "outstanding impact as a highly self-managed, excellent team player who motivates his peers". On a recent site project, he completed a complex plastering job ahead of schedule and to an exceptional standard - impressing not only his supervisor but also the client, who requested him for future work. He has proved himself "as a learner who embodies everything this award should recognise - resilience, hard work, growth and achievement against the odds".



STUDENT OF THE YEAR - PLASTERING

Monique Fennell

Cadman & Manpen Systems



Pictured from left: Monique Fennell and John Telling (Master, Worshipful Company of Plasterers)

THE COLLINO TROPHY

Recognising and rewarding the achievements of exceptional individuals training in plastering

Cadman & Manpen director Neil Fairhurst enthuses about this “exceptional employee”. Monique joined the firm as a labourer in spring 2023 but soon enrolled in night school plastering courses and took a Level 2 NVQ. She has progressed from general plastering to more specialised heritage lime plastering and consistently impresses with her confident approach, attention to detail, diligence and resourcefulness. “Starting her journey working on small areas, Monique quickly gained the confidence to take on larger tasks. She has shown a clear aptitude for lime plastering and a genuine talent for the craft. Her work is consistently methodical, and she takes pride in a clean, tidy workspace,” says Fairhurst.

Monique has a strong sporting background, having played for Manchester United and Manchester City and transitioned into coaching. Despite her career shift, she has demonstrated a strong willingness to progress and a commitment to excellence. And despite a few health challenges, she has proved she is not someone to take the easy route, seeking further training in plumbing and advanced plastering techniques. “Monique is a breath of fresh air in the trade – a young woman with exceptional skills, the right attitude, unwavering determination and a work ethic that puts many to shame.”

JUDGES' COMMENTS

Monique is an outstanding all-rounder with exceptional technical skills, dedication and resilience. She makes an excellent role model in a male-dominated trade and should be applauded for her passion for this amazing trade.

STUDENT OF THE YEAR - PLASTERING

RUNNERS UP

Mohammad Abuali, City of Liverpool College

Mohammad's commitment is widely acknowledged, the judges declaring: "Mo's inspirational journey as a refugee, and exceptional growth in skill and confidence, demonstrate remarkable perseverance." Mo arrived in the UK as a refugee after fleeing Syria and living in Turkey for six years, and his status is under review in 2028. Despite this, Mo's focus never wavers. Despite limited experience of British tools and materials, he has excelled, staying late, volunteering for practice days and seeking feedback. English is his second language, yet he has passed every test first time and outshone others in competitions – a model student, overcoming challenges with quiet determination.



Yusuf Ibrahim, Derby College

Yusuf fled to the UK with his wife and two daughters to escape persecution in Nigeria. Here, he has developed a passion for plastering, and proved himself hardworking and professional, always with a smile on his face. He hopes one day to return to Nigeria to start his own plastering school. Eager to learn new skills, Yusuf has completed his college work to an exceptional standard, achieving a distinction for his Level 2 synoptic assessment and representing the college in SkillBuild. The judges described Yusuf as a "highly skilled, disciplined and driven student with a remarkable personal journey, dedicated to his family and trade".



APPRENTICE/STUDENT OF THE YEAR - INTERIOR SYSTEMS

Nicole McKeown

Student, Errigal Contracts



Pictured from left: Ian Strangward (FIS President) and Nicole McKeown

THE THOMAS KELLY TROPHY

Recognising and rewarding
the achievements of exceptional
individuals training in interior systems

From her first week at Errigal Academy, Nicole has demonstrated a clear commitment to her career. One of her biggest challenges as a shy 18-year-old was to relocate to London with other apprentices, but she has adapted well and not looked back since. Within her first two weeks of training, she obtained her CSCS, CSR and Irish Safe Pass accreditations, enabling her to work across the UK and Ireland. She was provided with a basic tool kit, but took the initiative to save part of her wages to build a more comprehensive collection.

By the end of her first year, she had completed a Level 2 diploma in drylining and has since gained a Level 2 in interior systems. Despite being quiet at the start, Nicole now confidently mentors new apprentices in the organisation, regularly travelling between sites to monitor progress and provide assistance. She has competed in two SkillBuild competitions and in 2024 became Errigal's first female national finalist. Nicole has developed into a highly competent dryliner and is now in high demand in both the UK and Europe.

Her attendance levels and timekeeping are exemplary, and she has developed strong organisational skills and a positive, can-do attitude.

errigalcontracts.co.uk

JUDGES' COMMENTS

Nicole is set to become a site supervisor at a very young age. She has shown exceptional passion and commitment, succeeding through hard work and determination. She is truly inspirational, setting a powerful example for women entering the sector. Her confidence and eagerness to learn make her a truly deserving winner.

APPRENTICE/STUDENT OF THE YEAR - INTERIOR SYSTEMS

RUNNERS UP

Dawson Dellar, apprentice, ACS Plastering

Dawson has demonstrated outstanding commitment to his development, undertaking additional learning and engaging with feedback at every opportunity. He has made remarkable progress in technical and theoretical aspects of interior systems, coming second in a national SkillBuild final. His site supervisor enthuses: "His progression has been nothing short of exceptional." Employer ACS Plastering agrees: "He's consistently adding value – he's not just doing a job; he's improving how we deliver it." The judges add their vote of confidence: "Dawson has demonstrated exceptional focus, a strong desire to keep improving and a positive attitude. He approaches every challenge with determination and enthusiasm."



Sam Woodward, apprentice, Measom Dryline

From the offset, Sam learned new skills quickly and developed a good understanding of the trade, demonstrating a "strong work ethic, willingness to learn and keen eye for detail". Sam was named Morgan Sindall's Apprentice of the Year, on one project earning the nickname 'Column King' after constructing a 6m column on his own. A "fantastic team player", he goes the extra mile, despite balancing a full-time job with his responsibilities as a new father – even volunteering to drive fellow apprentices to and from site. The judges applauded his "outstanding dedication, strong work ethic, positive attitude and commitment to developing his skills".



COLLEGE/TRAINING PROVIDER OF THE YEAR - SMALL ORGANISATIONS

The Skills Centre



The Skills Centre has won praise for its “commitment to developing well-prepared, skilled and motivated learners... equipped with the knowledge, attitude and enthusiasm to succeed”. The college has helped Measom Dryline deliver skills bootcamps, a Level 3 apprenticeship and proactive support for learners and employers. Similarly, Platt & Reilly credits The Skills Centre with providing “a steady pipeline of job-ready learners who... contribute from day one”, as well as bespoke gender diversity programmes and clear progression routes for teams. “They are helping us upskill our workforce at all levels,” says manager Chris Sinclair, “including supporting our management teams, funded bootcamps and short courses.” He highlights The Skills Centre’s collaborative approach. “They work as a genuine partner, adapting their training to meet our needs and bringing opportunities and funding to our teams.”

Trainee Khristian Curland, now an apprentice with Measom, adds: “The Skills Centre has had a massive impact on my life. From day one, the team believed in me, the tutors were always there to help, the environment so positive; it really made me feel I could succeed.”

The judges are in little doubt: “With a strong reputation for practical, flexible, forward-thinking training, The Skills Centre stands out as a leader in workforce development.”

theskillscentre.co.uk

THE REGENCY VASE

Independent training providers or colleges that deliver the highest standards in training and qualifications for plastering and interior systems occupations

RUNNER UP

Carlisle College

DMB Building has long benefited from Carlisle College’s training. Director David Benn says: “Everyone puts in a lot of work to make it the best experience - their results are fantastic and well deserved.” Brian Horn of Brian Horn Roofing goes further: “Carlisle College has been fantastic for the future of plastering.” And trainee Jake Waite enthuses: “The tutors are dedicated to helping students learn and be the best we can be. We are all encouraged to take part and aren’t afraid to get questions wrong.” The judges’ verdict? “Highly skilled apprentices who make immediate, positive impacts on their business, reflecting the college’s effective training approach.”

carlisle.ac.uk



COLLEGE/TRAINING PROVIDER OF THE YEAR - LARGE ORGANISATIONS

NPTC Group of Colleges



There's no hesitation from the judges: "NPTC exemplifies excellence in training through consistent outcomes, strong partnerships and a focus on practical, industry-relevant skills." The testimonials from employers and trainees bear this out. Lloyd Thomas Plastering hails an "outstanding record of success". "The training has always been to the highest standard.

They cover all aspects of plastering, even spray rendering and modern renders. The communication is fantastic, and the plastering team very flexible if we need our apprentice in work. They've also entered some of our students into skills competitions - something we're proud to support." Jobs Growth Wales manager Peter Evans acknowledges "a partnership that's worked extremely well". "We recruit our apprentices from local employers and offer upskilling courses and taster sessions with NPTC, so the students know the tutors when they start and have a basic understanding of the tools and skills."

Trainee Chaad Bowling, who has just completed a Level 3 plastering qualification, recalls "a fantastic experience over the past 36 months as an apprentice". "The college was fantastic - I'd previously done a full-time course, so they fast-tracked me to the next level. The tutors made sessions interesting and testing"

nptcgroup.ac.uk

JOHN HARMER CHALLENGE BOWL

Independent training providers or colleges that deliver the highest standards in training and qualifications for plastering and interior systems occupations

RUNNER UP

Coleg Menai

The judges applaud a "commitment to high-quality training, learner progression and promoting plastering as a skilled craft". Jake Noble (Jake Noble Plastering) has benefited from Menai both as an apprentice and now an employer. "Their staff have excellent knowledge. They go above and beyond to create a positive learner journey." Alastair Bidwell (Alastair Bidwell Plastering) agrees: "All learners have a first-class experience." Menai has hosted the regional SkillBuild competition twice and Skills Competition Wales twice since 2021, with four apprentices, including one from Bidwell's, qualifying for the finals. Trainee Luke Quarless adds to this: "They've given me the confidence to better myself - I've qualified for this year's UK SkillBuild final."

gllm.ac.uk



CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT
AND LONG-TERM FUTURE OF FIBROUS
AND GRG PLASTERWORK

KLLangton Decorative Plasterwork



Awarded by Saint-Gobain Formula, a global leader in the supply of specialist gypsum plasters used in traditional fibrous and heritage plastering.

KLLangton's commitment to all areas of fibrous plasterwork shone through for the judges. "KLLangton demonstrates a deep commitment to preserving and promoting fibrous plasterwork, engaging in training and industry events to pass on skills – wonderful dedication to keeping the trade alive."

The firm supports masterclasses at building colleges, as well as holding workshop days on its premises. Keith Langton explains: "Skills are being shared more and more, but there's still massive room for improvement and we try to fill any training gaps. We are very supportive of SkillBuild, recently holding a masterclass helping learners for the finals; our own apprentice took third place.

"My dedicated team is as passionate about fibrous plasterwork and GRG as I am. We go well out of our comfort zones to help, teach and train anyone even slightly interested in this beautiful handcraft." He adds: "We had the honour of winning this award a few years ago and, rather than taking our foot off the pedal, we've increased awareness and hosted more training days. I sit on the industry committee with the Worshipful Company of Plasterers, where we are trying to raise awareness for supporting plastering lecturers around the UK and showing the tricks of our trade."

kllangton.co.uk

Recognising FIS members that have delivered outstanding benefits to individuals and their organisation through their in-house plastering and/or interior trades training programmes



“Supporting career development isn’t just something we talk about; it’s built into how we work.” Says ceilings manufacturer Zentia, where every employee takes part in the Zentia Installation School on joining and can revisit at any time.

The judges are in no doubt of its value: “The school is a massive benefit to our sector, where quality targeted training is difficult to come by.” Since its launch in the 1990s, the school has trained more than 10,000 people, with the focus not just on installers but distributors and merchants too. In addition, it holds one-day Pinnacle Supervisor courses as part of its Pinnacle by Zentia Partnership programme for ceiling specification and installation.

Zentia supports the RIBA North East Young Architectural Practitioners Forum, sponsoring its awards ceremony and hosting members in its Gateshead facilities. Zentia’s recent Silver Shared Value Award from Oasis Community Housing highlights a commitment to local issues such as homelessness through fundraising and volunteering.

The firm offers apprenticeship opportunities with Gateshead College and supports professional development through RIBA-accredited CPD courses, lunch-and-learns and tailored training packages. Zentia’s Innovation Centre in Gateshead also hosts CPD events, training sessions and networking events, continuing a longstanding investment in training and development.

zentia.com/en-gb

TRAINING CHAMPION AWARD

Terry McDermott

Errigal Contracts

Recognising individuals who have excelled at mentoring others in achieving success in plastering and/or interior trades through tuition, coaching, support, advice and guidance.



The judges are clear: "The sheer number of apprentices Terry's work touches is impressive, his results outstanding." Terry joined the Errigal Academy seven years ago, his care for apprentice development obvious. A former site supervisor, Terry swiftly achieved his A1 Assessor Award and now oversees 50 apprentices. For those placed on site, he maintains close communication with site managers to monitor their progress, even collecting them and returning them to their accommodation.

Terry also introduced sessions teaching cookery and housekeeping skills to help them live independently. And every apprentice has Terry's number and can call any time. Apprentices have more than a trainer; they have a mentor, a guide and someone they can trust. Terry manages the day-to-day operations of the Academy, oversees placements and ensures smooth site operations.

He developed a rotational training schedule and travels weekly between London and Northern Ireland to provide support. And his ability to communicate has earned him the respect of all those he works with. In 2023, he won the Hugh Gettinby Award, given to a Northern Ireland trainer who has gone above and beyond.

He also leads apprentices competing in SkillBuild - over the past six years winning 14 of 18 medals.

errigalcontracts.co.uk

RISING STAR AWARD

Craig Dyson

Managing Director, TPI Taping and Jointing

Recognising those currently working in the finishes and interiors sector, shining a light on exceptional talent demonstrating the highest level of excellence during their career journey.



It's been a record year for TPI, with turnover approaching £2m and plans to provide full drylining and ceiling installation. Small wonder, agree the judges: "Craig's leadership, integrity and hands-on approach have made a tangible impact on his workforce, the local community and the wider construction industry. A clear rising star."

A trainee taper and jointer at 17, Craig became jobless at 19 and "was dropped in the deep end as a subcontractor". Gaining contacts and a good reputation, at 28 he founded TPI. Three years later, its turnover had topped £1m. TPI now balances 12 to 17 projects and, with no official training or apprenticeship path for tapers and jointers, all staff are trained in-house. Craig's advice: "Being proud of your work is more important than the money you make." He sees his strengths as "embracing challenges, learning from mistakes, seeking ways to improve".

His honesty and reliability are well known, with the firm making an impact locally, recruiting trainees and fundraising for charity. Craig's leadership style includes turning up on site, taking responsibility for problems and organising effectively. "I am kind, strong when I need to be and resilient when I need to be. I'm also loyal and consistent in being motivated, motivating and showing initiative."

tpitaping.co.uk

LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION TO TRAINING

Richard Jones

Grwp Llandrillo Menai

Recognising individuals that have contributed an extraordinary amount to training in the sector and used their influence to train and develop talent.



Richard has been plastering for 40 years and teaching for 22. “He doesn’t just teach skills; he empowers you to believe in your own abilities,” says Mark Owen, owner of A1 Plastering. Colleagues at Grwp Llandrillo Menai are equally impressed. “He’s been more than a tutor; he’s been a bridge between the classroom and the real world,” says one, highlighting his strong industry links and commitment to inclusivity.

A repeated theme is Richard’s integrity: “He doesn’t just teach students how to be great plasterers; he teaches them to be great people.” One former student, a woman who decided on a career change, says: “Richard didn’t treat me as someone ‘too old’ to be starting a new career; he saw potential. There’s something special about Richard’s influence at the college; he’s created an environment where women in an often male-dominated field can excel.”

Colleagues point to Richard’s “unwavering commitment to honesty, respect and fairness” and great sense of humour, and this is summed up by the judges’ verdict: “Richard has offered a lifetime of hard work and quiet integrity. If we are to encourage young people of all backgrounds to join construction, it simply can’t be done without people like Richard.”

gllm.ac.uk



Proud sponsors of the Training Awards 2025

We're committed to leaving a positive legacy and helping the next generation of plastering and drylining professionals find a route into the industry, as well as supporting the development and upskilling of the current workforce.

Through our installer, specifier, site manager, reseller and distributor training courses, our training academies deliver training to over 2,500 people every year.

Our skills partnership team supports the development of over 3,500 new entrants through partnerships with 65 colleges and training providers, designed to drive and improve skills standards across the industry, as well as supporting initiatives to attract new talent to the sector.

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the world a better home.**
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FINISHES & INTERIORS SECTOR

FIS is the not for profit representative body for the £10 billion finishes and interiors sector in the UK. The organisation exists to support its members, improve safety, minimise risk, enhance productivity and drive innovation in the sector. FIS has a dedicated skills team to help members and the wider community with information, advice and guidance on sector careers, apprenticeships and funding.

thefis.org



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF
PLAISTERERS

The Worshipful Company of Plaasterers was originally formed as a trade guild of the City of London to regulate the quality of plastering in the City and to safeguard the welfare and interests of plasterers. Today the Company works in the charitable sector raising funds through its members to support causes linked with the City and plastering.

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