



PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 3rd June 2010

Highbridge resident named South West's Advanced Apprentice of the Year

Chris Young of Rogers Restoration Electrical is celebrating today after winning the Advanced Apprentice of the Year Award at the South West Skills Awards, which took place last night (2 June).

The prestigious ceremony, which took place at Sandy Park conference centre in Exeter, was presented by BBC's former chief news correspondent, Kate Adie, OBE. Kate, who is the current presenter of Radio 4's *From Our Own Correspondent*, delivered a keynote speech about her own experience learning essential skills on the job.

This journalistic theme was reinforced by compere Clinton Rogers, the BBC's Chief Somerset Correspondent.

The South West Skills Awards recognise and celebrate the achievements of apprentices, learners and employers who have excelled in the region.

Run by the Skills Funding Agency and the National Apprenticeship Service, the evening combined the Skills Awards with the South West regional heat of the National Apprenticeship Awards.

Chris Young and Rogers Restoration Electrical will go on to compete in the national Apprenticeship Awards ceremony at Westminster Plaza in Central London on 15 July 2010, where they will be amongst the best from England.

Dr John Chudley, Regional Director for the South West National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) agreed: "These awards recognise individuals at every stage of life and career, and the contributions of employers, both large and small, spanning all sectors.

“By acknowledging and rewarding the diverse learners and training opportunities in the region, we hope to encourage more individuals and organisations to take part in initiatives in the future.”

Further information about the South West Skills Awards can be found at:
<http://www.skillsawards.org.uk/>

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Chris Young

Chris Young always wanted to be an electrician. After leaving school he took a City and Guilds qualification at college, at the same time doing work experience with Rogers Restoration Electrical, Highbridge, Somerset where he was offered an Apprenticeship. His interest and dedication has continued and, on top of his numerous electrical qualifications, Chris has also won awards for the quality of his work including national Skill ELECTRIC 2009 and Apprentice of the Year at Bridgwater College 2009.

Working both independently and as part of a team, his responsibilities now include liaising with customers, preparing and installing electrical wiring and systems, wiring enclosures and equipment, connecting wiring systems and equipment using safe and approved methods, inspecting, testing and commissioning all aspects of electrical systems and portable appliance testing and diagnosing and correcting faults in Electro technical systems. Chris's employer describes him as a 'star apprentice' who takes huge pride in his work and who has helped him double the turnover and profit of Rogers Restoration Electrical. That, in turn, has meant the company has been able to take on extra staff and apprentices.

The South West Skills Awards

These awards recognise the achievements of individuals at every stage of life and career. By acknowledging the diverse learners and training opportunities in the region, the Skills Funding Agency hopes to encourage more learners and organisations to take part in learning initiatives that not only support individual development but contribute to stronger economic and workforce prosperity.

Sponsors for the South West Awards

Train to Gain Employer of the Year Award – sponsored by Business Link and Train to Gain

Skills Pledge Employer of the Year Award – sponsored by Skills Pledge
Third Sector Employer of the Year Award – sponsored by European Social Fund
Success in Leadership and Management Award – sponsored by Train to Gain

Apprenticeship Awards – sponsored as a whole by City & Guilds

Apprentice of the Year Award – sponsored by EDI
Young Apprentice of the Year Award – sponsored by Unilever
Advanced Apprentice of the Year Award – sponsored by EAL / EMTA Awards Ltd
Micro Employer of the Year Award – sponsored by Skills for Care
Small Employer of the Year Award – sponsored by BT
Medium Employer of the Year Award – sponsored by Sellafield Ltd
Large Employer of the Year Award – sponsored by BAE Systems

Skills Funding Agency:

The Skills Funding Agency is responsible for channelling funding swiftly, efficiently and securely to further education colleges and other providers, primarily in response to customer (employer and learner) choice on programmes such as Train to Gain. It operates through customer focused services: *National Apprenticeship Service (NAS)*, *Employer Skills Services*, *Adult Advancement and Careers Service*, *Learner Skills Services*. The Skills Funding Agency is an agency of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

National Apprenticeship Service (NAS):

The NAS was announced in January 2008 and officially launched in April 2009. Reporting to the Departments for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and Department for Education (DfE), the service will drive forward the Government's ambition for Apprenticeships. The service aims to bring about a significant growth in the number of employers offering Apprenticeships.