

TransPennine Express: Opening the door for rail workers of the future

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TransPennine Express (TPE) is marking National Apprenticeship Week by opening the door for rail workers of the future to register their interest in the scheme and to earn while they learn.

Fourteen apprentices are currently undertaking a two-year apprenticeship with the train operator. They are all benefitting from learning the skills and knowledge needed to follow a career in the rail sector, while earning a wage at the same time.

The apprentices are experiencing several different areas within the company such as Major Projects, Service Planning, Customer Experience and Human Resources. As part of their training, each apprentice is also working towards a professional qualification, as well as the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

Nicola Buckley, HR Director at TransPennine Express said: “We’re so proud of our apprentices and the work they have been doing. The apprenticeship programme at TPE sees inspiring young people supporting us and gaining work experience across every area of the business, not to mention adding to their personal growth through the achievement of the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

“We’re committed to connecting and reflecting the diverse communities we serve across the north of England and Scotland. Our values are central to this, especially being ‘supportive of each other’ and as an inclusive employer we value individuals’ contributions, regardless of their age, gender, race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, social background, religion, or belief.”

Young people are able to register their interest in a TPE apprenticeship via the Early Careers Apprenticeships Talent Registration Page on the FirstGroup website. When vacancies become available, TPE will alert those that have registered and signpost them to the live vacancies through external promotions on social media campaigns.

Shannon Pilkington, 21, is currently undertaking a two-year apprenticeship with the train operator, where she is benefitting from learning the skills and knowledge needed to follow a career in the rail sector, while earning a wage at the same time.

Shannon, from Oldham, is one of 14 apprentices experiencing several different areas within the company such as Major Projects, Service Planning, Customer Experience and Human Resources. As part of their training, each apprentice is also working towards a professional qualification, as well as the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

Shannon said: “I’m currently working as an operations apprentice in control and my qualification is a level 3 business administration.

“Working in control, every day is different, so last week for example I was working alongside a customer information controller who sends out information about delays and cancellations, answers help point calls around our stations and sends out information to customers about road replacement transport if services are cancelled.

“Completing an apprenticeship is the best decision I’ve ever made and I would highly recommend it to anyone wanting to go into the rail industry. It sets you up for your railway career and it’s the best way to learn, especially with TPE because you’re able to experience learning from various departments so you’re going to have some great knowledge when you start a full time role.”

[For more information click here.](#)

Photo credit: TransPennine Express