

Southall Waterside apprentice scoops industry award one year on
from Academy opening

The fantastic work of Kian Cleere was celebrated at the Berkeley Group Apprentice Awards on 17 October when he was crowned Best Plumbing Apprentice. Kian, 20, works at Southall Waterside for H2O, which also won an accolade for Best Subcontractor working with Berkeley Group. Kian's job involves ensuring that all plumbing and drainage meets the high and exacting standards expected by Berkeley to deliver quality, new homes at the development. Training at one of the biggest regeneration projects in London, Kian has access to top industry professionals and benefits immensely from Berkeley's hands-on approach to learning.

This win shows the success that people can achieve through industry-focused training programmes and comes on the day that marks one year since the opening of the West London Construction Academy (WLCA) at Southall Waterside. The Academy, a collaboration between Berkeley and West London College, provides state-of-the-art facilities alongside a 'by industry, for industry' curriculum. This offers a mixture of on-the-job training and college-based learning to equip students with employable skills to start a career in construction. Kian is one of more than 750 apprentices who play a vital part in delivering Berkeley sites.

On winning the award, Kian said: *"I'm honoured to win this award and am very thankful to H2O and Berkeley for the opportunity. Working on a live construction site is the best way to learn and improve, while creating amazing homes for customers to enjoy."*

"It's really reassuring to get advice from colleagues who started off as an apprentice like me and are now managing teams. In years to come, I hope to still be at Southall Waterside inspiring future apprentices."

Damian Leydon, Operations Director at Berkeley West Thames, said: *"It is fantastic to see young people like Kian making the most of invaluable onsite experience, and his achievement demonstrates the importance of our continuing investment in training the next generation. Kian is a great example of the benefits of apprenticeships, both for the people undertaking them and the employers who work with them."*

Individuals interested in pursuing a rewarding career in construction can find out more at:

<https://www.wlc.ac.uk/contact-us/wlca>.

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Notes to editors

Southall Waterside

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Berkeley
Designed for life

Southall Waterside, Berkeley's exciting new development in West London is one of the capital's most ambitious regeneration projects. The 3,750-home scheme will bring a redundant gasworks site back into use for the whole community to benefit from. Southall Waterside is about more than just homes. It will be a thriving new neighbourhood on the Grand Union Canal – with a buzzing commercial district, two new parks and landscaped green spaces, and open up access to the adjacent 90-acre Minet Country Park for all to enjoy.

The first 304 homes to be delivered at Southall Waterside are all affordable and are being offered to existing Ealing residents under either affordable rent or shared ownership.

Every home at Southall Waterside will be within a five-minute cycle of a station, and the arrival of Crossrail will provide a direct service to Bond Street in 17 minutes and Canary Wharf in 30 minutes. A network of safe cycle paths and walkways will improve connections to the surrounding area and open up access to a 1km waterside trail along the Grand Union Canal.

About West London College

West London College is a large further education college with five sites: Hammersmith & Fulham College, Ealing Green College, Southall Community College, Park Royal College and West London Construction Academy.

Rated Good by Ofsted, West London College achieved the first position in the National Achievement Rate Tables for both Overall Achievement Rate and Adult Achievement Rate in London. Offering both full-time and part-time courses for 16-18 year olds and adults in a range of subjects, students can choose vocational and professional qualifications, including BTECs, apprenticeships, HNDs, Access to Higher Education Diplomas, CIPD courses, short courses and bespoke training for businesses and organisations. They also have courses that can help students learn English and a range of courses for students with Special Educational Needs.

Find out more at www.wlc.ac.uk