



## **Theo Paphitis Retail Group recognised as a Centrica Top 100 Apprenticeship Employer**

The Theo Paphitis Retail Group, including retailers Ryman, Robert Dyas, Boux Avenue and London Graphic Centre, has been included in the prestigious Centrica Top 100 Apprenticeship Employer list, which is compiled annually by the National Apprenticeship Service and recognises excellence in businesses that employ apprentices. The list was announced on 20<sup>th</sup> January at the National Apprenticeship Awards at Grosvenor House Hotel in London.

This recognition from the National Apprenticeship Service follows on from the Group's success in the 2016 National Apprenticeship Awards, and a rigorous selection process resulting in the most exceptional apprenticeship employers from all of the National Apprenticeship Awards employer categories being recognised as a top 100 Apprenticeship employer. The list showcases the broad spread of businesses which now offer apprenticeships.

### **Theo Paphitis, Chairman, Theo Paphitis Retail Group and well-known champion of apprenticeships, commented:**

“Apprenticeships are a brilliant addition to any business, and those who ignore them are missing a trick. More than ever, employees of all ages need to learn skills on the job, and we pride ourselves on the quality of our Apprenticeship programme. To be included in the Top 100 is a credit to all our apprentices, and the work that has gone into the scheme by the HR team and partner, Fareport.”

TPRG are building a “shop floor to Boardroom” programme which is underpinned by apprenticeships. With three current programmes in operation and a fourth scheduled to launch in the next year, the schemes cover everything from retail skills to management and leadership development. This year alone, there are 81 apprentices studying the Level 3 management development programme and 57 on the Level 2 retail skills course. The fully integrated training programmes are run by the Group's Learning and Development team and Fareport Training. They include a mix of on and off the job training and assessment, and the Management Development Programme includes a two-day residential, experiential learning event.

### **Lee-anne, a Level 3 apprentice at TPRG, reflects on what she has learnt:**

“I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the Apprenticeship Programme. I have gained the confidence to not only do my job but exceed at it. It has given me the skills and knowledge to coach and develop my team and help them deal with changes as well as the knowledge and understanding of how a business is run. The Programme was key in helping me gain my promotion in the business and has given me the knowledge to help progress within my new role.”

**Ends**

**January 23 2017**

**For further information:** Izzy Grainger, TPRG PR Executive, 020 33583400/ [igrainger@ryman.co.uk](mailto:igrainger@ryman.co.uk)

