

# Celebrating 45 Years, 45 Stories

DAMAR  
TRAINING 45 YEARS



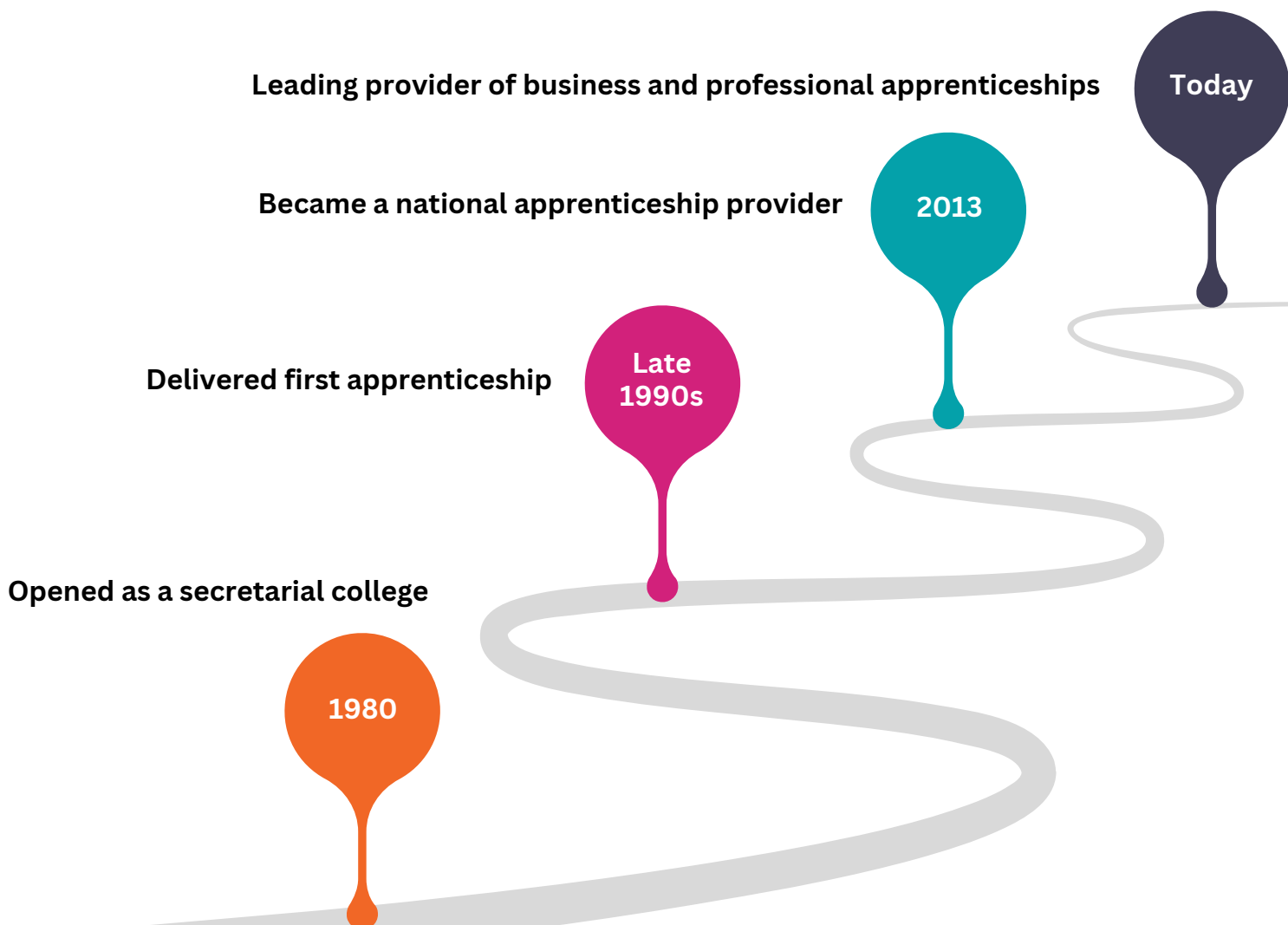
**Welcome  
from our MD**

**“As Damar celebrates 45 years of delivering training, we are proud to share 45 stories – apprentices and employers – who represent the real impact of learning and development. These stories showcase the confidence, skills and career transformations that apprenticeships bring to individuals, and the growth, innovation, and talent development they deliver for employers. We hope these stories inspire you – whether you’re thinking about starting your apprenticeship journey or growing your organisation with apprentices.”**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Bourne', written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Bourne  
Managing Director  
Damar Training

# Key milestones 1980 - 2025



# Damar Training in numbers

**97%**

EPA pass rate

(2023/24 data)

**95%**

of apprentices would recommend Damar

(2025 apprentice survey)

**100%**

of employers say Damar apprentices are having a positive impact on their organisation

(2025 employer survey)

**20,000+**

students supported



# Apprentice stories



# Voices of success: 45 apprenticeship stories for 45 years

Hear from some of our apprentices reflecting on the personal and professional impact of their apprenticeship.

“It has encouraged me to expand my thinking and consider the impact of decisions across the wider organisation.”  
– *Amanda, NHS*

- “Being a career changer, this apprenticeship gave me confidence to seek new opportunities, develop skills and enhance my knowledge.” – *Arvonelle Preston, The Christie Institute*
- “The biggest impact was learning about myself and my organisation. I now know where I fit and where I want to be.” – *Sarah Freeman, Lincolnshire Community and Hospitals NHS Group*
- “The apprenticeship improved my ability to draft legal documents, understand laws, and strengthen my research skills.” – *Ella Holmes, Clarion Solicitors*
- “I’ve gained accounting knowledge that I can apply daily, understanding the importance of accurate data entry.” – *Josh Rowley, Diamond Electronics*

- “Without a doubt the biggest impact has been on my confidence. I have found my voice, which I look forward to using when advocating for others.” – *Isobel Quinn, HK Law*
- “The structured learning provided a foundation that, combined with experience, shaped me into a well-rounded professional.” – *Pete Cokell, Cornwall Housing*
- “It’s about more than passing an exam – it’s about becoming a better solicitor with the key skills to succeed.” – *Mark Stern, Keoghs*
- “The apprenticeship allowed me to apply theory to real-world scenarios at work and in my personal life.” – *Amelia Zaman, Irwin Mitchell*
- “My confidence in communicating with clients has improved massively, and I’m grateful for that growth.” – *Megan Hierons, Holiday Hamster*
- “It has expanded my knowledge, strengthened my job applications, and provided examples I use in interviews.” – *Matthew Craig, NHS BSA*
- “I’ve been able to apply legal learning to real client cases, confirming my passion for law.” – *Terri Rich, WBW Solicitors*
- “The skills and behaviours I’ve gained made me feel more competent and confident in my role.” – *Jenna Leak, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS*
- “The apprenticeship validated my skills and motivated me to keep developing professionally.” – *James Jennings, Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust*
- “I discovered my teaching style, strengthened my emotional intelligence, and became a more confident leader.” – *Stuart Bate, Clarity Business Travel*

“I have been able to share ideas with other departments and put forward ideas for collaboration between teams.”  
– *Brook Carter, Blanchards Bailey*

- “It helped me learn how to stay organised, track progress, and manage my time better.” – *Tyler Batty, TIP Group*
- “It gave me a front-row seat to real legal practice, accelerating my development and clarifying my ambition.” – *Keeana Calibuso, Stone King LLP*
- “The apprenticeship boosted my confidence and expanded my knowledge, making me more capable in my role.” – *Hope Blundell, Blanchards Bailey LLP*
- “The resources and support helped me build strong foundations and stay motivated.” – *Claudia Chomanets, Clarion Solicitors*

“I’ve developed into a more responsible, professional leader.”

– *Tom Wilkinson, Humber Teaching NHS Trust*

- “Training on land law was valuable – I apply it daily to guide decisions and transactions.” – *Stacey Wait, Wilsons Solicitors LLP*
- “As I was coming to the end of the apprenticeship, I was offered a promotion to a new team, which I wouldn’t have been able to do without the apprenticeship!” – *David Humphries, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council*
- “The apprenticeship has also brought me so much more confidence in my role and while communicating.” – *Caroline Chapman, Birmingham Women’s and Children’s Hospital*
- “It has been transformative – from confidence to practical skills. It has also provided me with a clearer career path and valuable insights into the business world.” – *Katie Cookson, Damar Training*



# Employer stories

clarity



# Voices of success: 45 apprenticeship stories for 45 years

- “The programme is comprehensive and well-structured, with excellent support for our apprentice.” – *Simon Thomson, Knowsley Council*
- “Emma has made great strides as a first-line manager – more confident and independent.” – *Hayley Dun, Wigan Council*
- “Stacey’s confidence and ability grew, enabling her to handle more complex work.” – *Jane Lonergan, Parker Bullen LLP*
- “Keeana has brought insights that shaped our charity work. She’s been a joy to work with.” – *Rosamund McCarthy Etherington, Stone King LLP*
- “Since joining us, Tyler has been a breath of fresh air – enthusiastic, capable, and committed.” – *Matthew Thompson, TIP Group*
- “Caroline became more confident and mindful in her work, improving our processes.” – *Sarah Edwards, Countess of Chester NHS Trust*
- “Amelia brings a unique approach that benefits individuals and supports access to justice.” – *Simon Prew, Irwin Mitchell*
- “Megan’s enthusiasm and creativity transformed how we serve clients – she’s invaluable.” – *Hayley Walker, Holiday Hamster*
- “Matthew’s growth inspired and educated his peers, benefiting the entire team.” – *Michelle Manson, NHS BSA*

“Josh applied his learning immediately, supporting audits and saving management time.”  
– *Martin Cope, Diamond Electronics*

- “Ashley consistently showed commitment and professionalism, growing tremendously in her role.” – *Laura Sugarman, Clarion Solicitors*
- “My advice for any other organisations considering the apprenticeship would be to go for it. It was absolutely the best decision we’ve ever made.” – *Stacey Lawrence, Manchester Airport Group*
- “Apprenticeships are a great undertaking not only for the learner but the business, as it strengthens our overall business strategy of developing our people.” – *Amanda Hunt, Davies Group*
- “The integration of enthusiastic, motivated apprentices energises the team, promoting a collaborative and supportive environment that benefits all employees.” – *Tracey Wilson, Blue Cube Corporate Travel*
- “Our apprentices support other team members to be more productive which results in happy clients, recommendations, and positive reviews.” – *Samantha Burrows, Aconveyancing*
- “I’ve seen apprentices step outside their comfort zone, growing in confidence and skills.” – *Anonymous Supervisor*
- “The training has given our apprentices structure and purpose, which has improved retention.” – *Anonymous Supervisor*
- “It’s rewarding to see apprentices progress so quickly into confident, capable team members.” – *Anonymous Supervisor*
- “Apprenticeships benefit not just the individual, but the whole team that works with them.” – *Anonymous Supervisor*

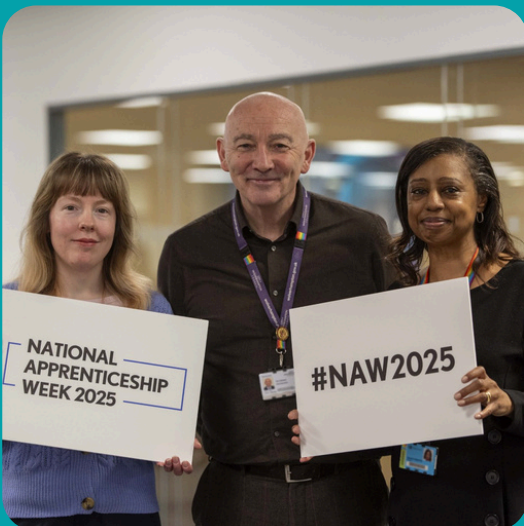
“Any time we invested in Jasmine’s training was repaid many times over in her contribution.”

– *Sarah Dureau,  
Parker Bullen LLP*

# 45 years 45 stories Unlimited futures

Imagine your  
story here:  
Start your  
apprenticeship  
journey with  
Damar.

[Learn more](#)



Unlock  
potential  
in your  
organisation:  
Partner with  
Damar.

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