

Drive Forward

in Motor Industry Skills Training - August
2009

Welcome to the Motor Industry Skills e-newsletter produced by the IMI, the Sector Skills Council for the retail motor industry.

We would like to send it to as many people and organisations as possible - if you know anyone who may like to receive it, please ask them to email anns@motor.org.uk with their details.

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Impact of the Recession on the Automotive Retail Industry

New research has just been published by the IMI which aims to understand how the recession has impacted our sector.

To read a summary of the report [click here](#)

To read the full report [click here](#)

Wherever possible official government and industry standard datasets have been used in order to ensure the evidence base is robust and consistent. As some official data sets are updated on an annual basis, this report also draws on anecdotal evidence to gain depth and insight. This anecdotal, or qualitative, evidence is provided by key stakeholders and employers in the sector.

Everyone's experiences are different and we would like to know what your experience of the recession has been. You can feedback your experiences to us by emailing us at research@motor.org.uk

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Training Quality Standard

The latest achiever of the Training Quality Standard with Excellence in Automotive Skills is Training 2000, based in Blackburn. Steve Walker, Career Development Manager at Training 2000, said

The logo for the Training Quality Standard, featuring the words "TRAINING QUALITY STANDARD" in white capital letters on a dark green background with an orange curved border.

"We are thrilled to achieve the Training Quality Standard across the whole company and now for the automotive sector. TQS sets a high standard to aspire to and it's always a good feeling to be successful at the first attempt. This is recognition for the work we have done and what we will continue to do for our customers in the North West region. Our customer service model has proved its worth as we are now attracting customers from across the UK through a growing and impressive reputation for delivering outstanding training. I am particularly impressed with the TQS part B as the it is both comprehensive and clear. It was a tough but enjoyable process from writing the application through to the assessor verification visit but one that is becoming increasingly important in the training world."

For more information on the Training Quality Standard go to www.trainingqualitystandard.co.uk or contact Adrian Lawson, Development Manager - Quality Improvement, at the IMI on adrianl@motor.org.uk

To see a list of current achievers please [click here](#)

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Are you ready for the Qualifications and Credit Framework?

The Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) is a new framework for recognising and accrediting qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The framework is at the heart of a major reform of the vocational qualifications system, designed to make the whole system simpler to understand and use and to be more inclusive. The intention is to make both the system and the qualifications offered far more relevant to the needs of employers and more flexible and accessible for learners.

[Click here](#) for more information, where you can click on and view an interactive animation which helps to explain the system. For additional college and training provider support [click here](#)

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Celebrating the best of Apprenticeships

England's best apprentices were recognised at the 2009 Apprenticeship Awards held in London earlier this month. Run by the National Apprenticeships Service, the Awards celebrated the achievements of apprentices and their employers and there was good news for the automotive sector. Mark Jefferson, 15, who works for Rockingham Cars in Northampton, won the Young Apprentice of the Year and Bentley Motors Ltd was highly commended in the large employer of the year category.



Simon Waugh, Chief Executive of the National Apprenticeship Service said "Apprenticeships are vital to business in today's challenging times - particularly as we prepare for the upturn. The Apprenticeship Awards celebrate "winning by doing", both for apprentices and employers who employ apprentices."

For more information about the awards ceremony visit www.apprenticeships.gov.uk

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ATA reaches the 15,000th Technician mark

Alfa Romeo technician, Sean Davidson, from Palmers dealership in Hemel Hempstead, has become the 15,000th technician to achieve the Automotive Technician Accreditation (ATA) standard.



Sean started on the Alfa Romeo Apprenticeship Programme, part of Fiat Group Automobiles UK, in August 2007 and is currently in his third year working towards a qualification in Light Vehicle Maintenance and Repair. He achieved his accreditation at Service Maintenance Technician level at the technical centre in Slough. To mark the milestone, Sean was presented with his ATA card, £200 and a bottle of Champagne by Nigel Beaven, Head of Communications at the IMI.

Motorists can search for their nearest business employing ATA registered technicians by going to www.okwithata.com

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New assessment centres required for ATA Parts Advisor

If you are delivering automotive training, have you considered offering ATA Parts Advisor accreditation to your customers?

The route was launched in December 2008 following a successful pilot programme; however we are now actively seeking new assessment centres that can extend the nationwide coverage of the accreditation scheme for individuals working in the parts sector. For more information about becoming an approved ATA assessment centre, please contact Ian Gillgrass, Accreditation Manager on iang@motor.org.uk

[For further information about ATA including the Parts Advisor route click here](#)

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Upskilling through Industry Experience

The IMI and Lifelong Learning UK are working together to help automotive teachers, tutors and trainers keep their skills up to date to meet the needs of employers and learners. This is being done through the Business Interchange industry work placement programme in England.

To find out how Business Interchange works, [click here](#) to read the case study of Rob Moyle, Lecturer in Motor Vehicle Mechanics at Truro College, Cornwall who has taken part in the programme.

If you work for a business in England that would be interested in taking part in the programme, by hosting a placement, please contact Caroline Harris at the IMI, via carolineh@motor.org.uk

[Click here for more information](#)

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Move up a Gear - Northern Ireland event

The Northern Ireland Motor Industry received a boost in June with local firms invited to attend a free event designed to galvanise local managers and provide some fresh ideas and inspiration to help the industry 'Move up a Gear'. With over 25,000 employees this industry sector has always played a high profile role in a very car conscious economy.



The event, organised by the IMI, and supported by The Department for Employment & Learning and G&H Bell Insurance Brokers, attracted some 160 employers to the Lagan Valley Island Centre in Lisburn. Attendees were treated to a talk by industry expert Peter Turner and the highlight of the day was undoubtedly keynote speaker Philip Hesketh, who spoke on the 'Psychology of Persuasion', 'Relationship Building' and 'Selling in a Recession'.

Guests also had the opportunity to share ideas over lunch and visit the various exhibitions on display.

Pictured are Shauna Mullan, Department for Employment and Learning, Paul Simpson, Director of G&H Bell Insurance Brokers and Martin Hutchinson NI National Manager for the IMI.

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Funding Advice

The IMI Funding Advice Service has been developed to assist employers and training providers to find out more about the Government funding available across all four nations and to provide guidance on how it can be accessed.

[Click here for information...](#)

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Increase in weekly minimum wage for apprentices in England

From August 1st 2009, the minimum wage for all apprentices in England will be increased from £80 to £95 per week. Currently, all apprentices aged 16-18, and those aged 19 and over in their first year as an apprentice, are exempt from being

paid the National Minimum Wage. In 2005 the Learning and Skills Council introduced a requirement that employers pay apprentices a minimum of at least £80 per week. The average net earnings of an apprentice each week is now around £170, but the Government wants to ensure that the earnings of all apprentices are fair and that they reflect the support given to young people pursuing other qualifications.

The new minimum weekly apprenticeship wage of £95 has been re-calculated to match the package of allowances and benefits that young people might receive were they in full-time education or unwaged training. The National Apprenticeship Service estimates that around 10 per cent of apprentices are affected and would urge all Apprenticeship providers to remind the employers they work with that the minimum wage has risen to £95 per week.

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Motor Industry Magazine

Motor Industry Magazine (MIM) contains all the latest industry news, articles and features. MIM, published ten times a year, is available by [subscription](#) and is free to IMI Members. For information about becoming an IMI Member and other membership benefits [click here](#).

This month's edition of MIM includes:



Bodyshop

Salvaging parts from scrap cars for re-use in body repair is not only good for the recycling cause, but it could also reduce the number of insurance write-offs. Yet the practice accounts for less than 1% of bodyshop work. [Read the article ...](#)

Hybrid Cars

With up to 40 miles of electric power and up to 300 miles of petrol power, General Motors claims its Vauxhall hybrid will overcome motorists' fears of being stranded without a nearby charging station. [Read the article ...](#)

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Three young automotive technicians chosen to represent UK in Canada

Twenty year old Dean Jones from Swansea, who works for Mercedes-Benz of Swansea, has been selected as a member of Team UK - a team of 26 skilled young people from across the UK, who will fly to Canada in September to compete at WorldSkills Calgary 2009. Dean joins Daniel Cain (22), a Grimsby based automotive technician who works at Just Car Clinics and Zak McLaughlan (19), a Denham based apprentice car painter who



works at Solus Norwich Union, as part of the automotive team competing at the biggest skills competition in the world.

Nigel Price, Aftersales Manager at Mercedes-Benz of Swansea and Dean's employer (pictured) said: "We are proud that Dean has been selected to join the team to go onto Calgary to represent the UK. We believe that ongoing training is essential to ensure that we have a respected retail motor sector in the future and we need highly capable young people like Dean who can demonstrate their ability and commitment."

Dean, Daniel and Zak competed in Skillauto 2009, find out more about this competition [here](#).

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Skillauto Final

Twenty year old John Couldridge, who works for Inchcape Honda in Romford, Essex, has been crowned the UK's top young automotive technician in the Skillauto final. Managed and run by the IMI, the aim of Skillauto is to identify and promote the exceptional talent of young people working in the automotive industry, who might then have the opportunity to go on and compete with the best from across the world at the prestigious WorldSkills events held every 2 years, to be held in Calgary later this year and in London in 2011.



John competed against the very best young automotive technicians in the Skillauto competition in the Light Vehicle Repair and Maintenance category, which was held at Thatcham, the Motor Insurance Repair Research Centre. Competitors had to demonstrate their diagnostic and repair skills on a variety of vehicles and systems.

Finishing in joint second place was Matthew McCormack who works at the Maiden Newton Service Station in Dorset and Andrew Davidson from Henry's Honda in Glasgow.

[Read more ...](#)

If you know of any talented young technicians that would like to enter next years Skillauto competition and would like more information please email careers@motor.org.uk.

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The Drive Forward Evaluation

Thank you to everyone that has taken the time to complete our evaluation survey so far. We have received responses from a wide range of people and organisations but there is still time to give us your views. Remember - It's your Drive Forward, the more feedback we receive from you the better we can make future issues.

The closing date for responses is Friday 28th of August after which time we will be looking at the feedback received to identify any improvements we can make for your benefit.

[Click here to complete the survey](#)

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Drive Forward archive

To see previous editions of Drive Forward newsletters please [click here ...](#)

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Any comments or feedback on Drive Forward are appreciated, please send to adrianl@motor.org.uk.

Regards

Adrian Lawson

Development Manager - Quality Improvement

[Click here to visit the IMI website ...](#)

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