

Employer Newsletter

Grantham College & University Centre is proud to work with employers in the community to help them secure new talent and invest in the future of their workforce.

Our team of experts are always available to support you on your journey to grow your business and develop your employee's skill set. Whether you are looking to bring some enthusiasm and fresh ideas in to your business by recruiting a new apprentice, or to up-skill your staff via completion of one of our many cutting-edge, fully funded short courses, Grantham College & University Centre has the solution for you.



Our Mission

To deliver Inspirational vocational, technical, professional and higher education and training that empowers people, businesses and the community to achieve their goals.

Our Vision

We will be an accessible, essential, relevant and trusted partner that delivers improved skills & a love of lifelong learning leading to:

- Better progression opportunities and careers for our students
- Increased productivity and profitability for employers and
- A thriving local economy and community.



National Apprenticeship Week

Starting on Monday 6th February, Grantham College & University Centre will kick the week off in style with visits from a local companies, across all subject areas who will highlight the pro's of working within their industry, hold practical sessions, and provide advice and support to our future talent pool.

Make sure to look out for us in the local community, as we will be holding information stands at various locations in Grantham, promoting all things apprenticeships!

On Tuesday 6th to celebrate our employer network, Grantham College will be hosting a thank you lunch in our very own Apple Tree restaurant. Here they can learn more about how the College can support their training needs and enjoy a meal produced by our very own catering apprentices. You are invited! See the next page to book your space.

On Wednesday, local school career advisors will be invited to join our webinar, hosted by Grantham College Business Development team, to find out everything you need to know about apprenticeships and what a valuable career option they could be for your students to consider. We will be highlighting the wide range of career options available through apprenticeships and offering one to one support sessions for them and their students.

To finish the week, it is all about T-Levels! The College will be holding information sessions for students about the fantastic T-Level options we offer and be hearing from some of our current students at to how valuable they are finding their work placements.

For more information on apprenticeships at Grantham College & University Centre, and to learn more about our current vacancies, visit www.grantham.ac.uk/apprenticeships/



Keep a look out on our social media throughout the week as we will be posting more information about our competition, giving apprentices the opportunity to win a £50 voucher, and spreading the word about student success stories!

The Benefits for your Business.

Hiring an apprentice is a productive and effective way to grow talent and develop a motivated, skilled and qualified workforce.

86% of employers said apprenticeships helped them develop skills relevant to their organisation.

78% of employers said apprenticeships helped them improve productivity.

74% of employers said apprenticeships helped them improve the quality of their product or service.

Other benefits of working with apprentices include:

- you can adapt their training according to the needs of your business they're motivated to learn new skills
- you can expand and upskill your workforce

To find out more, contact one of our dedicated, expert members of staff for more information:

apprenticeships@grantham.ac.uk

Thank you for your support!

To show our appreciation to our dedicated employers, you are invited to an employer lunch hosted by our very own restaurant on site, The Apple Tree.

This exclusive invitation gives employers not only a delicious lunch but also a chance to network with other employers and spend time with college staff who support their apprentice/s.

To book your space, scan the QR code or visit www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/513157998387

 **Grantham College
& University Centre**



Apprenticeships

National Apprenticeship Week
6th to 12th February 2023

*Thank you
for your
support!*

As part of National Apprenticeship Week and to thank you for your continued support as a valuable partner, we would like to invite you to a complimentary 3-course lunch at our Apple Tree Restaurant.

Grantham College & University Centre

Tuesday 7th February | 12:00pm

To book, please scan
the QR code or visit

**[www.eventbrite.co.uk
/e/513157998387](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/513157998387)**



 **SCAN ME**



Declan Parkes

Wins Learner & Apprentice of the Year!



Declan is a Graduate Stylist at Scots Hair Design, currently working towards his Level 3 Advanced and Creative Hair Professional Apprenticeship. He attended the Priory Ruskin Academy where he chose hair and beauty as an option at age 13. At 14, he was given the opportunity to work Friday afternoons and Saturdays in Just Jentz barber shop on Welby street in Grantham, where he had gone for years to have his own hair done.

He states "The early insight to salon life was absolutely phenomenal and I loved every moment of the 2 years I worked there for. I'll forever be grateful for the support and belief the team had in me as a budding stylist.

"Coming from a family full of women and girls, I was always fascinated by the styles they did in their hair. From a young age, it was set in stone what I wanted to do when I left school.

"In 2018, at age 16, I left school and realised my passion for hair-up and creative styling, which requires longer hair lengths. I also wanted to learn technical services and female hairdressing as well as male. I sought out an apprenticeship through Grantham College in a unisex salon and applied to Scots Hair Design in 2018, as I had heard about the wonderful opportunities and education Jennifer Low and Simon Spray provided.

"I began my training at Scots and things seem to have gone from strength to strength. I have received top quality training from the salon as well as being given opportunities to attend academy courses up and down the country and receive education from big brands and companies such as TIGI, Cloud 9, Neäl & Wolf, and Olaplex. I have also been able to visit the Electric Space in London for conferences. Scots Hair Design has truly provided me with the best education and a concrete set of skills and experience for a successful career in this industry for which I will always be thankful.

"Amongst all the excitement the last year has provided, I have recently joined the shop floor in the salon since being promoted to Graduate Stylist. I am now doing all I can to build myself a client base. The recognition has been a huge help in that it has allowed me to show the public just how passionate I am about what I do. Ultimately, I love making hair dreams come true for people and believe the opportunities I have been given have allowed for me to provide quality services to a level I could have only dreamt of."

"In 2020 I became an Olaplex certified stylist. I qualified at distinction level in August 2021 on my Level 2 Diploma with City and Guilds. I have since achieved some wonderful accolades for my passion to learn and dedication to the industry. In April, I won the Neäl & Wolf Rising Star colour award and then in June 2022, I won the Apprentice of the Year Award through Grantham College. I joined the Fellowship for British Hairdressing and in July, went on to win the Assistant of the Year title, sponsored by Salon International, at the British Hairdressing Business Awards in London, where I attended a grand event at Park Plaza, Westminster Bridge hosted by Anton du Beke.

"I have also won the Apprentice of the Year Award at the Grantham Journal Business Awards 2022. It has been truly humbling to be recognised for the work I have done, simply through passion for what I do. Even more so that I have been able to bring awards back to my home town of Grantham and be so kindly nominated for local awards."

Declan has now gone on to win Apprentice of the Year too!

Congratulations Declan!



Grantham College Energy Centre Opening



Grantham College has officially opened its new energy centre which sets out to develop students skills and **"be part of a brighter future"**.

In a ribbon cutting ceremony, principal of Grantham College Paul Dean welcomed visitors to the opening, with the Mayor of Grantham, Councillor Graham Jeal cutting the ribbon to open the centre.

In his opening speech, Mr Dean said: "It is a real delight to open these facilities after all of the work from our staff, suppliers and contractors. This centre will help us develop the skills of the students that are so urgently needed if we are to transition to net zero. Sometimes colleges have to lead and take risks and have vision for capacity to be developed. When these skills are developed, the opportunity to develop businesses is there and investing in green skills is a win win."

The college's existing engineering and link block spaces have been transformed to create a centre that combines engineering and construction with state-of-the-art and industry-standard equipment.

It provides new learning opportunities in electrical engineering, plumbing, gas fitting and renewable energies including solar, wind and air.

This project also extends the curriculum to not only give students more skills, but allows more businesses to work with the college.

This will enable us to expand our curriculum offer to include new provision that employers tell us they need in order to fill skills gaps that are worsening year on year. By upskilling more people in the local area in key and emerging sectors, we will help to fulfil employer demand, support Grantham's ambitions and growth point status and ultimately have a positive economic and socio-economic impact on the local area.

SUPPORTING SKILLS IN LINCOLNSHIRE

Engineering and Construction sectors are increasingly essential to the growth of a UK economy in post-COVID fragility. Renewable energies are at the heart of national and regional development. The project will provide a much-needed local skills-bank in these priority sectors and have a significant impact by generating jobs for hard-to-fill occupational roles, boosting growth and business confidence, and placing Greater Lincolnshire at the forefront of sustainable technologies innovation.

JOIN US TODAY!

COURSES INCLUDE:

- Levels 1-3 Plumbing Studies
- Levels 1-3 Construction Skills
- T Level - Engineering: Manufacturing, Processing and Control
- T Level - Site Construction
- 18th Edition Electrical Installations
- Plumbing and Domestic Heating Apprenticeship Standard
- Engineering Fitter Apprenticeship Standard

Flexible Green Skills Bootcamps in:

- Introduction to Heat Pump Installation
- Introduction to Solar Panel Installation
- Introduction to Smart Metering
- Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment Installation
- Electric Vehicle Maintenance
- Environmental Technologies





Grantham College & University Centre Skills Bootcamps



Grantham College & University Centre



Free and flexible courses.



Gain new tech skills, get help preparing for an interview and connect with local employers.



Connecting people nationwide into employment.

ABOUT SKILLS BOOTCAMPS

Skills Bootcamps are free, **flexible courses of up to 16 weeks**, that give people the opportunity to build up sector specific skills and fast track to an interview with a local employer.

They are being developed as part of the Government's Lifetime Skills Guarantee, helping everyone gain skills for life. They are co-designed or shaped with employers to respond to their skills shortages.

Grantham College & University Centre are working with partners to connect employers and learners through a series of nationwide Skills Bootcamps that give people the digital skills needed to take the first step into upskilling or changing their career path.

If you would like to see how a Skills Bootcamp could help you boost your employability, please visit our website www.grantham.ac.uk/courses/skills-bootcamps or email marketingteam@grantham.ac.uk to learn more.

COURSES AVAILABLE

Digital Skills Bootcamps in:

- ▶ Digital Marketing
- ▶ Website Development
- ▶ Cloud Computing
- ▶ Cyber Security
- ▶ Coding & Software Development
- ▶ PC Maintenance
- ▶ Database Development
- ▶ IT Networking and Infrastructure

Green Energy Skills Bootcamps in:

- ▶ Electric Vehicle Maintenance
- ▶ Electric Vehicle Charging Equipment Installation
- ▶ Solar Installation
- ▶ Heat Pump Installation
- ▶ Smart Metering

Learn more: www.grantham.ac.uk/courses/skills-bootcamps

Celebrating Women in Construction

When you think of male-dominated industries, it is likely that construction comes to mind. The physically demanding labour needed on a construction site is often associated with men.

However, apprentice Alice Heaton, alongside training provider Grantham College & University Centre, and her employer JRL Brickwork LTD, are working hard to break down these gender stereotypes. The skills shortage in construction has been a growing concern for construction companies, and as more time goes by, the problem becomes more pressing. One of the main reasons for the UK skills shortage – specifically in the construction industry, is an ageing workforce. As construction workers reach retirement age, fewer people are entering the industry to replace them. There has never been a more important time for construction employers to invest in the next generation of workers. Encouraging more women to join the construction field, as well as offering apprenticeships will certainly help fill the gaps.

Alice, has always been keen to pursue a career in bricklaying as she wanted to challenge herself in a role that enabled her to stay physically fit and she loves the idea of being able to build her own house one day. After completing a full-time course at Grantham College & University Centre, she decided her natural progression route was to undertake an apprenticeship. Alice has been working for JRL Brickwork since September and it is clear that she has already made a lasting impression with her employer.

James Laurie, Director explained **"Alice has made excellent progress during her time working at JRL. As a firm believer in the apprenticeship process and understanding the need to grow future talent, we as a company employ a minimum of 5 apprentices per year. Our retention rate of apprentices after they complete their qualification is extremely high, with many of our previous apprentices now running gangs or in managerial roles within the company. Alice is the first female apprentice we have employed, and we are keen to grow this in the future. We offer a package of support to all of our employees, male or female, but it has been imperative to me that Alice feels safe, secure and valued within the team, and the outside environment in which she is working. We have a duty of care to ensure that she is not faced with any gender prejudice, and so far, she has had nothing but a positive experience when on site."**

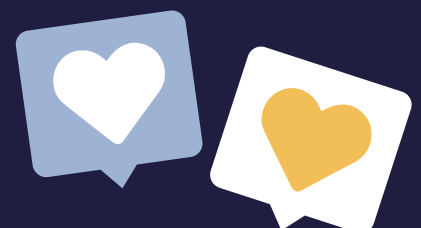


Alice has had experience of working on smaller one-off builds and has now started work on a much larger housing estate site, project managed by C3 Construction. When asked Alice said

When asked Alice said **"I am really enjoying working on site and have learnt so much in the short time I have been here, such as doing plots and English bond walls. I was initially nervous going from private to site work and did expect some of the stereotypical, sexist comments. However, everyone has been so helpful and eager to support me when needed. As a female, it has been a challenge working in this sector as you fear that some may see you as a bit of a novelty. I feel like I have had to work twice as hard to prove myself and ability, but I have earned the respect of my colleagues who treat me as they would any other employee. I have found undertaking an apprenticeship so rewarding as I am able to gain a valuable insight into what goes on in the industry, as well as learn the theoretical side at College – all whilst getting paid to do so! Having a supportive employer makes all of the difference to your experience and I feel lucky to be part of the company I work for."**

When asked what advice she would give to any women wanting to join the industry, Alice said "Go for it! As long as you are determined, thick-skinned and hardworking then nothing can stop you."

With Alice's grit and drive, it is evident that she has a successful career in bricklaying ahead of her and will hopefully inspire other females to follow her lead.



Employer Breakfast

Our Employer breakfast was a success!

We were joined by over 20 local employers where we showcased our latest opportunities on offer to our employer network. These included skills bootcamps, apprenticeships, T-Levels, professional qualifications and CPD courses.

It is important for us that our curriculum is shaped with the assistance of our local employers, at this event attendees were welcomed to provide feedback on skills gaps in their sector and recommendations for future course portfolios.

We also received lots of positive feedback! "Thank you to everyone involved in hosting a good event this morning, it was very useful in my opinion, and it has given me a lot to think about going forward in terms of upskilling staff and also thinking about other opportunities in terms of employment and supporting T-Levels."

We will be hosting the next one soon, keep a look out from our team!



Conferencing & Facilities

Conferencing at Grantham College & University Centre

Take advantage of our conference facilities and meeting room hire, along with free parking at our campus. We offer a conferencing service that is ideal for meetings, lectures, training and workshops. As part of our conferencing offer, we can provide a range of hospitality services including breakfasts, refreshments, buffet or sit-down lunches and evening dining in our on-campus restaurant The Apple Tree

We offer hire of a range of classrooms, meeting rooms, IT suites and workshops which are ideal for many different requirements. Our classrooms, meeting rooms and IT suites are ideal for company training, away days and offer Internet-connected PCs and projectors.

Have a look at our Institute of Technology collaboration space:



This room is used for customers for business meetings, presentations, interviews, workshops and training sessions.

To learn more about our very competitive hire rates please contact **enquiry@grantham.ac.uk** or call **01476 400200**.

What is Multiply?

Multiply is a new government-funded programme to help adults improve their numeracy skills.

If you're aged 19 and over and don't have maths GCSE at grade C (or equivalent), you can access free numeracy courses through Multiply to build your confidence with numbers and gain a qualification.

There will be courses for beginners to more advanced courses such as GCSE Maths, Functional Skills Qualifications, or equivalent.

<https://skillsforlife.campaign.gov.uk/courses/multiply/>

Learn more:



Multiply courses we are offering are:

- Lifestyle maths and weekly shopping
- Saving money
- Everyday maths for ESOL
- Money management and individual budgeting
- Lifestyle maths and basic numeracy
- Calculating the best deal for your energy bills
- Managing your household budget using excel
- Maths in the workplace
- Creative maths
- Cooking on a budget, planning family meals
- Creating a christmas advent calendar
- Beginners maths for ESOL
- Further maths for ESOL

Contact us:



01476 400200



enquiry@grantham.ac.uk

Workforce Training & Development

The College offers both accredited and industry standard work based learning and management and technical training.

Bespoke skills solutions are also available which can be completely tailored to meet your individual business needs.

We offer a range of courses, from Apprenticeships, NVQs in the workplace to short distance learning and community courses.

In addition, the team can meet with you to discuss your specific business needs and develop a programme to suit you. We will ensure that evaluations regularly take place to monitor success of training solutions and like to build long term relationships with employers to ensure we keep you informed of any exciting new opportunities that your business can take advantage of.

Our dedicated team are always on hand to support employers across all sectors of industry. We have a track record in helping local businesses make the most of their most valuable asset – their staff. Contact us today to discover how we can assist you in taking your business to the next level.

We have launched an extensive range of CPD opportunities for employers and their workforce, through our portfolio of adult courses.

We are offering Businesses from all sectors the opportunity to participate in one of our FREE industry focussed programmes, that cover anything from Graphic Design to Electrical Circuits.

Alternatively, if you just fancy learning something new, want to take up a new hobby and meet like-minded people that share the same interests as you, why not try one of our Community Learning courses? From Crochet to Plastering, we have you covered!

Call us on **01476 400200** or email **enquiry@grantham.ac.uk** for further information or to arrange an appointment with one of our advisors.

