



# WE'RE FIRED UP ABOUT NEW APPRENTICESHIPS

*Partnerships are the key to successful apprenticeship programmes, writes Sam Coulstock FIH*

I left school at the age of 16 to work as an apprentice chef, after being inspired by my work placement while at school. Twenty-one years later, my membership of the Institute of Hospitality has been upgraded to the highest level of Fellowship. This is something I am very proud to have achieved. I struggled at school with dyslexia and never thought that one day I would be a Fellow of an educational institution. It just goes to show that with hard work, determination and having the right people around you, you can achieve your dreams.

This month (April 2017), the world of apprenticeships as we know it will change. The opportunities that the introduction of the apprenticeship levy and apprenticeship standards present are vast, yet can only be taken advantage of truly when close partnerships between provider, employer and apprentice are created to design an apprenticeship journey like no other.

While the recent reforms to apprenticeships have created some anxiety, we fully believe they are good for our apprentices, good for employers and good for the future of our sector.

Gone are the days when an apprenticeship was seen as nothing more than a tick-box learning exercise; a route for those who didn't get the grades for university. Now, the best apprenticeship programmes create a blended learning approach, embracing resources and experiences from a range of industry experts, academic bodies, training providers and employers.

For example, Umbrella apprentices have the opportunity to join the Culinary Club, a regular experiential session where they can learn about food and hospitality first-hand from suppliers to the sector, award-winning chefs including Cyrus Todiwala OBE FIH, and visits to Billingsgate and Borough Markets.



**SAM COULSTOCK FIH**  
IS BUSINESS RELATIONS  
DIRECTOR AT UMBRELLA  
TRAINING

**EMAIL:**  
SAM@UMBRELLATRaining.COM  
**WEBSITE:**  
WWW.UMBRELLATRaining.CO.UK

They can also access a unique e-learning platform, created in partnership with UpSkill People and Monica Or FIH; helping them map apprenticeship standards and track learning so that they are fully ready when it's end-assessment time.

It is our mission to continue tackling the perception of apprenticeships and offer our students a learning programme which is far beyond what the employer and training provider could produce by themselves. As part of our commitment to creating elite apprenticeship journeys, we are thrilled to be working closely with the Institute of Hospitality.

Through this relationship, Umbrella Training will become one of the Institute's accredited centres, delivering a suite of management qualifications to those seeking a leadership career in hospitality.

In addition, the Institute of Hospitality will become an end-point assessment organisation for apprentices who are on supervisory or management-related qualifications delivered by Umbrella Training. Having the Institute end-assess apprentices not only offers a credible and professional sign-off, but also ensures our apprentices are acknowledged as ready to play their role in the future of hospitality by the industry's professional body.

Through this partnership, apprentice students will become members of the Institute and gain access to its e-library and resources. A student chapter will also be developed, giving apprentices a voice and opportunity to shape the Institute's agenda, and attend networking events and CPD events held throughout the year.

By working with industry experts, like the Institute of Hospitality, we're able to give apprentices a far wider view of the sector and encourage more students that a hospitality apprenticeship is a viable route to a leadership career.