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Mayor of London urges more employers to 'host' apprentices at LAC event

The London Apprenticeship Company (LAC) were proud to welcome Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, to speak at their open day, held at in the London Transport Museum, Covent Garden this week. The Mayor showed his full support for the LAC, saying they were officially 'hired' by the GLA, while adding that employers need to get on board by offering more apprenticeships for the young people of London.



Please credit: www.luluash.co.uk

The Mayor said: “The London Apprenticeship Company is making a lasting contribution to London. Many employers, including those here today, will tell you how taking on an apprentice is a fantastic way to bring fresh talent and energy into the team and build a basis for future growth. I salute all businesses across London that already have apprenticeship schemes in place and am encouraging many more to follow suit.”

The event showcased the work of the London Apprenticeship Company, which is part funded by the London Development Agency, in supporting businesses and organisations to ‘host’ apprentices and reduce the overall cost to the employer. During his time there, the Mayor met with apprentices and ‘host’ companies working with the LAC. These organisations included ResponsibleIT, London College of Beauty Therapy, Park Royal Partnership and Dancing After School and Eve Appeal, amongst others.

The Mayor is urging companies across the capital to take advantage of the support available from organisations such as the LAC who help businesses, particularly smaller firms, through the process of finding, recruiting and delivering apprentices.

Jeremy Hempstead, acting CEO, London Apprenticeship Company said: “This vote of confidence is a reflection of the Mayor’s commitment to both the London Apprenticeship Company and more importantly our aim to deliver a meaningful service to businesses while supporting them to take on Apprentices.”

Hannah Mayne was one of the apprentices to receive a certificate from Boris Johnson at the event; she was employed by the LAC as a Business Administration Apprentice in summer 2009 and ‘hosted’ by London First. Baroness Jo Valentine, Chief Executive of London First said: “ Apprenticeships are a valuable way in which employers can provide opportunities to young Londoners and nurture valuable members of staff. We have been delighted with Hannah’s progress. London First has benefitted through employing a dedicated member of staff at a competitive rate who is eager to learn and grow, and who provides valuable support across the organisation. As one of the first organizations to have taken on an apprentice through the London Apprenticeship Company we are delighted with the support they have provided”.

The London Apprenticeship Company is supported by:

London Development Agency, National Apprenticeship Service, Westminster City Council, Westminster Kingsway College, City of Westminster College, Central West Group Australia, Vital Regeneration and the Paddington Development Trust.

Notes to Editor overleaf

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1. The London Apprenticeship Company is a not for profit organisation dedicated to increasing the number of apprenticeships in London. In the past, apprenticeship schemes have been a good idea in principle but in practice very hard to administer and the LAC supports businesses by understanding and consulting with them as to how Apprenticeships can add value while supporting business growth.

The LAC then delivers an Apprentice by applying a low cost, low risk model. This helps businesses save money and time by employing the apprentice on behalf of the host company and as a result, takes away all the hassles of managing and administering the scheme. The LAC organise the selection, training provision, Government funding, offer a full mentoring service for the apprentices and get them prepared for the job they will be doing while supporting the company at every stage.

2. As well as offering an apprenticeship service, the LAC organises a range of positive work based activities for unemployed young people. London Transport Museum and the LAC will be combining their expertise to deliver 'Route into Work'; a three day employability programme that will result in a whole range of real apprenticeship opportunities for the participants. Other employers who are working with the LAC and are holding stands at the 'Route into Work' event include the London College of Beauty Therapy, Park Royal Partnership, Transport for London, Responsible IT, London Transport Museum and Dancing After School.

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3. As a result of significant work across the Greater London Authority Group and with its public sector partners' real progress in the recruitment of apprentices is being made. The London Apprenticeship Task Force has delivered a number of focused actions plans in key sectors such as retail, IT, and transport and these are currently being delivered in partnership by employers, the National Apprenticeship Service and Sector Skills Councils.
4. The London Apprenticeship Company open day was hosted by the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden.

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