

2013

Apprentice of the Year | **Winner:** Josh Pickersgill, MPM Ltd

Celebrating young people demonstrating the potential to contribute greatly to the future of their company and the industry as a whole

Overview

Josh joined MPM as an Apprentice, and was enrolled on the Improving Operational Performance Apprenticeship NVQ Programme in December 2011. He completed his NVQ in July 2012. Josh is employed as a Production Operator in MPM's Finishing area.

In July 2012 Josh was enrolled on the Business Improvement Techniques (BIT) Apprenticeship at Level 3. This was at his request; one that the company was delighted to grant. The objectives of the programme were to increase Josh's competence in Lean Manufacturing; and to develop him for a leadership role within the business

As part of his Level 2 NVQ Josh wrote a Standard Operating Procedure for finishing a key product. This involved analysing the task, and distilling the analysis into a series of main steps and critical points, supported by photographs. His SOP was incorporated into the Company's Business Management System.

At the end of February 2013 Josh completed the first cycle of his current programme. He led successfully a problem solving team looking into improving the efficiency of the Finishing Area. The efficiency of that area rose from 68.3% to an average of 82.5% as a result of his team's activities. During the same period Josh also assisted in improving workplace organisation in our Pattern Shop. The 5S KPI for that area rose from 43% at the start of the project to 83% on completion.

Josh was awarded Apprentice of the Year (Small Company) at the Yorkshire Productivity Award Ceremony in April 2012. Awards are given for significant efficiency improvements amongst manufacturing companies in the region, and also recognise outstanding contributions from individual employees, including apprentices. Josh was also a finalist for Apprentice of the Year (Plastics Industry Awards 2013).

Josh has gone on to train and mentor new Apprentices in his work area.



"As a young person starting out in working life, to receive external recognition from peers within the industry only boosted Josh's confidence and following a year out in Australia, he still remains with MPM today, with further development plans in action."

Ben Wilson, Director, MPM Ltd

The Composites UK Industry Awards are presented at the black-tie dinner on the first Wednesday in November. The event is aligned with the Composites Engineering Show in Birmingham.

Keep an eye out for our annual nomination process every May for your chance to apply.

www.compositesuk.co.uk/awardsdinner