

## Gary Doyle



Gary Doyle, 20 from Castlewellan holds a City & Guilds Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Domestic Plumbing and Heating from Southern Regional College, Newry Greenbank Campus. Gary was successful in gaining a Gold Medal in Plumbing at WorldSkills in Brazil in August 2015.

On speaking about why he chose construction as a career choice Gary said, "Whilst I enjoyed my time at School, I knew that university was not an option I would be interested in. All my elder brothers had either started a career in construction or were moving in that direction, so construction seemed like the natural route to follow. One of my brother's is a plumber so while I was at school I was always helping him in the evenings and weekends. I really enjoyed the work and decided to do an apprenticeship in plumbing."

The Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Domestic Plumbing & Heating provides more than just the qualification at the end of the course. As you embark on your career as a young plumbing apprentice, the course guides and supports you along the way to supplement and improve the skills gained with your employer. The course teaches you the technical and theory end of the apprenticeship and also introduces you to building regulations and H&S onsite, work rates etc, knowledge which is essential in the workplace.

Gary continued to highlight the opportunities the course led him to, "My favourite aspect of the course was that it provided me and my fellow apprentices to compete in skills competitions. The skills competitions started locally and I was lucky to win the overall Skillbuild young apprentice of the year in 2014 which allowed me to progress to the UK

finals. Eventually I was lucky enough to compete and win Gold at a World level at the World Skills completion in Brazil in August 2015. The SRC course helped me on this journey and prepared me for each competition, improving my understanding, knowledge and skills along the way and helped me progress naturally as the competitions advanced. Participating at the Skills Competitions has given me unbelievable experience. The training has helped me in my career because it has enabled me to learn new skills, work with different tools and meet with industry experts. I would encourage other apprentices to get involved in skills competitions as you gain experience in travel, meeting people and it improves technique and confidence in your skills. ”

Since completing the course, Gary has secured full time employment with his apprenticeship employer and since gaining the level 3 accreditation has been given more responsibility and more challenging projects. Gary continued, “I am only realising now that I can decide to take a number of avenues whether that be working overseas, or potentially teaching other young apprentices in the future or perhaps even starting my own business. The opportunities are endless and exciting, and most definitely have been enhanced by my apprenticeship.”