



# CELEBRATING OUR **100<sup>TH</sup>** **BUS DRIVER APPRENTICE**

## **LAUREN** *One of our awesome 100!*

**Lauren Jones. Wigan Depot. Joined January 2024**

### **My journey so far.**

**After leaving my job as a taxi driver, my Job Centre work coach suggested a career in bus driving. I hadn't considered it before but I thought it was a great idea so I applied.**

Following my interview I got a call to say I'd been accepted on the apprenticeship program, and within a few hours I had a start date.

Overall training took about six weeks. I was excited about my new career, but if I'm honest I was a bit apprehensive as it had been a while since I'd studied for a theory test or had driving lessons. The tutors and instructors were fantastic, extremely calming and helpful. Their support was key to my success, and I am very grateful to them.

I spent two weeks learning the routes with the team. We had detailed notes and access to a YouTube channel with route videos, they were really useful. I was then paired with a mentor, I worked his shifts, driving each day to gain confidence. Initially it was nerve-wracking, but I soon gained confidence and knew what I needed to do.

When my mentor felt I could go solo I was signed off and ready for my first shift. I felt a bit nervous that first day, but I remembered my training and thoroughly enjoyed it!

Shift work is working well for me, I'm managing other activities around it. I've also built strong relationships with my colleagues. Everyone's approachable and friendly whenever I have questions. There's ongoing support from mentors too, they're available to answer queries whenever you need them.

I was honored to be awarded Apprentice of the Month too, it was unexpected but fantastic to gain the recognition. There are lots of opportunities and I'm eager to explore new pathways into route learning or the Operational Performance Control Centre to help others in the future.

**I highly recommend joining the apprenticeship! You learn while working and have support whenever you need it.**