

## **DOWNING STREET DATE FOR OLDHAM APPRENTICE**

**Date of issue** 2 February 2009

**Publication number** NWR-458

Christopher Taylor, 21, from Oldham, visited Prime Minister Gordon Brown at 10 Downing Street this month, after being invited to share his experiences of the Apprenticeship programme.

The Prime Minister took the opportunity to hear first-hand from people that are benefiting from the scheme which enables participants to 'earn as they learn'.

The Premier also used the occasion to outline the launch of the new Government White Paper – 'New Opportunities: Fair Chances for the Future' – setting out plans to give individuals the best possible chance of fulfilling their potential and equipping the nation with a skilled workforce.

A former Painting and Decorating apprentice, Christopher began his Apprenticeship in 2004 working for Dave Luck Ltd and attending The Oldham College. His eagerness and determination to succeed resulted in him being named Apprentice of the Year in 2007 and shortly after completing his Apprenticeship he was promoted to site foreman.

Apprenticeships, which are funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), form a key part of the Prime Minister's plans for upskilling the nation's workforce, as they give people the opportunity to achieve nationally recognised qualifications while gaining practical experience in their chosen career. Gordon Brown recently announced the £140million expansion of the Apprenticeship programme, which will take the total number of apprentices to more than 250,000 by 2010.

During his visit to Downing Street, Christopher spoke to Gordon Brown about the benefits of education and training, and quizzed him on how the White Paper would benefit apprentices and other workers.

Liz Davis, National Apprenticeship Service Project Director at the LSC in the North West, said: "We now know that businesses that don't train their staff are more likely to fail than those that do, and in the current climate the need for proper training increases.

Apprenticeships give businesses access to the most up to date industry knowledge and skills, either through employing a new apprentice, or arranging an Apprenticeship for an existing member of staff.

"Christopher is a great ambassador for Apprenticeships and a worthy Apprentice of the Year. The hunt is now on for our 2009 Apprenticeship Award winners, and I would urge all apprentices to get involved."

To find out more about Apprenticeships or the Apprenticeship Awards visit [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk).

### **Ends**

#### **Learning and Skills Council:**

The LSC exists to make England better skilled and more competitive. We are responsible for ensuring the availability of high-quality education and training for everyone. We have a single goal: to improve the skills of England's young people and adults to world class standards. Our vision is that young people and adults in England have knowledge and skills matching the best in the world and are part of a truly competitive workforce. We work nationally, regionally and locally to deliver this ambition on behalf of learners and employers.

#### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**

LSC website: [www.lsc.gov.uk](http://www.lsc.gov.uk)

#### **All media enquiries please contact:**

##### **LSC**

Luisa Pastore on 0161 261 0434, [luisa.pastore@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:luisa.pastore@lsc.gov.uk)

**The Write Angle** on 01772 250505

Hollie Roberts: [hollie@writeanglepr.co.uk](mailto:hollie@writeanglepr.co.uk)

Stephanie Lord: [stephanie@writeanglepr.co.uk](mailto:stephanie@writeanglepr.co.uk)