

Wisbech apprentice beats off Cambridgeshire competition to be named the county's Apprentice of the Year

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Type	Apprentice
County	Cambridge

Having overcome dyslexia to achieve distinctions in both his Apprenticeship and Advanced Apprenticeship Jamie Wales, from Wisbech, has been named as Cambridgeshire's Apprentice of the Year - proving on-the-job training can lead to career success.

Jamie joined the electrical engineering company, *tes(europe)ltd*, based in Wisbech, as a technician apprentice four years ago after finishing school. He found that the combination of on-the-job training combined with a day release to college really suited him. Having worked meticulously to achieve his Advanced Apprenticeship six months earlier than expected the 20-year-old has become a real asset to his company.

Peter Waterfield, managing director at *tes(europe)ltd*, said: "Jamie has had a very positive effect on our organisation and our team. He has become noticeably more independent and capable as he matured and the progress he has made towards the skills he requires to successfully perform all of the duties required of him has been outstanding."

Peter nominated Jamie for the Learning and Skills Council's Apprenticeship Awards 2008 and it was Jamie's dedication, and the contributions he has been able to make to his company, which made him stand out to the judges who picked him as Cambridgeshire's Apprentice of the Year.

Cambridgeshire Learning and Skills Council's Economic Development Director Tom Cunningham and Partnership Advisor Sophie Harrison visited Jamie at his workplace to present him with his award and £50 of high street vouchers.

"Jamie has shown real determination to succeed and is proving to be a real benefit to his company," said Tom. "This award recognises his hard work and he is a very deserving winner. I'm sure he will have a long and successful career and also serve as an inspiration to other apprentices who join the company."

During his Apprenticeship Jamie spent one day a week at The College of West Anglia and Assistant Principal for employer engagement Mark Reavell, and Training Advisor Tina Welland, also attended the presentation to witness Jamie's achievement and to congratulate him on his success.

Jamie said: "I am really honoured to have been presented with this award. I have worked hard and been fully committed to completing my Advanced Apprenticeship, and despite being dyslexic I have achieved this without additional help. It feels great to have my achievements recognised and I am proud to now be able to pass on my knowledge to our younger apprentice in the company and encourage him through my own experiences."

Jamie now plans to continue his higher education whilst working at *tes(europe)ltd* by studying for a Higher National Certificate (HNC) in Engineering, again on a day release college course through the College of West Anglia. He hopes to be able to help develop the seven-strong company in which he has forged his career and to eventually travel and apply some of the skills he has learnt abroad.

Jamie believes that his Apprenticeship training has given him added skills that he might not have been able to achieve in the classroom. "I have met a broad range of people and now feel comfortable communicating at all levels," he said. "This has really boosted my confidence and as a result I have got involved in a number of voluntary activities within my local community."

Peter Waterfield added: "Jamie has time for everyone and everything. Outside of work he is a Cub-Scout leader, Duke of Edinburgh silver award winner, accomplished musician and a Tae Kwon-do red belt in martial arts. I believe that these activities show a level of commitment unusual in people of Jamie's age and we value the fact that he brings the same level of commitment to the company and his work."

Apprenticeships are funded by the Learning and Skills Council. Visit the website www.apprenticeships.org.uk for more information.

Notes to Editors

Photo caption:

Tom Cunningham, Economic Development Director at Cambridgeshire Learning and Skills Council, presents Jamie Wales with his Cambridgeshire Apprentice of the Year 2008 award

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