



# The remover's apprentices

Over the next year, R&S will chart the progress of two of the industry's new apprentices who are currently enrolled in the Large Goods Vehicle (LGV) Driver Level 2 apprenticeship programme delivered by BAR Affiliate TRS Training.

## Stuart Moulds, George Pickersgill & Sons



For more information, visit [www.gpickersgill.co.uk](http://www.gpickersgill.co.uk)

**R&S:** How long have you been working in the industry?

**Stuart Moulds:** I've worked for George Pickersgill for around seven years. My dad owns his own removals business so I wanted to follow in his footsteps. I started in removals at a young age carrying boxes and folding blankets, and slowly I started loading the vans and learning from watching others work. At school I started a week-long work experience placement at George Pickersgill and never left! I enjoyed the job, so I stuck with it and have worked my way up from there. Once I had passed my driving test I became a porter and a driver. Now I help with loading the smaller vans on a daily basis and the larger trucks when required.

**R&S:** Why did you decide to sign up for the apprenticeship programme?

**SM:** I thought it would be a good opportunity to gain the knowledge to do my everyday tasks more efficiently and acquire my class 2 driving licence, which I think will help me progress in the removals industry. I expect the main challenge will be the theory test; it's not easy and I'm working hard at getting that passed.

**R&S:** Is there anything you'd like to tell readers about yourself?

**SM:** In my spare time I race stock cars with my dad. Over past few years we've travelled all over the country to compete, and it's really a way of life outside of work. That said, my girlfriend and I are expecting a little boy soon, so I imagine that will take priority for the next few years.

## Jake Steele, Steeles Removals

**R&S:** How long have you been working in the industry?

**Jake Steele:** I've been working in the industry for seven months now. I decided to switch jobs and enter the removals sector because I wasn't happy working as a mechanical designer, which was the role I was previously in. My dad runs Steeles Removals & Haulage, so I've been interested in the business since a young age.

My current position at the company has a mixture of responsibilities. Mostly I help with removals as a porter, moving furniture from house to house as well as into our storage depot at Barrow-in-Furness in Cumbria. I also work in the office to get experience in both the administrative and practical sides of the business. This mostly involves answering the phones, learning how to price jobs and creating quotes and invoices.

**R&S:** Why did you decide to sign up for the apprenticeship programme?

**JS:** I thought that it would be a good way of taking advantage of the extended driver training offered by TRS Training, which would not have been available to me as a non-apprentice. Once I complete the apprenticeship I hope that I will have obtained my LGV licence and gained a high grade on the final assessment which takes place at the Road Haulage Association at the end of the

12 months. This assessment tests a range of material learnt during classroom sessions and grades you on your competence to drive, and in my opinion will be the most challenging part of the course.

**R&S:** What is your impression of the programme so far?

**JS:** So far my experience of the course has been very positive. I previously completed a three and a half-year apprenticeship course for my NVQ (National Vocational Qualification) in engineering, and I've found that the standard of teaching and learning resources available on both these courses are practically identical. I feel as though I'm making steady progress, and at the moment I'm preparing to take my LGV theory test.



For more information, visit [www.steelesremovals.co.uk](http://www.steelesremovals.co.uk)



Join the large number of employers who have invested in their staff to date and start your employees on the apprenticeship pathway. For more information, contact Kevin Birch, Managing Director of BAR Affiliate TRS Training, at [kevinb@trstraining.net](mailto:kevinb@trstraining.net) or on **07788 120608**.