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AWARDS 2025

#T30U30





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TOP THIRTY UNDER THIRTY

WELCOME TO THE AWARDS CELEBRATION 2025



I am delighted to welcome you all to our 2nd Leeds & West Yorkshire Top 30 Under 30s Celebration Event, here at the Royal Armouries.

Firstly, a huge thank you to you all for joining us in celebrating these amazing young people. It's still very much a 'pinch me' moment as I write this. For those of you not aware, Top 30 started out as a passion project. A mission to showcase, and support the amazing young people in our region, and to inspire the next generation by presenting an evidence-based narrative every year of careers and opportunities on their doorstep.

8 years after the idea came to life in my office in Hull, the process now is in 3 regions – Hull & Humber, Leeds & West Yorkshire & South Yorkshire. 90 young people getting the kind of support in becoming a leader that I didn't receive when I was climbing the ranks in my career. Plus, we have the stories to be shared with schools and colleges across Yorkshire about what's possible, what's on people's doorsteps, and the role models they could follow if they choose to.

And what role models they are. One of the privileges in doing this is getting to know a group of young people. Hungry, determined, resilient, bright, articulate...I could go on. They are a credit to the region and their employers. Tonight, you will hear from them about their experience, and how this process has supported and developed them. What we do offers real, tangible, value. It doesn't just improve them in their job, and it doesn't just benefit the organisation they are part of. It also helps them become more self-aware and better people, now and into the future.

Please enjoy your night, it's designed to be fun. Play the games, dance, and celebrate the region's leading talent. Congratulations to every one of them, they have been, and will continue to be, amazing.

Simon Jones



Samantha Armstrong

Human Resources Coordinator

Sika

Samantha began her journey with Sika as an HR Apprentice and, within just eight months, was promoted to a permanent position as HR Coordinator. This impressive achievement reflects both her talent and determination. Her skills have already been recognised on a global stage at a Sika Senior Managers meeting, further highlighting her capability and impact. While Samantha is technologically and digitally adept, what sets her apart is her ability to build strong relationships across all levels of the business, paired with her eagerness to seize every opportunity for growth and development.

Mature beyond her years, Sam carries a quiet confidence and resilience that inspire those around her and will serve her well throughout her career. Her rapid progression within Sika is a clear testament to her dedication, drive, and self-development. Samantha is not only a highly capable professional but also an invaluable member of the team whose future is undoubtedly bright.



Alisha Bell

ERP Analyst

Byworth Boilers

Alisha's dedication and hard-working nature have been evident in every step of her career and have cemented her as an invaluable member of the team at Byworth Boilers. She has an incredible passion for STEM career paths. Being the only female representative at the Keighley Association of Engineers, she continually champions the vast opportunities in STEM paths to young people throughout the local community. This involves developing fully funded workshops for a range of ages to get them involved and interested in engineering, showing young people what is available when they enter the workforce, and showing that the career paths are achievable.

Alisha has been described as a shining light in engineering, representing and challenging stereotypes throughout social media platforms. Within Byworth Boilers, Alisha is a lead mentor for the apprenticeship scheme and has created an environment where apprentices feel safe and supported.



BUILDING TRUST

Dean Cannarozzi – Head of Sika Business School:

"Sam possesses a balanced blend of dedicated service, drive, and on top of this, personality - that's a trifecta! Corporate, global initiatives in any decentralized organization pose inherent deployment challenges. Samantha, in every corporate initiative, has made the process a breeze."



Jason Atkinson, Technical Director:

"Alisha always works very hard. She came into the business and pushed our processes forward. She's really made an impact, not only internally at Byworth, but also externally in the community. Alisha is a joy to work with."



Charlie Brumwell
Graphic Designer
HSL Chairs

Since joining HSL Chairs in 2021, Charlie has quickly established himself as an invaluable member of the team. He has played a leading role in a number of key projects, including the redesign of HSL's brochure, the creative direction for the summer sale campaign, and contributing to the office redesign to create a better working environment for their growing team. Charlie's input on each of these projects has been immense, and his success has been consistently recognised across the company.

Charlie began his journey with HSL as a Creative Artworker before earning a promotion to Senior Creative Artworker within just 18 months. Last year, he achieved a further promotion to Graphic Designer, where he continues to embrace every opportunity with enthusiasm and creativity. Well-liked across the organisation, Charlie's talent, dedication, and creative vision make him an invaluable asset to the business.

Steven Radley:

"Charlie quickly established himself as a highly regarded and valuable member of the team, where he has built a reputation as a hardworking, talented, and diligent colleague who goes above and beyond expectations to get the job done."



Tamera Carrington
Marketing Officer
The National Coal Mining Museum

Tamera's impact at the National Coal Mining Museum has been nothing short of exceptional. During her time with the organisation, her skills have grown tremendously, and she has consistently demonstrated an outstanding work ethic. The quality of her work is always of the highest standard, and she embraces every new challenge with energy and determination, never hesitating to grasp opportunities for growth.

Her enthusiasm and ingenuity have not only delivered excellent results but have also inspired those around her. Tamera's can-do attitude and willingness to go above and beyond have made a real difference across the organisation. She is admired and respected by colleagues for her positivity, dedication, and the lasting impact she has on the wider team.

Devinia Skirrow, Head of Audiences, Media and Communications:

"After working with Tamera for just a short time, I immediately knew she was a digital marketing superstar! She brings creativity, professionalism, and a sense of fun to everything she does. Tamera is really going from strength to strength and is a huge asset to the Museum."





Beth Chaplow
Account Director
Social

Beth joined Social as an Account Manager in 2023 and has quickly established herself as a standout member of the team. Through her exceptional client relationship skills and strong commercial acumen, she has earned two rapid promotions, becoming Account Director in 2024. From the outset, Beth has embodied Social's core values, courage, ambition, pride, and empathy, which shine through in everything she does. Just six months into her role, she took charge of some of the agency's largest accounts, delivering creative strategies tailored to the unique needs of each client. Beth is known for her ability to build lasting relationships with clients, colleagues, and stakeholders, fostering collaboration and trust at every level. She constantly looks for new ways to drive value, from championing cross-client collaboration on major projects such as the UKREiF conference to spotting and seizing opportunities that others might miss. With her strategic thinking, innovative approach to PR, and deep industry knowledge, Beth continues to make a meaningful and lasting impact across the business.



Tyler Collins
Trainee Site Manager
Caddick

Tyler joined Caddick Civil Engineering in 2021 as a Trainee Site Manager, and his hunger for growth and dedication were obvious to the whole team. Pretty quickly, Tyler stepped into an Assistant Site Manager role, which is where he is now. Alongside this role, he is currently studying for his Construction Management degree. Juggling working and studying, he's seamlessly blended learning into action, tackling bigger responsibilities with unwavering diligence and confidence.

Tyler's standout contributions to the business and his ambition have been noticed across the organisation, making him a vital player in the business.



Social

Racheal Johnson, Director of the Leeds office:

"Beth is one of the best early-career professionals I've ever worked with. Her proactive approach with clients is second to none, and I'm especially proud of the time she spends with junior colleagues, helping them to grow, develop, and build their confidence. What she has accomplished in her time at Social is nothing short of astonishing."

Caddick Construction.

Jamie Stephenson, Contract Director:

"Tyler has shown a great work ethic since he's been with Caddick. He puts his heart and soul into the job and works very diligently and enthusiastically. He will go over and above and has a real commitment to what he does. I am very proud of Tyler."



Gia Conor
Head of Operations
Trust Electric Heating Ltd

Since completing her degree apprenticeship with Trust Electric Heating, Gia has grown into an indispensable member of the team, consistently demonstrating an outstanding commitment to excellence. From the very beginning, she approached her role with professionalism, determination, and curiosity, quickly building a strong foundation in operational management and system implementation. Gia now oversees several of the company's most essential systems, ensuring they run smoothly and effectively, with her attention to detail and proactive problem-solving playing a key role in maintaining high standards.

Beyond her day-to-day responsibilities, Gia has been a driving force behind the company's growth, leading the introduction of new systems that have significantly improved efficiency and responsiveness. Her initiative, creativity, and ability to adapt to the demands of an evolving industry continue to keep Trust Electric Heating at the forefront of innovation. Gia's impact reaches far beyond operations – she represents the company's values through her hard work, forward thinking, and dedication to continuous improvement.



Paula Fitzgerald, Line Manager:

"Gia's enthusiasm for learning and her dedication to teamwork have made her a highly respected and valued colleague. She embodies the qualities of a young professional: resilient, forward-thinking, and deeply committed to the company's success. Her achievements as an Operations Assistant have already made a profound impact, and her potential to shape the future of our company is undeniable."



Dervla Curran (1997-2025)
Sustainability Consultant
C3 Group

Dervla's incredible success within her career was a true testament to her enthusiasm and her communication skills. Throughout her time at C3 Group, she showed her relationship building skills time and time again, and it was instrumental in fostering long-term partnerships with clients. Dervla expanded her role within the business, demonstrating her ability to work collaboratively across teams, identify opportunities for improvement, and created a lasting impact for both clients and colleagues. Her journey reflected not only professional achievement, but also a commitment to her personal growth.



Ash Wray, Founder:

"Dervla's ability to inspire, engage, and build lasting relationships with clients set her apart as a unique talent within our team. Her charisma and passion for sustainability strengthened our client relationships but have also played a pivotal role in driving our mission forward."



I have known Dervla since she was just 11 years old as she was part of the same swimming club where I was a volunteer coach. Fast forward to 2025 and in comes a nomination – Dervla Curran, who was making a real impact at C3 Group.

Her nomination for Top30under30 meant that I once again had the opportunity to step into the role of mentor. Her personality and sense of fun made it a privilege to have another opportunity to work with and help her in a different capacity.

Not aware of the battles Dervla had been facing, the news in August was unexpected and devastating, personally and for her friends in the group who formed a strong bond with her.

Dervla loved a party, with that in mind, I, her family and the Class of 2025 are determined to make sure we celebrate her alongside each of the other winners tonight.

She is missed but not forgotten.

Simon Jones



Megan Dooley
Senior Sales and Customer Support Advisor
Abraham Moon & Sons Ltd

Megan's rapid success at Abraham Moon & Sons is a true testament to her proactive, determined, and positive approach. She plays a vital role in enhancing customer satisfaction, leading initiatives that have earned consistent praise from both customers and colleagues. Always looking for ways to improve, Megan actively identifies opportunities to streamline operations and drive departmental efficiencies, reflecting her commitment to service excellence and continuous improvement.

Her contributions have not gone unnoticed. Megan is highly regarded across the business for her collaborative nature, resilience, and dedication to going above and beyond. Her unwavering focus on customer needs and her ability to deliver meaningful improvements make her an invaluable asset to both her team and the wider organisation.



MOON
EST. 1837

Jenni Brown, Head of Accessories Sales, line manager:

"Megan genuinely cares about the Moon brand and works exceptionally hard to ensure we deliver the service that our customers know and expect from us, ensuring our reputation within our sector is upheld. Megan has a great attitude and a genuine passion for learning more and has been her best every day."



Patrick Faulkner
Lead Engineer
Accu Limited

Patrick has made an exceptional impact at Accu since joining, combining technical excellence, strong leadership, and a genuine passion for engineering that inspires the whole team around him. As Lead Engineer, he has played a key role in defining and supporting the onboarding of new products, ensuring technical accuracy and accessibility across the business. His ability to translate complex engineering concepts into practical solutions has been invaluable in driving Accu's success.

Beyond his own contributions, Patrick is deeply committed to developing others. He mentors apprentices and junior engineers, guiding them to produce CAD drawings to the highest standard while also fostering confidence and growth in their skills. He works closely with customers to fully understand their requirements and provides tailored solutions, sharing his knowledge to empower colleagues to do the same. Patrick's expertise, dedication, and collaborative approach make him a truly indispensable member of the Accu team.



Accu

Yasin Boulakhras, Global Head of Product Strategy:

"Patrick is an exceptional Lead Engineer who not only drives innovation and excellence at Accu but also inspires those around him. His technical expertise, leadership, and commitment to mentorship make him a key asset to the company. Recognising Patrick celebrates not only his individual contributions but also the culture of excellence, innovation, and mentorship he fosters at Accu."



Lauren Hawkhead
Branded Digital Video Shooter/ Editor
Channel 4

Lauren has quickly established herself as a shining star at 4Studio. In just four years, she has progressed from an editor role to becoming the Digital Video Editor/Shooter for the in-house production team, an achievement that reflects her passion, talent, and unwavering work ethic. She brings a calm, solutions-focused approach to every project, always striving for the best possible visual and editorial outcome while fostering strong, collaborative relationships with producers and colleagues.

Lauren's technical expertise with cameras, equipment, lighting, and editing is exceptional, but what makes her stand out is her generosity in sharing that knowledge. She regularly runs training sessions to ensure the team feels confident using new equipment, creating a culture of support and collaboration. Her enthusiasm, dedication, and ability to uplift others make her not only an invaluable creative talent but also a deeply respected and admired member of the 4Studio team.



Dan Hill
Senior Social Strategist
Channel 4

Since joining Channel 4 in 2022, Dan Hill has consistently excelled and is recognised as a hugely influential and talented team member. Within his first six months in the role, Dan devised the launch strategy for Channel 4.0, which is now one of Channel 4's fastest-growing properties. This innovation doesn't go unnoticed. In his role as a Strategist in 4Studio, Dan has consistently demonstrated his commitment to digital innovation and excellence in marketing campaigns, always able to see the bigger picture and think differently about how to use platform features and best practices to drive significant results and reach, engage, and delight audiences.

Dan is a well-respected and high-profile member of the team, valued for his strategic rigour, clarity of thought, and connection of all work back to clear objectives and principles. His leadership, strategic acumen, and collaboration across teams make him a shining star at Channel4.



Heather Campbell:

"As Lauren's manager, it's been a pleasure to see her grow in skill and knowledge over our time working together. I trust her implicitly when it comes to her ability to shoot; this has come through her outstanding work time and time again. She shines within her role as a shooter and editor, while never resting on her laurels; she's always wanting to go over and above, learning how to shape stories editorially as well as always looking for training within her field."



Caitriona White, Digital Commissioning Executive:

"Dan is such a joy to work with. His strategic insight has been pivotal in two of the biggest launches in the Digital Commissioning team, and he comes to every project with a fresh take and trusted opinion."



Bill Houghton
UK Milling Energy Manager
ADM

Bill began his career at ADM in 2021 as a Junior Energy Manager, and through hard work and determination, he has progressed to his current role of UK Milling Energy Manager, where he oversees the entire UK Milling Division. A leading talent in the industry, Bill has been instrumental in identifying, leading, and implementing energy efficiency projects that have delivered significant benefits across the company.

His exceptional communication skills have also set him apart, allowing him to work effectively with stakeholders at every level of the business. This ability to engage and influence was a driving force behind his promotion and continues to underpin his success. Bill's combination of technical expertise, leadership, and collaborative approach makes him an invaluable member of ADM and a true rising star in his field.



Mohammed Sarwar, Sustainable Operations Manager:

"Bill goes above and beyond in his role every day, his attitude towards learning means he isn't afraid to step out of his comfort zone to grow. Not only is he always working super hard, but he pushes the team around him to work just as hard and creates a really positive work environment. He's a pleasure to work with."



Sanah Iqbal
Business Process and Operations Executive
Kings Secure Technologies

Sanah has been a highly respected member of Kings Secure Technologies since joining in 2019 as part of the company's first Graduate Scheme. Now, as Business Unit Lead at Abode UK, KST's smart home security division, she has successfully steered the business through a period of rapid market expansion. Known for her keen eye for detail and commitment to excellence, Sanah has consistently played a pivotal role in driving the company's success.

Her journey from graduate to Business Unit Lead is a true testament to her talent, dedication, and resilience. Time and again, she has demonstrated exceptional leadership and innovation, earning the admiration of colleagues across the business. As she continues to grow, there is no doubt that Sanah will make an even greater impact, not only at Kings Secure Technologies but across the wider industry.



Bob Forsyth, CEO of Kings Secure Technologies:

"Colleagues like Sanah enhance KST with cutting-edge concepts and achieve tasks differently – sparking amazing energy and exciting ideas."



Lauren Jackson
 Manager - Transaction Services
KPMG

Lauren's journey from Apprentice to Assistant Manager is a true reflection of her determination, resilience, and work ethic. Since joining KPMG six years ago, she has established herself as a respected leader, earning the Emerging Leader award and completing her ACA exams to become a Chartered Accountant. Alongside her professional achievements, Lauren also serves as Chair of the Leeds KPMG Office Social Committee, where she leads events for more than 800 colleagues, helping to foster a positive and inclusive workplace culture.

Taking a different path into her career by choosing an apprenticeship over university, Lauren is now a passionate advocate for apprenticeships across Yorkshire. She actively supports initiatives that promote this route, inspiring others to pursue alternative pathways to success. Her motivation, commitment to learning, and drive to continually progress have been central to her rapid rise within KPMG, making her an invaluable role model both inside and outside the business.



Nabeel Jan
 Deputy Conveyancing Manager
Advantage Property Lawyers

Nabeel began his journey with Advantage Property Lawyers as an Intern in 2021 and, in just four years, has progressed to the role of Manager. His professionalism, drive, and commitment have stood out from the very beginning, earning him the *Simplify Shining Star Award* in 2022. This recognition reflected not only his talent but also the respect and admiration he has gained from colleagues across the organisation.

Throughout his career, Nabeel has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership, enthusiasm for his profession, and a motivated, forward-thinking approach. His punctuality, professionalism, and dedication have been evident since his first day as an Intern and continue to define his success in management today. Nabeel's journey is a testament to both his personal determination and the positive impact he brings to the organisation.



James Kergon, Deal Advisory Partner:

"Lauren makes a really wide contribution outside of just her day job. She's really got herself involved in some of our sector initiatives, which foster collaboration across the different teams. The LEAP programmes have allowed Lauren to stretch herself and learn more about herself. Lauren is pretty confident anyway, but I've definitely noticed her confidence grow with this process."



Natalya Platts, Operations Manager:

"Nabeel is a wonderful and professional young man who always leaves a great impression on whomever he deals with. His work is concise, punctual, and always recognised internally by everyone in the Firm. His leadership skills and enthusiasm for the profession make him who he is."



Ashley Martin
Senior Quantity Surveyor
Balfour Beatty

Ashley joined Balfour Beatty in 2019 as a Graduate Quantity Surveyor and, through hard work and determination, has progressed to his current role as Senior Quantity Surveyor. Over the years, he has become a key member of the team, making significant contributions to major projects such as ELOR, Beechcliffe, and the Langwaite Enterprise Zone. His expertise, combined with the frequent recognition he receives in customer feedback, highlights the consistent quality and impact of his work.

Enthusiastic, personable, and highly diligent, Ashley has played an instrumental role in the successful delivery of several high-profile, award-winning projects. His excellent communication skills and collaborative approach make him not only a valued colleague but also a trusted partner for clients across West Yorkshire, including Leeds City Council, Bradford Metropolitan District Council, and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. Ashley's commitment to excellence and team spirit continue to drive success at every stage of the projects he supports.



Conor McDermott
Performance Manager
Maximus UK

Conor has been an integral part of Maximus UK for over four years, consistently demonstrating exceptional dedication and impact. Starting as a Business Manager and now thriving as a Performance Manager, his contributions have been invaluable to the organisation. Conor has a proven track record of leading teams to higher productivity, improving morale, and driving excellence. In his current role, he oversees 10 direct delivery sites, where he is spearheading a change management process while successfully managing key stakeholders both directly and indirectly.

What sets Conor apart is his commitment to people—he invests in the growth and success of his team while continually developing himself. His leadership style fosters trust, collaboration, and motivation, making him both highly respected and well-liked across the business. Conor's impact reaches far beyond performance metrics; he is a leader who inspires those around him to achieve more.



Balfour Beatty

Tim Banks, Commercial Manager:

"Ashley's journey with Balfour Beatty has been marked by his continuous growth, both professionally and personally. The ability to collaborate effectively with colleagues, clients, and stakeholders has earned him a well-deserved reputation as a trusted and respected professional, and his nomination for the Top 30 Under 30 is a clear reflection of such."

maximus

Leily Sharif, Supply Chain Director:

"Conor is such a great person to work with; he really cares about what he does. He's a very passionate individual; he strives to do well, but also wants others around him to do well. He is a young manager with huge aspirations!"



Martin Nyaga
Lead Software Developer
DRS Software

Martin stepped into a Technical Leadership role at DRS Software at a young age and quickly distinguished himself through his outstanding technical ability, drive, and commitment. He not only excels in managing complex technical projects but also has a unique talent for guiding and supporting customers through intricate processes with patience and clarity. His leadership and communication skills have consistently impressed both colleagues and enterprise customers, and his ability to navigate challenging environments with empathy and professionalism truly sets him apart in the industry.

What makes Martin exceptional is the combination of deep technical expertise and a personable, adaptable character. His versatility has been instrumental to the success of DRS, enabling him to thrive in any situation while building strong relationships along the way. Beyond his technical excellence, Martin is a highly respected and well-liked member of the team, valued for his positive influence as much as for his expertise.



Conor O'Leary
Manager - Deal Advisory Tax
KPMG

Conor's journey from joining KPMG on the Apprenticeship Programme in 2017 as a school leaver to becoming a Manager in the Deals Tax Team is a remarkable testament to his maturity, dedication, and talent. He has an exceptional ability to take complex problems and distil them into clear, easy-to-understand solutions that consistently add value for clients and earn him outstanding feedback.

Alongside his technical expertise, Conor stands out as a mentor and coach, investing time to support and develop junior team members, helping them build confidence and grow their skills. His commitment to delivering a seamless client experience, while also nurturing the next generation of talent, has earned him high praise from Directors and colleagues alike. Conor is an invaluable asset to the firm and a shining example of the opportunities apprenticeships can create.



Stefano De Rossi, Managing Director at DRS:

"Not only does Martin excel in complex technical projects, but he also has a remarkable talent for patiently guiding and supporting our customers through these often intricate processes. Martin's unparalleled leadership and communication aptitude have consistently impressed both our team and our enterprise customers. His capacity to engage effectively with clients of varying technical backgrounds showcases a level of skill and understanding rarely seen, particularly for professionals under the age of 30."



Brad Keast, Tax Partner:

"We see Conor as one of our rising stars at KPMG. He is diligent, professional, and a pleasure to work with. One of the key things Conor and I have worked on, following his time at the LEAP sessions, is taking a real focus on sitting down with the junior team members to establish what motivates them and how they want to be communicated with. I really believe that the sky's the limit with Conor."

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ROYAL ARMOURIES





Sian Purver

National Business & Operations Manager
Crysp

Sian's journey is nothing short of remarkable. Joining Crisp as its very first employee, she embraced the challenge of helping to build the organisation from the ground up. Forgoing the traditional university route, Sian chose a hands-on path, diving straight into the world of work. This bold decision shaped her into the adaptable, insightful, and forward-thinking professional she is today. At Crisp, she has delivered outstanding results across a wide range of sectors, including education, retail, healthcare, and nuclear, tailoring her approach to meet the unique demands of each industry with skill and dedication.

More than a valued team member, Sian is integral to Crisp's success. Her fearless approach to challenges, creativity, and commitment have been pivotal to the company's growth, while her adaptability and strong work ethic continue to inspire those around her. Sian not only contributes to the organisation's achievements but also elevates the entire team through her example.



Kieran Riding

SHEQ Manager
Genco Electrical Projects

Kieran joined Genco in 2021 as a Procurement Manager and, in just four years, has progressed to his current role as SHEQ Manager. His journey within the company is a testament to his determination, adaptability, and drive to continuously grow. Never one to shy away from a challenge, Kieran embraces every opportunity with both hands, consistently proving his ability to thrive under pressure and deliver outstanding results.

What sets Kieran apart is his exceptional communication skills and natural ability to lead. He has taken responsibility for major operational changes, guiding colleagues through transitions with clarity and confidence. His analytical mindset, coupled with his diligence, modesty, and accountability, has earned him the respect of his peers and positioned him as a role model within the business. Kieran's dedication and commitment to growth embody the very values that drive Genco's ongoing success, making him an invaluable member of the team.



Pete Mills:

"Sian exemplifies what's possible when determination meets talent. From being the first employee at Crisp to excelling across multiple sectors, and now training for her first marathon, she consistently embodies the values of hard work, resilience, and passion."



Lee Wright, Managing Director:

"I've always believed Kieran is one of the region's best young talents. He is a fantastic presence to have around, and his positive attitude and approach to challenges make him a key part of Genco. Any accolade he receives is well deserved."



Annabel Robinson
Co-Founder & Head of Events
Yorkshire Children's Charity

Annabel is a true bundle of energy, defined by her can-do attitude and determination to give her very best in everything she does. As co-founder of the charity over three years ago, she has been instrumental in raising vital funds to support disadvantaged young children. Her unwavering dedication and passion have changed countless lives, and many young people and families simply would not be where they are today without her tireless efforts.

From coordinating record-breaking fundraising events to forging genuine, lasting relationships with partners and supporters, Annabel brings immense heart and drive to her work. She is never afraid to challenge boundaries if it means delivering what children truly need, ensuring that Yorkshire Children's Charity remains 100% needs-led. Annabel's impact goes far beyond her role; she inspires everyone around her and continues to be a driving force for positive change across the region.



Charlotte Farrington, CEO at Yorkshire Children's Charity

"I don't know anyone who works harder than Annabel does. The passion, commitment, and dedication that she shows every day says enough! In the past ten years I've known Annabel, she has continuously put the priorities of the children of Yorkshire above her own and I think that's what makes her not only an exceptional leader, but an exceptional human being."



Harry Sylvester
Mechanical Engineer
Ridings Consulting

Harry joined Ridings in 2018 as an Apprentice Engineer, successfully completing his college education and now pursuing his degree in Building Services Engineering. From the very beginning, he has shown enormous potential, steadily developed his skills, and progressed to the role of Mechanical Engineer. Alongside his own career growth, Harry has taken on the role of mentor to current apprentices, offering guidance and support that reflects both his technical expertise and his natural leadership qualities. Over the years, he has gained extensive experience across sectors such as education and healthcare, most notably leading on the Essex schools project to provide carbon accommodation for Essex County Council.

What makes Harry stand out is not just his technical ability, but his character. He is a natural leader whose supportive nature and exceptional communication skills inspire confidence in colleagues and clients alike. Dedicated, approachable, and ambitious, Harry embodies the qualities of a future leader at Ridings and continues to make a lasting impact on the business.



Gareth Davies, Director:

"We took Harry on as an apprentice, he's been with us seven years, and in that time he's shown he is a real team player and he goes above and beyond in his role. He truly is a model employee! A lot of the apprentices we've taken on after Harry look up to him."

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Sam Trickett
Scheme Project Manager
Story Contracting

From Sam's very first day at Story Contracting, his can-do attitude made an immediate impression on his team. He is consistently supportive, encouraging colleagues to push themselves and reach their full potential. With an infectious personality and approachable nature, Sam is well-liked throughout the business and a key contributor to the team's success.

Whether working with external clients or supporting colleagues internally, Sam demonstrates professionalism, focus, and a solutions-driven mindset. Recognised across the industry as top talent, his reputation and impact continue to grow, making him a valued and respected member of Story Contracting. His ability to balance technical expertise with people skills sets him apart, and his drive to keep improving ensures his future is just as bright as his success so far.



STORY

Rachel Screeton, Head of Operations:

"Sam is a really hard working and diligent individual. He is a real team player, and he fosters a collaborative environment within the workplace. Throughout the LEAP programme, I've been seeing him implement the things he's been learning and this growth is really great to see."



Pip Tuffin
Project Coordinator
We Are SAIL

Pip has made an exceptional impact at SAIL in a short space of time, quickly proving herself to be an indispensable member of the team. A driven and innovative leader, she has already made remarkable contributions in the field of sustainability. Most notably, she initiated 'Project Matter', a pioneering initiative designed to help students reduce waste and share resources. As part of this, she collaborated with scientists on a groundbreaking method to transform old and unused paints into durable tiles, showcasing her creativity and commitment to practical, environmental solutions.

Her vision, innovation, and collaborative spirit have created a truly positive workplace for her colleagues, inspiring them to embrace sustainability in their own work. With her exceptional leadership, infectious enthusiasm, and ability to empower others, Pip not only drives SAIL's projects forward but also inspires meaningful change well beyond the organisation. Her passion, dedication, and resourcefulness set her apart.



SAIL

Jamie Saye:

"Pip is just fantastic, she's an infectious ball of energy and shows so much enthusiasm, wisdom, and knowledge. She has a total can-do attitude. Whenever I come to her with a new idea or a new task, she always finds a way to pull it off. The Top 30 programme has allowed Pip to challenge her imposter syndrome and has made her realise how great she really is! Pip is everything you would want in an employee."



Billy Walker
Project Engineer
Story Contracting

Billy's rapid rise at Story Contracting, from intern to Project Engineer, is a clear reflection of his dedication, reliability, and natural talent. His ability to tackle complex engineering challenges with confidence has earned him recognition across the business, and he is now excelling as the Contractor's Responsible Engineer for civil engineering on behalf of Story Contracting.

A true team player, Billy goes above and beyond to support his colleagues and junior team members, who look up to him as a role model and emerging leader. His multiple promotions over the past few years are a testament not only to his hard work but also to his commitment to continuous growth and development. Billy is an invaluable member of the team whose contribution is felt across every project he touches.



STORY
Kate Kerr, People Partner:
"Billy is a dedicated, reliable, and hardworking team player. He is always available to provide support to other members of the team and many junior members look up to Billy as a role model and a leader. Billy has been promoted multiple times over the past few years, which is a testament to his hard work and makes him completely deserving of this recognition."



Rachel Ward
Human Resources Manager
Kelling Group

Since joining Kelling in 2022, Rachel has made an invaluable contribution to the business. She has built a full in-house HR capability from the ground up, creating a strong and supportive team around her while demonstrating empathy, professionalism, and vision every day. Her achievements speak for themselves, from designing and implementing a best-in-class employee benefits package and streamlining high-volume recruitment processes to improving management reporting, presenting at monthly board meetings, and introducing a new payroll/HR platform. These initiatives have positioned HR as a key driver of success within the organisation.

Rachel's strategic approach has had a transformative impact, significantly improving employee engagement, recruitment processes, and overall efficiency across the company. Highly respected by colleagues at every level, she has quickly established herself as both a trusted leader and a collaborative team player. Her ability to balance long-term strategy with day-to-day support makes her an indispensable member of the Kelling team.



KELLING GROUP
Matthew Jowett, CFO at Kelling Group:
"I nominated Rachel for this award to recognise what a fantastic job she does. She works extremely hard and demonstrates maturity far beyond her years. You can tell Rachel really cares about what she does which really makes a difference within the organisation."



Rachel Webb
Human Resources Manager
Unicat Catalyst

Rachel joined Unicat in June 2023 as an HR Officer and quickly established herself as an invaluable member of the team. From the outset, she demonstrated a natural ability to step up, moving from supporting processes to leading and developing them with confidence and initiative. Her approachable nature and willingness to coach others have had a noticeable impact, particularly in the development of first-line leaders, whose knowledge and confidence in HR activities have grown significantly thanks to Rachel's guidance.

In 2024, Rachel was promoted to HR Manager, a role in which she has once again made a real difference. Her hard work, thoughtfulness, and dedication to strengthening the HR function have cemented her as a shining star within the team. Rachel's professionalism, empathy, and ability to drive positive change make her a truly invaluable asset to Unicat.



Poppy Wilson
Head of Furniture
Ultimate (Commercial Interiors)

Since joining the Ultimate team, it has been immediately clear that Poppy is a dynamic, talented, and driven individual. Within just days, she was actively engaging in client meetings and receiving outstanding feedback for the value she added through her enthusiasm, confidence, and creativity. Starting her journey on a degree apprenticeship, Poppy quickly carved out a niche within the company, which led to her promotion to the management team as Head of Furniture. In only two years, she has demonstrated remarkable commitment, aptitude, and loyalty, consistently going above and beyond in every aspect of her role.

Poppy embodies Ultimate's values of quality, teamwork, innovation, integrity, and excellence continuously. Her contributions have made a significant impact on both the business and her colleagues, and her future within the industry is undoubtedly bright.



Debbie Harlock, Group Director of HR and Development:

"Rachel deserves every bit of recognition for all of her hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm at Unicat. She's so easy to get along with, always eager to learn and develop, and always willing to help her colleagues out. Rachel is a key part of the HR and someone I cannot be without. Rachel is an absolute star."



Paul Alexander, Director:

"Poppy as a teammate is an absolute shining star. Two weeks into her tenure with us, she was soliciting really positive feedback from some high-profile clients. Poppy is incredibly articulate, passionate, and shows a real vibrancy. She holds herself with real presence and we're so lucky to have her on our team."

NOMINATE

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR 2026! WHO WILL YOU RECOGNISE?

We want to hear from you. By nominating your top talent, you're giving them an outstanding development opportunity and recognition for their already impressive contribution to your business.

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO INSPIRE THE FUTURE LEADERS FOR YOUR FUTURE SUCCESS.



HOW TO NOMINATE:

Simply explain why your colleague deserves to win here at www.top30under30.co.uk

Nomination Deadline:

Friday 23rd January 2026

BENEFITS TO YOUR BUSINESS

- Gain the status of an organisation employing a Top 30 Under 30 winner.
- Boost your digital presence with promotion across all social media channels over 12 months (including a post event press release)
- Make your employee feel appreciated, valued and rewarded.
- Give your employee the chance to further develop their skills with the LEAP Programme.
- Improve employee loyalty and retain your best staff by recognising their work.
- Motivate your staff to achieve a nomination for Top 30 under 30 place.

THIS IS NOT JUST AN AWARD; IT'S A CHANCE TO INSPIRE FUTURE LEADERS.

If selected, they will enjoy a year of professional development, attend 10 sessions of our life-changing LEAP programme, the support of a new peer group, including the region's top performers; your winner will be filmed at your business and you will be invited to join us at our prestigious awards celebration, where the 30 and their companies will be in attendance to celebrate and recognise the winners.



PROGRAMME AVAILABLE IN:

- HULL AND HUMBER
- LEEDS AND WEST YORKSHIRE
- SOUTH YORKSHIRE

BECOME A PARTNER

SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR REGION'S YOUNG LEADERS TOGETHER

Top 30 Under 30 is THE positive beacon for young professionals in the region. We believe that for businesses to maximise their potential, we have to develop outstanding future leaders and retain our top talent.



Our scheme elevates the appeal of working in this region and to raise awareness of the opportunities available right here. We do this by recognising, developing and showcasing high performing talent.

Through our LEAP Programme, we provide a platform to develop essential leadership skills.

In the last 8 years, we have recognised and developed 330 young people, supporting countless promotions and helped change lives forever.

111
Managers

42
Directors

3
in a Group
Role

20
Heads of
Department

GET INVOLVED

PRINCIPAL PARTNER

Help us shape the future.

Demonstrate your commitment to developing young talent, showcase your brand as a champion of talent in the region and take the opportunity to contribute to our future direction.

EVENT SPONSOR


Help us shape the future.

Sponsor the region's most uplifting and vibrant awards ceremony and align your business with a movement that's doing great things for young people and businesses in the region.


TALK TO US

Talk to us about getting involved by emailing simon@top30under30.co.uk



Top30_Under30 

Leeds & West Yorkshire Top 30 Under 30s 

leeds-west-yorkshire-top-30-under-30 Under 30s 

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