

Ian Williams Celebrates National Apprenticeship Week in Style with a Qualification Lunch to reward 21 Successful Apprentices, Trainees and Staff achievers



To coincide with the start of National Apprenticeship Week 2017, leading property services specialist Ian Williams held a Qualification Celebration lunch at Bristol's Ashton Gate Stadium. The inaugural event which was attended by 40 people, celebrated the company's apprentice, trainee and staff achievers and recognised the vital contribution they make to the business. Employing in the region of 1000 people, Ian Williams is committed to direct delivery of its services and has a commitment to 10% of its total workforce being apprentices in 2017. This programme is managed by the Ian Williams Academy which delivered over 6000 days of training and personal development in 2016.

During the day, we had chance to talk to the successful apprentices and trainees. Here's what they had to say about their experiences so far with Ian Williams:



Naomi Ford: Surveyor

Completed: Trainee Surveyor Programme

“I fast tracked a three-year course into two and a half years, thanks to the fact that the programme is so well structured with clear timescales and goals. The internal mentoring and coaching is also invaluable and now I’ve qualified, I look forward to sharing my skills with new trainees. Ian Williams is a company that genuinely cares. I look forward to getting involved in more complex contracts in the future and working my way up the management ladder.”



Aaron Phillips: Painting and Decorating Operative

Completed: Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship in Decorative Finishing: Painting & Decorating

“I’ve been with Ian Williams for four years having followed my father who was a foreman with the company at their Welsh office. I was delighted to join them because they’re a financially secure company with a great reputation. They have top-notch health and safety and they genuinely care about their staff. My experience is that as a company, they’re always eager to drive forwards in a supportive way. Unlike for some of my friends at different companies, if you do qualify at Ian Williams having done the apprentice training, the likelihood is that they’ll offer you a permanent contract.”



Gurjeet Sandhu: Surveyor

Completed Ian Williams Trainee Surveyor Programme

“I’ve always been interested in buildings and architecture and my brother was a QS so a QS degree made sense. I then joined Ian Williams 4 years ago, and I love the company and my job which has so much variety. I’m never stuck in an office and time flies by!

Ian Williams genuinely take the time and effort to reward and promote from within and for any new Graduate. I’d say this is the best way to start the journey to the top – doing it ‘The Ian Williams Way’”



Rhea Clark: Business Support Assistant

Completed: Level 2 Apprentice Business Administration

"I enjoy the customer-facing aspects of the job and the close team working. It's a great place to work."



Ed Matthews: Trainee Surveyor

Completed: BTEC Level 4 HNC Diploma in Business

"I finished two years of training for my HNC in Autumn last year. I've had to take a structured approach and it has required a huge commitment to balance work and studies. In the future, I hope to progress to managerial level. I would recommend this to anyone: if you have the commitment to work hard in the day job, taking the extra step to gain a qualification, is totally worth it."



Pearce Rigby: Painting and Decorating Operative

Completed: Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship in Decorative

Finishing: Painting & Decorating

Twice Apprentice of The Year (in association with Dulux)

"I was on Level 2 and although everyone warned me that Level 3 would be harder, I actually didn't think that was the case. I've had lots of support from Ian Williams and my college throughout the training. I love the variety of work from externals to kitchens and bathrooms. I feel I'm in control of my own destiny."



Terry Mills: Operative

Completed: NOCN Level 3 Diploma for Trade Union Health & Safety Representative – Occupational H&S

"I've been with Ian Williams for 11 years, and have seen how seriously they take Health and Safety across the company. In my role, I speak to people on the ground and feed back up the management chain. I'm happy to have this voluntary role as Ian Williams really does recognise and reward commitment at all levels."



Danni Wood: Finance Assistant
Completed: Level 4 Diploma in Accounting

“For three years, I attended night school twice a week from 6-8:30pm. It was a very different experience from when I was studying full time doing my degree and came with its own challenges. Although I’m a very self-motivated person, support from the team has been crucial to help me achieve

the Diploma. The head office team in which I work is a tight unit – we all care and support each other.”



Callum MacDonald: Carpentry Operative
Completed: Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship in Wood Occupations

“I knew of Ian Williams because my cousin worked here so often helped out over the holidays. I was then lucky to join straight into an Apprenticeship. I love carpentry and really benefited from the on the job training the Apprenticeship

offered. I’d recommend it to anyone.”



Nina Lewis: Business Manager
Completed: EDI Level 3 NVQ Certificate in Management

“I’m a perfect example of someone who has worked their way up within Ian Williams. I started back in 2006 in their Nottingham business as a help desk RLO for a response maintenance contract. Having helped implement mobile

response solutions and supporting the centralising of the function to Birmingham, I’m now a Business Manager. I love the variety of the job and the challenges and I am keen to aim for a General Management role in Response when one becomes available. And that’s the great thing about Ian Williams – opportunities do always open up.”



Sam Paget: Surveyor

Completed: Ian Williams Trainee Surveyor Programme

“From my very first interview, my first impression of the company was just how great they are. I love my job - every day and every contract is different. I think the Academy is a fantastic way to demonstrate a defined pathway to career

development and within 5 years, I would like to be a Business Manager supporting my own Trainee Surveyors.”



Huw Holland: Surveyor

Completed: Ian Williams Trainee Surveyor Programme

“I did my Degree in Construction and since joining Ian Williams, I’ve loved the challenges, responsibility and accountability. The Directors really care about the business and are happy to change things if something isn’t working. They offer a solid structure with lots of opportunity to

progress. Tell my manager I’m aiming for his job in a few years!”



Jack Kerrigan: Surveyor

Completed: Ian Williams Trainee Surveyor Programme

“I joined Ian Williams having completed my QS degree at Reading. Since then I’ve been involved in many different disciplines including M+E, Capital that’s involved structural fire damage and general building. It’s great because I’ve seen

how Ian Williams reward and promote success from within. If you do well, your career has longevity here. The Cardiff office is really great – we work hard and play hard as a team. My ambition is to possibly become Chartered and I’m definitely interested in moving into a managerial role. For now, not many people my age can say it, but thanks to Ian Williams I’ve already been able to get my foot on the property ladder and have my own place.”



Usman Ahmed: Surveyor

Completed: Ian Williams Trainee Surveyor Programme

“I’ve been with Ian Williams for four years and I completed my three-year course early. The exposure to different businesses within the company, which I benefitted from when I was seconded to the Wiltshire business, is really valuable. I’m now based in Birmingham and developing my own managerial skills as I have 2 trainees under my wing. I aspire to become a Business Manager.”



Ollie Motuel: Ledger Clerk

Completed: Level 2 Apprenticeship Certificate in Business and Administration

“Since joining Ian Williams, I achieved level 2 Business Admin within a year. I’ve always been interested in accounting and finances so will be looking to progress to my level 3 soon. The team has been really supportive throughout.”



Ian Sempill: Software Developer

Completed: Level 3 Certificate in IT Systems & Principles: L3 Diploma in IT Professional Competence

“My role is as a software developer within Ian Williams IT department. The training has been fantastic and the mentoring programme hugely important – I’d definitely recommend it.”



Tom Conibear: Software Developer

Completed: Level 3 Certificate in IT Systems & Principles: L3 Diploma in IT Professional Competence

“I joined Ian Williams after my A levels and have been here 18 months. Now fresh out of my apprenticeship, I’m enjoying my work. I love contextualising knowledge and ultimately would like to hold a senior technical role within Ian Williams.”



Rebecca Kendall: Business Support Assistant

Completed: Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Business & Admin

“While I was training, the team were very supportive about my studies. As a company, Ian Williams really focuses on training, developing and supporting its people.”



Harry Thompson: Painting and Decorating Operative

**Completed: Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship in
 Decorative Finishing: Painting & Decorating**

“I love working out of the Bristol office where the team has been massively supportive and gone out of their way to help me complete college. One day, I’d love to be a foreman at Ian Williams.”



Clinton Brewer: Surveyor

Completed: Ian Williams Trainee Surveyor Programme

“I came to this career via a different route – a Psychology degree. My two main career requirements were variety and security and since joining Ian Williams, I’ve had both with projects as diverse as fire door installation to a naval base to new construction and refurbishment of entire warehouses. I thrive on the challenging and rapid pace of our industry, and Ian Williams in particular. Their commitment is to promotion from within, and they are a financially stable organisation.”

