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**SCREWFIX PUSHES FORWARD APPRENTICESHIP AGENDA BY CHAMPIONING APPRENTICES ACROSS ITS BUSINESS**

* **Omnichannel retailer champions colleague progression through internal programmes, with more than 700 colleagues studying apprenticeships**
* **Screwfix’s 9th annual Trade Apprentice 2023 competition, which searches for the UK and Ireland’s top apprentices is open to applications now!**
* **Working with TrAC, Screwfix is trialling an initiative to bridge the skills gap and encourage more people into the trade**

Screwfix is driving forward with its successful apprenticeship agenda as the UK celebrates National Apprenticeship Week.

Whether it’s customers or colleagues, people are at the heart of Screwfix’s culture, and the omnichannel retailer champions progression of its colleagues through its Trade Up programmes.

The Trade Up programmes are Retail apprenticeship programmes aimed at developing and progressing talent to meet business growth. As an employer provider Screwfix has utilised its retail and learning expertise to deliver a programme covering all aspects of retail that is fully supported by expert internal Learning Coaches. The programme develops a robust pipeline of Managers that can truly make a difference to colleagues and customers.

Screwfix currently has more than 700 colleagues on apprenticeship programmes across areas such as retail management, customer service and HR management. 81% of apprentices who complete programmes are promoted into role.

In 2022, the business teamed up with TrAC, the Flexi-job Apprenticeship Agency, to launch a brand-new scheme which funds the training of construction trade apprentices, in a bid to help tackle the skills shortage and encourage more people into the trade.

Screwfix undertook extensive research among both apprentices and tradespeople, which revealed the costs associated with an apprenticeship are a significant barrier preventing many from becoming an apprentice or hiring one. TrAC match individuals with an employer, from plumbing and electrical apprentices, through to landscaping, painting/decorating and other skilled trade professions. Throughout the apprenticeship, both the apprentice and employer will receive on-going support and guidance, alongside receiving financial support from Screwfix.

Screwfix also launched its 9th Trade Apprentice competition in the UK and Republic of Ireland this week. The annual competition offers a worthy winner the opportunity to earn a £10k trade bundle including tools, tech and training. Previous winners have used the competition as a springboard to launch their own career as self-employed tradespeople.

Max Britten, Managing Director of Screwfix UK and Republic of Ireland said: “People are at the heart of what we do, and we’ve made great strides in recent years with our internal apprenticeship programmes giving our colleagues opportunities to progress and gain qualifications. Since we launched our Trade Up programme more than 560 people have gained qualifications to enhance their careers.”

“The skills shortage in construction is well documented, and as a national trade retailer, we want to champion careers in the trade as we proudly showcase our nation’s skilled trade professionals and the benefits of a career in the construction industry.

“Through our Trade Apprentice campaign and our new initiative with TrAC to help solve the specific challenges facing apprentices and tradespeople seeking to hire, we’re championing careers in the trade and driving forward apprenticeships across the business.”

**-ENDS-**

**About Screwfix:**

With over 800 stores across the UK and Ireland, and an extensive product range of over 38,000 products, Screwfix is convenient, straightforward, and affordably priced, help busy tradespeople get their jobs done quickly, affordably, and right first time.

Screwfix is part of Kingfisher plc, the international home improvement company with more than 1,490 stores, supported by a team of over 80,000 colleagues.

From power tools and work wear to cables and pipe fittings, Screwfix offers over 10,000 products available to pick up from over 775 UK stores nationwide.

* Over 38,000 products can be ordered over the phone, online or from a local store, with orders taken up until 8pm (weekdays) for next day delivery to home or site.\*
* Unbeatable value at Screwfix is prices, quality and convenience you can trust. Over 1,000 prices cuts, hundreds of prices locked until the end of the year, and more than 8,000 bulk save items, helping tradespeople to get what they need, when they need it. Screwfix is committed to meeting the need of its customers.
* Screwfix is committed to minimising its environmental impact to help create a better future for its customers, colleagues, communities, and the planet. Our ambition is to offer sustainable choices and source products that are made to last. At Screwfix, we believe if a job’s worth doing, it’s worth doing well.
* Screwfix.com attracts over 7 million visits per week.
* We have over 11 million active customers a year.
* The Screwfix Click & Collect service enables customers to pick-up their goods in as little as one minute after ordering online or over the phone
* UK-based Screwfix Contact Centre open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (including bank holidays) on 03330 112 112.
* See [www.screwfix.com/stores](http://www.screwfix.com/stores) for store opening information.
* Next day delivery is available within store opening hours.\*
* Screwfix Sprint awarded ‘Best Customer Experience’ at the Retail Week Awards 2022. Introduced in 2021, Screwfix Sprint allows customers to place an order on the Screwfix app and get it delivered straight to their location – either at home or on site, in less than an hour.
* RAD 2022, Best Employer Website
* Screwfix recognised at the BRC’s Climate Action Roadmap Showcase 2022 for “Driving towards net zero properties”.
* For more information, please visit the Screwfix Media Centre: [www.screwfixmedia.com](http://www.screwfixmedia.com)

\*Please see Screwfix.com for our latest service updates.

**PRESS INFORMATION:**

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