

Michelle Crowther

HIGHLY COMMENDED - ADULT LEARNER OF THE YEAR



Michelle Crowther's journey from site cleaner to fully qualified on-road HGV instructor is a remarkable testament to the power of determination, opportunity, and lifelong learning. Michelle was supported by Mantra Learning as she embraced every step of her development from her first forklift truck programme to becoming a DVSA-accredited instructor.



In an industry where women remain vastly underrepresented, Michelle has broken barriers with her exceptional skills. Her story inspires not only those in the transport and logistics sector but also adult learners everywhere who think it's too late.

Michelle's unwavering drive, passion for teaching, and commitment to personal growth make her a truly deserving recipient of the Highly Commended Adult Learner of the Year award.

Can you share your journey from starting as a cleaner to earning qualifications in teaching and HGV driving?

I started as a cleaner for Mantra Learning and during Covid, I was asked if I wanted to do my class 2 license, which I really wanted to do and couldn't refuse.

Once I passed and qualified, I started delivering for Rockbarr. After 3 years of holding my license I was trained to be a HGV instructor. During this time I also gained my Class 1 license and was sent to London to become a Mod 4 assessor.

What inspired you to pursue a career in the transport and logistics industry, and what challenges have you had to overcome along the way?

I'm very passionate about women in logistics and wanted to be a part of it for a long time. Since becoming an instructor I have seen more women wanting to gain their HGV license.

You've broken barriers in a traditionally male-dominated field. How does it feel to be seen as a role model and advocate for women in transport?

I feel privileged to be part of a male dominated industry because it shows that logistics isn't just for men. All my team who are mostly male have supported me with my journey. Even the learners both male and female are inspired by how far I've come.

How has the support of Mantra Learning and the programmes you've completed helped you grow personally and professionally?

Mantra have been my biggest support as I wouldn't be in the position I am in today. I have gained a lot more confidence as it just shows the support and opportunity the business have given to me since day one of being a cleaner here.

What advice would you give to adult learners, especially women, considering a new path or entering an unfamiliar industry?

If you want to do it then I suggest go for it. If I hadn't taken this opportunity I would still be a cleaner and I wouldn't be able to demonstrate the skills I initially had and have developed if I didn't do my class 2 license. You are never too old to try something new and every step you take builds momentum.

"Michelle achieved her goal of becoming an HGV instructor at Mantra Learning showing her determination, skill and aptitude for teaching. An incredible journey that all of Mantra are proud of which has led to Michelle becoming a role model for all and has inspired others to take on the same journey. An incredible feat by an incredible member of the Mantra Learning team."



CHRIS WOODWORTH

Operations Manager at
Mantra Learning