

APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR AWARD**FINALIST: Reece Legg**

Reece Legg has demonstrated exceptional technical ability, initiative and commitment throughout his four-year apprenticeship at GKN, consistently going above and beyond what is expected.

During his dissertation, Reece showed outstanding dedication, often being the first into the workshop and the last to leave to ensure critical work remained on schedule. He subsequently tested 44 SLS and 20 DCB specimens in just one week – an impressive achievement given the complexity of DCB testing. Alongside this, he contributed to GKN's ATI-funded project, developing modelling processes for composite parts bonded with paste adhesives using cohesive zone modelling techniques.

Reece also made a significant contribution to the restoration of Spitfire AA180, delivering an end-to-end manufacturing solution from CAD model to production-quality component. He proactively sought advice from experienced colleagues to optimise machining and successfully reduced tooling cycle time. He also took ownership of tooling and material coordination, gaining valuable hands-on manufacturing experience.

His technical capability extends into engineering analysis, where he developed methods for transitioning finite element models from linear to non-linear analysis in Simcenter. His work was presented to senior GKN Engineering management and received very positive feedback.

Beyond his technical work, Reece is an outstanding STEM ambassador. He has supported school open evenings, major STEM events, the University of Bath Engineering Summer School, workshop tours and work experience programmes. He has also helped organise inter-company apprentice visits, supported apprentice open evenings and mentored a first-year apprentice.

What truly sets Reece apart is the combination of technical excellence, ambition, independence and a genuine commitment to supporting others. He consistently takes ownership, seeks opportunities to learn, shares his knowledge and inspires those around him. He is a role model for apprentices and a passionate advocate for engineering and apprenticeships, making him a highly deserving Apprentice of the Year finalist.

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