

PRESS RELEASE
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Melin apprentice named one of Britain's top learners

Apprenticeships created by Welsh housing association Melin Homes brought one trainee gas engineer a £2000 prize when she won a Wales-wide award and was entered into a UK final.



Kirsty Hollinshead, 24, is lead gas engineer for Melin-appointed contractors Connaught. She has not only bucked the trend by taking up a career in a male-dominated field, but has already been named Wales Practical Learner in the Edge Awards earlier this year. She also joined the UK finalists in London, where she was pipped at the post and missed out on the final round of judging in the race for the national title.

Kirsty won the Welsh award dedicated to raising the desirability and status of vocational

and practical learning among 14 – 25- year-olds.

Melin Homes has created eight apprenticeships through its collaborative working with local contractors. Melin appointed four local businesses to work in partnership with for the next four years. Those contractors and their staff will help us to ensure our 2,700 properties are maintained to the highest standards.

Dave Cook Director of Asset Management at Melin said: “We are delighted that we are able to provide training and jobs for young people through our apprenticeships and Kirsty is a great asset to Connaught. By supporting an on-going training programme we are helping to address a skills shortage in the industry and ensure Melin residents receive high quality services.

Kirsty said: “Working at Connaught Wales for Melin has given me so many opportunities to further myself through training and learning new skills. I believe the work that Edge does is very important in encouraging business to give young people the chance to try out vocational career paths, to work out which one is right for them.”

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Notes to editors

Melin Homes is a not for profit landlord providing quality homes and services across Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire, Newport, Powys and Torfaen. For further information please visit www.melinhomes.co.uk