



Hi {{Recipient.FirstName}}

Welcome to the March issue of Learning News.

In this issue we've included details of the latest Health and Safety Executive campaign on the hidden dangers of Asbestos to inform you of what to look out for when you are working in domestic, commercial or industrial settings. We've also included guidance on 'online harms' so you know how to keep yourself safe when using the internet, and who you can turn to for help within JTL if you're experiencing online harm.

In addition, we've included an outline of the job role of your Apprentice Support Officer, so you know what support they can offer you during your apprenticeship, as well as important advice on how the government's emergency alert system may affect victims of domestic abuse.

Finally, we've included a guide on how you can support colleagues who may be fasting during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, as well as an inspirational case study on our National Apprentice of the Year 2022 winner, Michelle Robinson to celebrate International Women's Day, which took place earlier this month.

Latest updates

Asbestos can be deadly - keep yourself safe

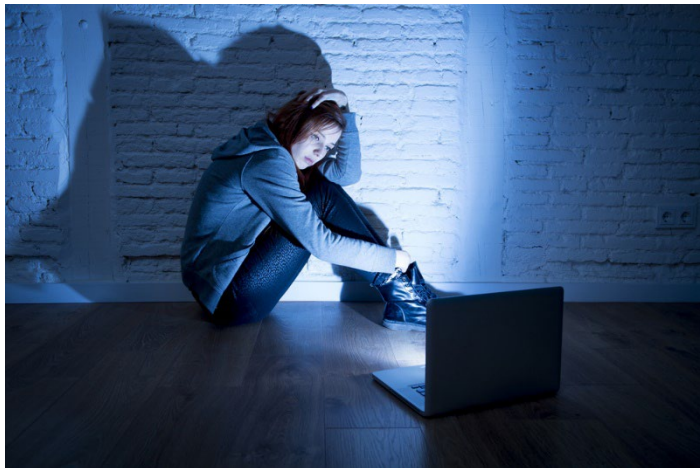
Asbestos contributes to over 5,000 deaths every year. Younger people, if routinely exposed to asbestos fibres over time, are at greater risk of developing asbestos-related disease than older workers. This is due to the time it takes for the body to develop symptoms after exposure to asbestos.

Asbestos was a widely used material within commercial buildings, homes, and machinery until 1999, when it was banned. This means asbestos is found in millions of homes, businesses and public buildings today. Left alone, it isn't dangerous. However if disturbed, tiny asbestos fibres are released which can be breathed in. Even small jobs like drilling a hole can expose you to danger.

Make sure you know how to identify asbestos and what to do when you come across it. Visit [Asbestos and You](#) for more information.



Protecting yourself from online harms



JTL is committed to safeguarding you as our learners from harm. To follow on from last month's Internet Safety theme this month we would like to raise awareness about 'Online Harms'.

Online Harms is the term used to describe behaviour online that may hurt a person physically or emotionally. This may be in the form of radicalisation, bullying, exploitation, information sharing without consent and abuse.

As JTL learners you are likely to use the internet every day, whether that be for messaging friends, gaming or research for college work. When using these different

online platforms you may come across illegal and harmful information as well as harmful activities.

If you are experiencing online harm or know anyone who is please report to your ASO or TO. From here they will raise this to JTL's Safeguarding team who will help and support you and signpost you to the relevant help.

You can access more information about online harms and organisations who are able to support you [here](#).

Introducing your Apprentice Support Officer

All JTL apprentices have an Apprentice Support Officer (ASO) assigned to work alongside your Training Officer for you!

ASOs are here to assist you with the non-technical side of your apprenticeship so that your Training Officer can focus on practical assessments and development of your technical knowledge and skills.



You may already be in touch with your ASO who will improve your learning experience by having regular telephone reviews with you.

How will they contact you?

Your ASO has a number of ways to contact you directly – you tell us which suits you!

- E-mail
- Mobile phone
- Text message
- What's App

Please look out for contact from your ASO to arrange your 1-2-1 reviews with you.

These ASO reviews:

- Take place every 20 weeks fitting in between your Training Officer reviews / assessments.
- Last around 30 minutes.
- Will always be done via a phone call, or video call if you prefer.
- Provide you with regular contact with someone from JTL who can support and advise you.
- Will help you to log & understand your mandatory off the job training hours, Cognassist, bksb, and Prevent Training.
- Give you the opportunity to highlight any issues that you may have with your learning.

Remember these reviews are important and you must show evidence that you have participated by electronically signing the review when completed in Smart Assessor. If you have any issues with signing or accessing your Smart Assessor account let us know!

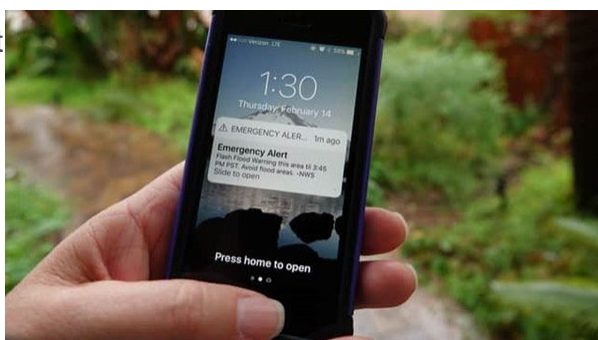
The team are looking forward to catching up with you soon.

Refuge charity issues emergency alerts advice

The UK government recently confirmed it would be rolling out a new emergency alert system, starting with a test on Sunday 23rd April.

Emergency Alerts are messages sent to all compatible 4G and 5G mobile phones

when there's a danger to your life, health or property in the area you're located. The messages, which include a siren sound blasting out, will render phone users unable to use their devices without acknowledging the alert.



In response to this plan Refuge, the largest domestic abuse organisation in the UK has issued a warning pointing out the dangers it could pose to victims of domestic abuse.

[Read more here >>](#)

Supporting Muslim employees and colleagues during Ramadan



Ramadan began on Thursday 23rd March, following the sighting of the moon over Mecca and will last for 30 days. Ramadan is a very important time in the Islamic calendar, and Muslims all over the world will be taking part.

During this month, many Muslims won't eat or drink between dawn and sunset.

This is called fasting. Not everybody fasts during Ramadan - only those who are considered fit and healthy enough choose to fast. Children, pregnant women, the elderly and those who are ill, or who are travelling, don't have to.

At JTL we're encouraging employees, employers and learners to be mindful and supportive of their colleagues who may be fasting during this time. The Multicultural Apprenticeship Alliance, which JTL is a patron of, has produced a guide to Ramadan 2023 which you can view [here](#).

Michelle Robinson case study

In celebration of International Women's Day which took place earlier this month, JTL caught up with its former National Apprentice of the Year for 2022, Michelle Robinson, to shed some light on her experiences as a woman in the industry.



When Michelle Robinson first left school, she flicked through a college prospectus and came across the page for electricians, and she lit up. Electricity had always interested her, but before she could recognise the opportunity, thoughts began to cloud her head, 'you don't hear of female electricians' she thinks, 'maybe it's really physical and I won't be able to do it.' Michelle turns a page, flicking through the rest of the booklet.

Despite a gradual upturn, under 5% of skilled trade professionals in the UK construction sector are currently female, so for Michelle there would have been scarcely anywhere to look for inspiration. It was only at 32 years old, after reading a letter from her late mother, that Michelle finally left her office job to take the apprenticeship she had first laid eyes on.

[Read the full article here >>](#)

And finally ...

So, that's all from us for now. We hope you find this newsletter useful. The next issue will be sent to you in May.

In the meantime, if you have any general questions or concerns about your learning, please contact your Apprentice Support Officer, Training Officer or call JTL's customer services team on **0800 085 2308**. You can also email info@jtltraining.com.

**With best wishes,
From the JTL team**

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