

# PRESS RELEASE



## **Gen2**

Unit 1, Joseph Noble Road, Lillyhall Industrial Estate

Workington, Cumbria, CA14 4JX

**Phone:** 01900 701300

**Web:** [www.gen2.ac.uk](http://www.gen2.ac.uk)

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## ***Penrith companies looking for talented young people***

In August local students who received their GCSE and A-levels were faced with the choice of how to progress with their studies and careers. Traditionally many progress on to study A-levels in 6<sup>th</sup> Form, and eventually go on to University. Increasingly, however, a growing number of young people from across the County are pursuing apprenticeships and especially degree apprenticeships as an alternative route to higher education and employment.

Apprentice training organisation, Gen2, has seven training centres across Cumbria, are an Ofsted Grade 1 and currently have over 1,350 apprentices in learning, however one area which is proving to be difficult to source apprentice recruits in is Penrith. Mike Smith OBE, CEO of Gen2, explains "Apprenticeships are a great way for young people to gain nationally recognised qualifications and gain work experience, all whilst being paid. Over 90% of our apprentices move immediately into full time employment on successful completion of their apprenticeship. Gen2 currently has a number of exciting apprentices opportunities in the Penrith area with well know companies including; British Gypsum, Nilfisk, Field View Electrical, and ACTION with Communities. We also work with many other Penrith based companies including Metcalfe Plant Hire and Frank Bird Poultry. At the moment the number of young people in the Penrith area applying for apprenticeships is considerably lower than the rest of the county, so we are currently campaigning to raise the profile of apprenticeships and let young people know about the opportunities we have available locally. We are really keen to hear from young people who would like to consider an engineering or business apprenticeship, and ask them to contact Gen2 (email [info@gen2.ac.uk](mailto:info@gen2.ac.uk))."

One Penrith based company who has already benefitted from taking on a local apprentice with Gen2 is Primasonics International. Managing Director, Donald Cameron, explains "We

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took on a Gen2 mechanical engineering apprentice several years ago as we were keen to take on a local young person who had good school grades and was keen to undergo further training and development. The apprenticeship provided us with an opportunity to 'grow our own' and we have been absolutely delighted with the apprenticeship, as well as the ONC and HND education he has received through Gen2. This young man has excelled since being here, undertaking additional acoustic cleaning technology training and working all over the world. He is currently scheduled to start the Gen2 BEng Honours Degree in January and has proven to be such a valuable asset to the company he has recently been promoted to the role of Engineering Manager. I personally would recommend apprenticeships to other organisations as a great way to recruit home grown talent."

Gen2 will be visiting local schools and careers advice centres in the next few weeks but anyone wishing to find out more should email [info@gen2.ac.uk](mailto:info@gen2.ac.uk).

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**ENDS**

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