

# NW Learner Awards 2008



Leading learning and skills

## PROGRAMME



Anfield Stadium, Liverpool  
19 May 2008

**NW**  
Learner Awards  
Greater Merseyside

# WELCOME



The North West Learner Awards are funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to highlight the importance of learning - to individuals and employers, to communities and to the future of the region.

The Awards form part of the LSC's National Award Scheme. This is recognised as the most prestigious awards programme of its type in the country - and when we see the finalists here tonight, we can see why.

The judges have discovered an abundance of talented individuals who have excelled in learning and improved their lives. They are equally impressed with the number of employers who recognise that the encouragement of learning and skills is crucial if they wish to develop their workforce and improve their business.

So my congratulations go to all those finalists here tonight. The standard of entries was particularly high and you really have excelled to win through.

My thanks must also go to your colleges, training providers, employers and families, whose support has been vital to your success.

*Helen France*

A horizontal line drawn in blue ink, representing a signature line.

**Helen France**

LSC Director of Area for Greater Merseyside

## DINNER MENU

### STARTER

Leek And Potato Soup with Chives

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### MAIN COURSES

Oven Baked Breast Of Chicken Served with a Tarragon & Wine Sauce

Or

Forest Mushroom Risotto with Parmesan and Basil Oil

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### DESSERT

Banoffee Pie with a Dark Chocolate Sauce

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### TEA OR COFFEE AND MINTS

## GUEST OF HONOUR: ALAN KENNEDY



Alan Kennedy was born in Sunderland, Wearside on 31st August 1954. He showed a flair for football from an early age, and made his Newcastle debut as an 18 year old at St James's Park in March 1973. He quickly established a reputation as a great attacking left fullback with a knack of scoring vital goals.

Alan was a member of the Newcastle side that lost 3-0 to Liverpool during the 1974 FA Cup Final, but he had impressed Bob Paisley and his Anfield

side so much, they bought him for £330,000.

Alan is assured a place in the football hall of fame, being the only British player to date who has scored winning goals in two European Cup Finals. The first, during Liverpool's 1981 meeting with Real Madrid in Paris, was the only goal of the match. Three years later, it was Alan's spot-kick in the penalty shoot out in against Roma on their home turf that brought the prestigious trophy to Anfield for the fourth time. That same year, Liverpool won the treble of League Title, League Cup and European Cup.

Nicknamed 'Barney Rubble' by the Kop after the Flintstone's character, he was a defender of power and pace with a menacing left foot. The Liverpool supporters still hold Alan in high regard, voting him number 31 in the

'100 Players Who Shook the Kop' poll compiled by the official Liverpool Football Club website in 2006.

After 359 appearances, during which he notched up 20 goals, five league titles and two European cups, Alan left Liverpool for Sunderland, his hometown club, in 1985. He stayed there for two seasons before moving to Hartlepool United, then on to European club sides in Sweden, Belgium and Denmark. He won two caps for England during his long and varied career.

Alan is now an after-dinner speaker, runs a young person's football coaching school and hosts the radio talk show The Legends on Century FM.

## COMPERE: FIONA ARMSTRONG



Our comper for the evening is Fiona Armstrong of ITV Border

Fiona Armstrong is a broadcaster and writer. She presents ITV Border's nightly news programme, Lookaround - and other shows, including politics, gardening, cooking and fishing programmes.

A former ITN newscaster and reporter, Fiona's work took her to places like Africa, where she made a programme on Aids orphans. She covered the Lockerbie air disaster and other major news stories. She has fronted antiques and lifestyle programmes and a series

on international businessmen for an American network. She has presented a cooking series and has produced several series of 'Clans' programmes on Scottish families.

Fiona has written two fishing books and two cookbooks and is currently working on a book on class. She writes for newspapers and magazines and does corporate work.

Fiona's hobbies include cooking, fishing, swimming and clan research.

## FURTHER EDUCATION AWARD (Vocational)

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The Further Education Award 2008 seeks to acknowledge and celebrate exceptional achievements and contributions through the learner's educational or vocational experience, whether this is in terms of increased opportunity for themselves or for others.



**Sarah Jane Maher**  
HUGH BAIRD  
COLLEGE

Sarah was one of four females on the first year Level 2 City and Guilds 2330 Electrical

Installation course. She excelled in the practical 206, gaining a Distinction with passes in the two 204 assignments. Her GOLAs produced a further distinction in the 201, and credits on the 202 and 203 with a pass on the 205.

Her attitude to work, students, lecturers and technicians is always exemplary. In practical exercises she is often first to finish and will then help others. All written assignments are completed on time. She has worked for an electrical contractor on the new Kings Dock Arena installing fire alarms and is currently studying Level 3 Electrical Installation.



**Andrew Griffin**  
LIVERPOOL  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE

Since he was 15 years old Andrew has studied basic motor

vehicle maintenance one day a week. He progressed on to a motor vehicle maintenance programme and has recently started an Apprenticeship to complete his Level 2. He is determined to complete every area of his work to a high standard.

He spends his spare time helping other young people: Andrew has set up and runs a youth club for local teenagers in Speke and has been successful in winning Lottery funds to secure the club's future. He shows commitment to both his career and the local community.



**Anne Marie Farrell**  
RIVERSIDE  
COLLEGE

Anne Marie made a huge decision to stop work and start a Level 3 CACHE

Diploma in Childcare and Education. She always wanted to work with young people to make a difference in their lives but entering college as a mature student with no further education experience was daunting. Despite her commitments to her children and supporting a family business, Anne Marie put a huge amount of effort into her studies achieving excellent grades, becoming a valued member of the group, and has now started a Foundation Degree.

She recently won the Vocational Student of the Year award at Riverside College.

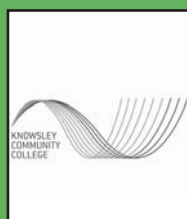
## FURTHER EDUCATION AWARD (Academic)

The Further Education Award 2008 seeks to acknowledge and celebrate exceptional achievements and contributions through the learner's educational or vocational experience, whether this is in terms of increased opportunity for themselves or for others.



**Matthew Bradbury**  
HUGH BAIRD COLLEGE

Matt has been an extremely conscientious and focused student throughout the two years of studying A levels. He worked independently alongside his studies to improve his grades so that he could better his chances of being accepted for one of the most competitive university courses. He worked hard with his tutors to ensure he was on the right path, was extremely driven in the pursuit of his goal and has shown single mindedness, organisation and consistent hard work. He gained his four A grades in Maths, English, Biology and Chemistry allowing him to achieve his goal and secure his place at Kings College in London to study Dentistry.



**Mark Bradford**  
KNOWSLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mark has achieved the following A levels: Communication Studies Grade A, Media Studies Grade A, English Language Grade B, with all his tutors stating that he was a pleasure to teach. Mark was predicted to gain no more than grade Ds in all his subjects but he far exceeded these estimates. This excellent performance resulted in Mark receiving the College award for Outstanding Academic Achievement.

His achievement was all the more remarkable because at the end of his first year of study he was diagnosed with cancer. He maintained an almost perfect attendance record whilst receiving treatment. In October 2008 he will start a BA Honours Degree in English at Liverpool University.

## APPRENTICE EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR **AWARD**

The Apprentice Employer of the Year Award 2008 seeks to acknowledge and celebrate employers' commitment to developing their workforce through Apprenticeships.



**Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council**  
Bootle

Asset Training & Consultancy

In May 2005, Sefton Council approved the establishment of a corporate apprenticeship programme. The position of dedicated apprenticeship co-ordinator was created to facilitate the programme, and within six months, 37 young people had signed up to Apprenticeship programmes. At the beginning of January 2008, 50 of the council's employees were apprentices, with a further 49 having completed their Apprenticeships.

The occupational areas on offer included business administration, payroll administration, customer service, ITQ, teaching assistants, vehicle maintenance, electrical systems, AAT, environmental conservation and sports and leisure.

The programme was developed in response to some of the challenges faced by Greater Merseyside, namely a low proportion of working age people with higher Level skills, a high proportion of working age people not qualified to Level 2, and the relatively weak qualification performance of young people.

As the largest employer in the Sefton area, the council was keen to lead by example. As only 4.2% of the council's staff were aged 25 and under, but more than a third were aged 55 or over, it was obvious to the council that they needed to up-skill younger employees to avoid a severe skills shortage.

As a result of this Apprenticeship initiative,

the council now benefits from having motivated, committed and enthusiastic young people who are being actively encouraged to develop and aspire to more challenging job roles. As well as the benefits for the individuals themselves, they are becoming role models for their peers.

The success of the scheme is enabled through the dedicated support of a partnership involving an Apprenticeship co-ordinator, the line manager and the training provider. This includes, regular reviews of the Apprentices' progress and time and effort spent building and maintaining effective relationships.

Peter McEvoy, CEO of Asset Training & Consultancy Limited, says the enthusiasm of the team has led to a productive and valued partnership, and that the council has strived to raise awareness of Apprenticeship opportunities to all 16-25 yr old employees.

## PERSONAL ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR **AWARD**

The Personal Achiever of the Year Award 2008 seeks to acknowledge and celebrate apprentices who have successfully overcome barriers or obstacles, personally or in the workplace, to achieve their goals and exceed all expectations.



**Emma Mason**  
19, Walton

BEAUTY THERAPY  
Oasis Sun & Beauty.

Michael John of  
Liverpool

Emma hasn't let the personal tragedies and difficulties she has suffered prevent her from achieving her goals.

When she was made homeless at 17, she found herself a hostel and continued with her work and studies. But, when her baby sister passed away, Emma felt close to giving up. Instead, she decided to make a success of her life and looked to her Apprenticeship as something positive to focus on. Emma successfully completed her NVQ Level 2 and has now started Level 3.

Emma's skill co-ordinator says she has shown a sense of maturity beyond her years, and has achieved her qualifications through pure determination.



**Jayne Watterson**  
22, Leasowe

HAIRDRESSING  
Hair Lounge.

Michael John of  
Liverpool

When Jayne left school she was unable to read or write due to severe dyslexia, and was told she didn't have the ability to pursue her dream of hairdressing.

Rather than accept her lot, Jayne used those negative comments as motivation. With the support of her tutors and employers, she completed her NVQ levels 1 and 2, and now works as a full-time stylist. As well as overcoming her own difficulties, Jayne has made a DVD about dyslexia to help other sufferers.

The programme manager who helped Jayne through her course has praised her enthusiasm and commitment, and says she has shown great courage.



**Craig Whyte**  
18, Allerton

BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION  
Partnership for  
Learning.

Within months of embarking on his role as an administrator with the Partnership for Learning, Craig's manager left work on long term sick leave, leaving him in charge.

Craig had responsibility for his department within the organisation, which ensures that gas fitters have the correct assessment, training and qualifications needed to carry out their work. He quickly developed new skills in people and project management, and formed excellent relationships with customers, while continuing to complete his Apprenticeship studies. His manager at Partnership for Learning says Craig has magnificent rapport with both trainers and customers, and is a well-respected and much-valued member of the team.

## APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Leading learning and skills

The Apprentice of the Year Award 2008 acknowledges and celebrates exceptional contributions made by apprentices in their workplace. Judges look for apprentices who have made a real difference to the organisation they work for by exceeding expectations and delivering measurable benefits.



**Garry Moore**  
19, Lydiate  
OPERATIONAL SERVICES  
Sefton MBC.  
Scientiam/Training  
Options UK Ltd

When Gary began his Apprenticeship he was shy, quiet and lacked confidence in himself and his work.

Now, thanks to hard work and commitment, Gary is working as a full-time lifeguard at Deyes Lane Swimming Pool in Maghull. He uses his own experiences to help younger employees settle into the workplace, and to motivate his colleagues. He has successfully completed a large number of courses in addition to his Apprenticeship studies, which have enabled him to quickly progress into the role of duty manager.

Garry's employer says he is a very talented and highly motivated person, who has exceeded all his expectations.



**Ben Lee**  
20, Golborne  
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE  
AND REPAIR  
Network Autos.  
St Helens College

When Ben started college on a full-time Level 1 programme, he had little confidence and classroom ability, which caused him a lot of frustration.

He was determined to achieve his goal of becoming a qualified mechanic, so he requested extra tuition and through effort and determination he achieved the qualifications he needed to become an apprentice. He has since become a confident, knowledgeable and trusted mechanic, and says his Apprenticeship has helped him grow in personal confidence as well as technical ability.

The employer liaison officer at his college says Ben has worked extremely hard and demonstrated an outstanding commitment to his goals.



**Susan Logie**  
25, Netherton  
IT PRACTITIONERS  
Sefton MBC  
Asset Training &  
Consultancy

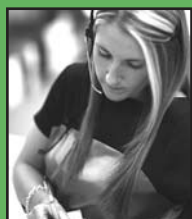
During the course of her Apprenticeship, Susan has suffered from an undiagnosed condition which has resulted in long periods in hospital as an in-patient and severe weakness down the right side of her body.

Rather than let this affect her Apprenticeship, Susan was determined to overcome the adverse learning conditions and complete her course. She successfully completed her Apprenticeship, and relishes her varied role in the Children's Services Authority IT Systems department at Sefton MBC, where she regularly deputises for the IT Services manager.

Susan's manager says the qualities and skills she has brought to the team have improved processes and helped build relationships.

## ADVANCED APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Advanced Apprentice of the Year Award 2008 acknowledges and celebrates exceptional contributions made by apprentices in their workplace. Judges look for apprentices who have made a real difference to the organisation they work for by exceeding expectations and delivering measurable benefits.



**Lyndsey Anderson**  
24, Fazakerley  
CUSTOMER SERVICE  
Goodman's  
Solicitors.  
General Physics

When Lyndsey became frustrated in her job at a solicitors' practice, she thought giving up work and returning to full-time education was the only option available to her.

Her employer suggested an Apprenticeship, and since embarking on it Lyndsey has thrived in her career. She completed her Level 2 course in just one year rather than the usual two, which gave her the confidence to apply for, and gain, a more demanding role. Lyndsey's customers have been so impressed with the Level of service they received, they have written testimonials about her.

Lyndsey's employer says she has excellent interpersonal skills, versatility and professionalism.



**Jennifer Hamilton**  
25, Litherland  
MANAGEMENT  
Sefton MBC.  
Asset Training &  
Consultancy

Before Jennifer signed up for her Apprenticeship she was unsure if she'd meet the standards required. Now, she is responsible for a team of eight staff in her role at the Benefits Section of Sefton MBC.

Jennifer has progressed quickly in her career, and is the youngest team leader to work for her department. Her team deals with all aspects of the benefits administration for housing and council tax benefit, and Jennifer also assesses staff training needs and sets targets.

The principal benefit officer at Sefton MBC says Jennifer is extremely reliable and conscientious, and has moulded her team into a successful unit.



**Kieran Carruthers**  
20, Ellesmere Port  
MANAGEMENT  
Hollins Hey Hotel.  
Asset Training &  
Consultancy

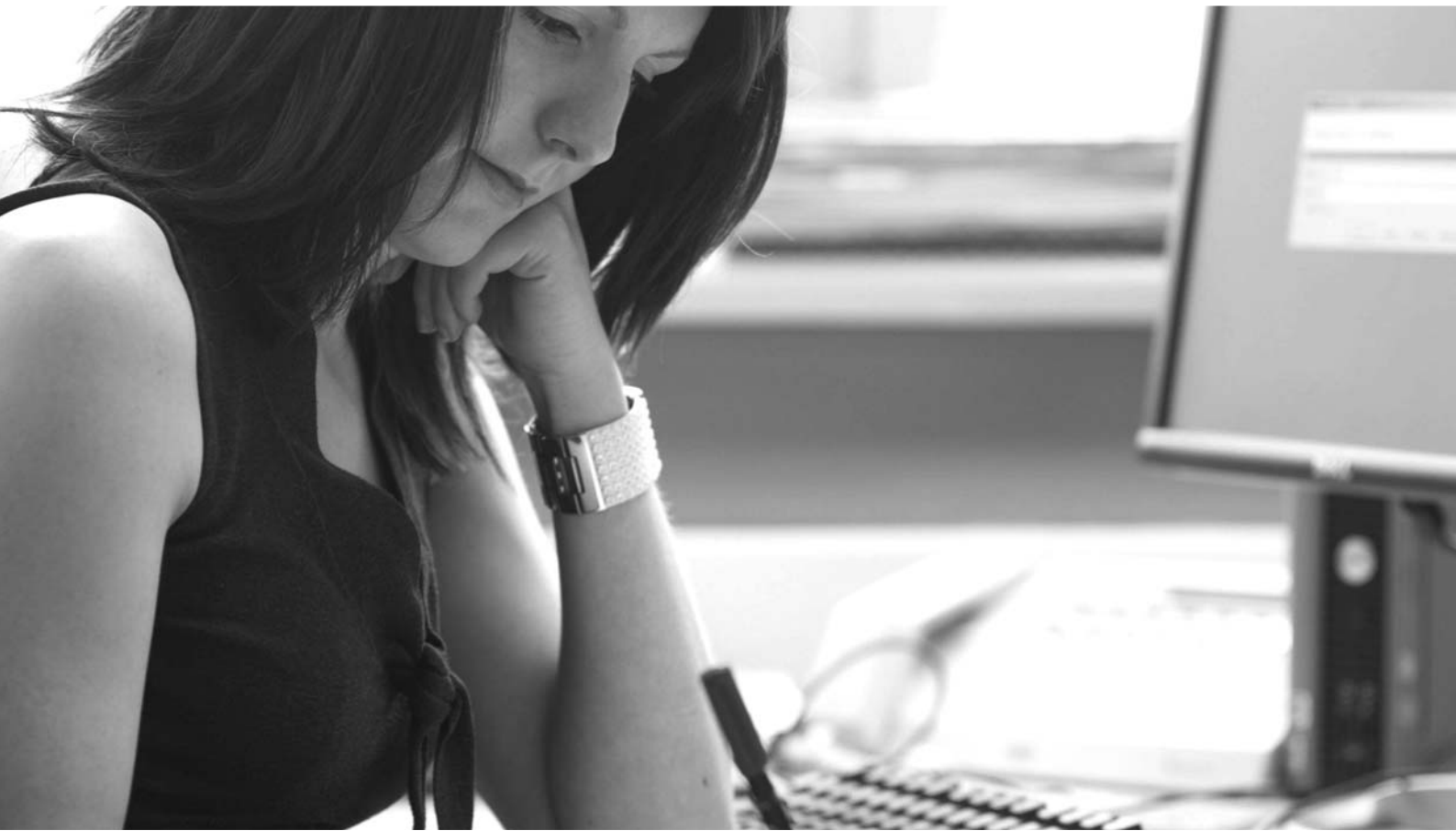
In Kieran's role as hotel duty manager, he is responsible for ensuring that the hotel runs as smoothly and efficiently as possible. He takes pride in ensuring that customers receive a consistently high standard of service.

Kieran has introduced initiatives to the hotel that have helped to improve health and safety and levels of customer service, and his particular care with stock control has resulted in improved profits for his employer.

His employer says that Kieran delivers a service that would normally be found in an employee with far more experience, and he is the most valuable member of staff the hotel has.



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