

## Leon Williams

HIGHLY COMMENDED - SHINING STAR OF THE YEAR



**Leon Williams**, a Level 2 Autocare Technician apprentice with The Growth Company working at the PVS Group Ltd, is an inspiration to all learners. Despite facing many immense personal tragedies, Leon has remained committed to his apprenticeship.

His strength of character is matched by his outstanding performance in the classroom, where he leads by example, consistently achieving top marks and uplifting those around him. Whether supporting classmates in practical sessions or giving younger learners the confidence to engage, Leon has created a positive and inclusive learning environment.



**His story is one of unwavering perseverance, and he is a truly deserving recipient of the Highly Commended Shining Star of the Year award.**

### What motivated you to pursue an automotive apprenticeship?

When I was growing up, my home life was quite dysfunctional, and I ended up in foster care. My foster parent was a mechanic and worked from home, so I spent many hours in his garage watching him work. I also watched *Fast and Furious* for the first time and I haven't been the same since.

**Your peers describe you as a role model. What does it mean to you to be seen that way?**

I am the oldest sibling, and they also say the same, but I don't really know how to answer that question. When I was growing up, I didn't have anyone to look up to, so now I try to be that person for my peers and colleagues and hope I can help in some small way.

**How have your employer and training provider supported your personal and professional growth?**

Both have been very patient with me and very supportive. When my employer found out I had my first flat, he gave his credit card to the receptionist with the instructions to take me to Asda and buy me whatever I needed from tea towels to food for my flat.

**What advice would you give to those pursuing their goals despite tough times?**

There is nothing wrong with asking for help, you can't have growth without a little rain, and even when it is tough, it is worth carrying on to follow your dream.

*"Leon has been an inspiration to all of us at the SkillCentre, his tutors, Skillcentre staff, and his peers. He conducts himself with professionalism, diligence, care, and always with a smile. It has been an absolute pleasure and honour to have taught him over the last few years."*



**CHERYL GRIMSHAW**  
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