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CHARLOTTE WINS THROUGH TO BECOME ONE OF THE UK'S TOP YOUNG PLUMBERS

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Apprentice plumber Charlotte Bailey is proving she's more than a match for the men after coming runner-up in a regional heat to find the UK's Apprentice Plumber of the Year.

Twenty-two year-old Charlotte, one of just two women training to be a plumber at Cambridge Regional College, just missed out on the top slot and a place in the final after a rigorous four-hour practical test at the Midlands heat in Leicester.



Charlotte working at CRC

The young apprentice – one of 73 plumbing trainees at CRC – competed against 30 of the region’s top plumbing apprentices in her bid to reach the final.

Paul Harbinson, the College’s Work-Based Learning Programme Leader in Plumbing, who went to the competition with Charlotte, said she had done an excellent job in the contest, proving that she was one of the top 12 young apprentice plumbers in the country.

“Charlotte was chosen to represent the College because of her commitment and her skill. She is very conscientious, works hard and was a credit to herself and the College in the competition. We are very proud of her.”

Charlotte, who works for Shelford Heating in Sawston and lives in Ramsey, said she had always wanted to learn a trade.

“I couldn’t sit in an office all day. I wanted to do something different and I love being a plumber,” she said.

Her boss, Mike Powell, said Charlotte was an absolute star. “We don’t treat her any differently to anyone else. She loves her work and does an excellent job. She’s been working here for four years and is very knowledgeable, but always wants to learn more and improve her skills.”

The competition was sponsored by Plumbfix, who donated hundreds of tools and materials to use in the event. Each competitor from the six country-wide heats went home with a bag of tools worth around £100.

Celia Matthews, from competition organisers HIP!, said this year’s standard had been extremely high, with the competitors performing exceptionally well under pressure.

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MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

For more information, please contact Lynn O'Shea, PR & Events Co-ordinator, on 01223 418773 or email loshea@camre.ac.uk

NOTES TO EDITORS

Cambridge Regional College is the second largest provider of full-time education for 16 to 19 year-olds in the Eastern Region. The College has around 3,500 full-time and around 6,000 part-time students. Students come in from a 40-mile radius, covering Cambridge and its surrounding villages, eastern Bedfordshire, northern Essex and western Suffolk.

Over 80 per cent of full-time students are aged 16 to 18 years old and come to the College after secondary school; the rest are mature students, studying on a range of Access to Higher Education and vocational programmes. The College offers the largest and most comprehensive range of vocational courses in Cambridgeshire, and has one of the largest Train to Gain contracts in the Eastern Region.