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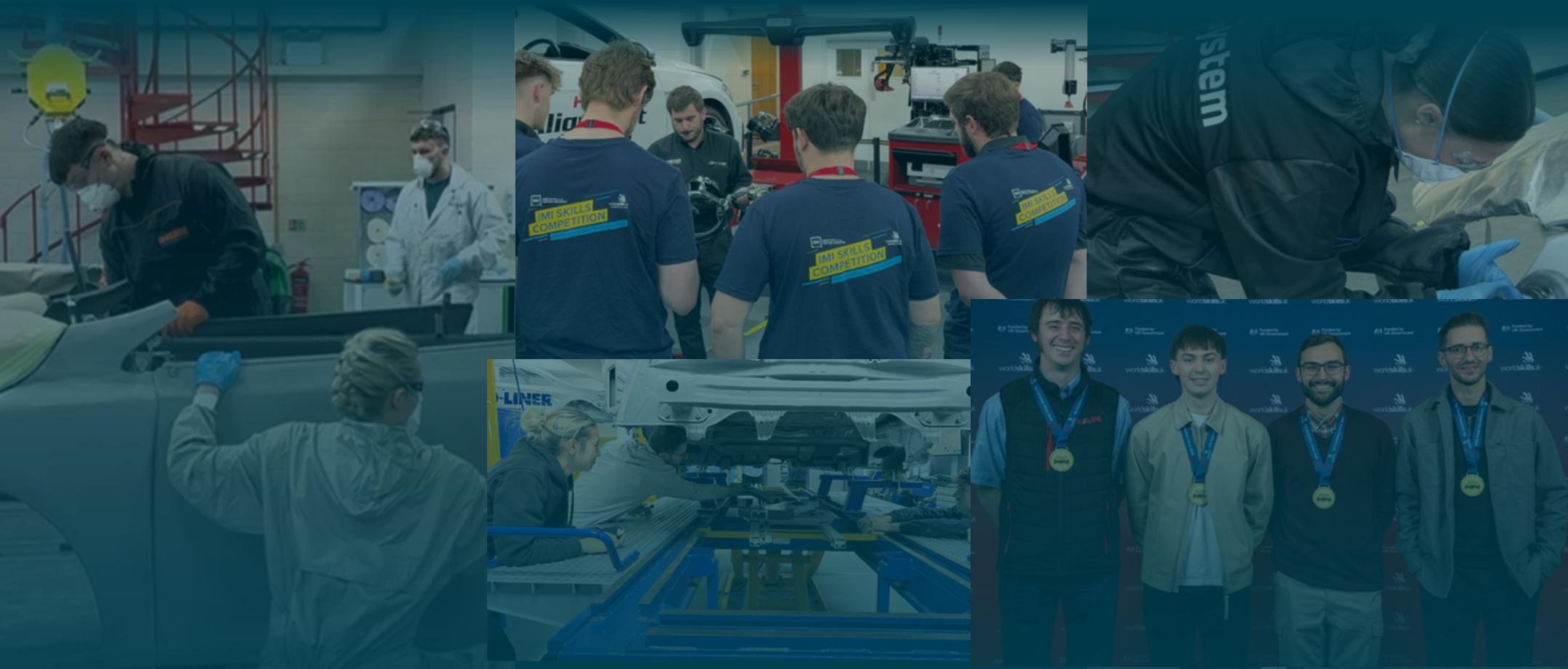


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# IMI SKILLS COMPETITION

New talent powering automotive

## 2026 Centre Toolkit





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# Overview

This Centre Toolkit has been created to help centres promote the IMI Skills Competitions to learners, apprentices, employers and teaching staff.

The assets in this pack are designed to support conversations on automotive careers, encourage registrations, and showcase the real-world impact of competing — from confidence-building and employability to national recognition.

All materials are pre-approved and ready to use.

## The three competition categories are:

**Automotive Technology** (light vehicle)- tasks include Vehicle Inspection, Engine Mechanical, Braking System, High Voltage, Body Electrical, Engine Electrical as well as looking at soft skills such as problem solving and time management.

**Automotive Refinishing**- tasks include Welding and Brazing, Bonding and Riveting, Part Panel Replacement, Metal Finish Repairs, Panel Fill Repairs as well as looking at soft skills such as problem solving and time management.

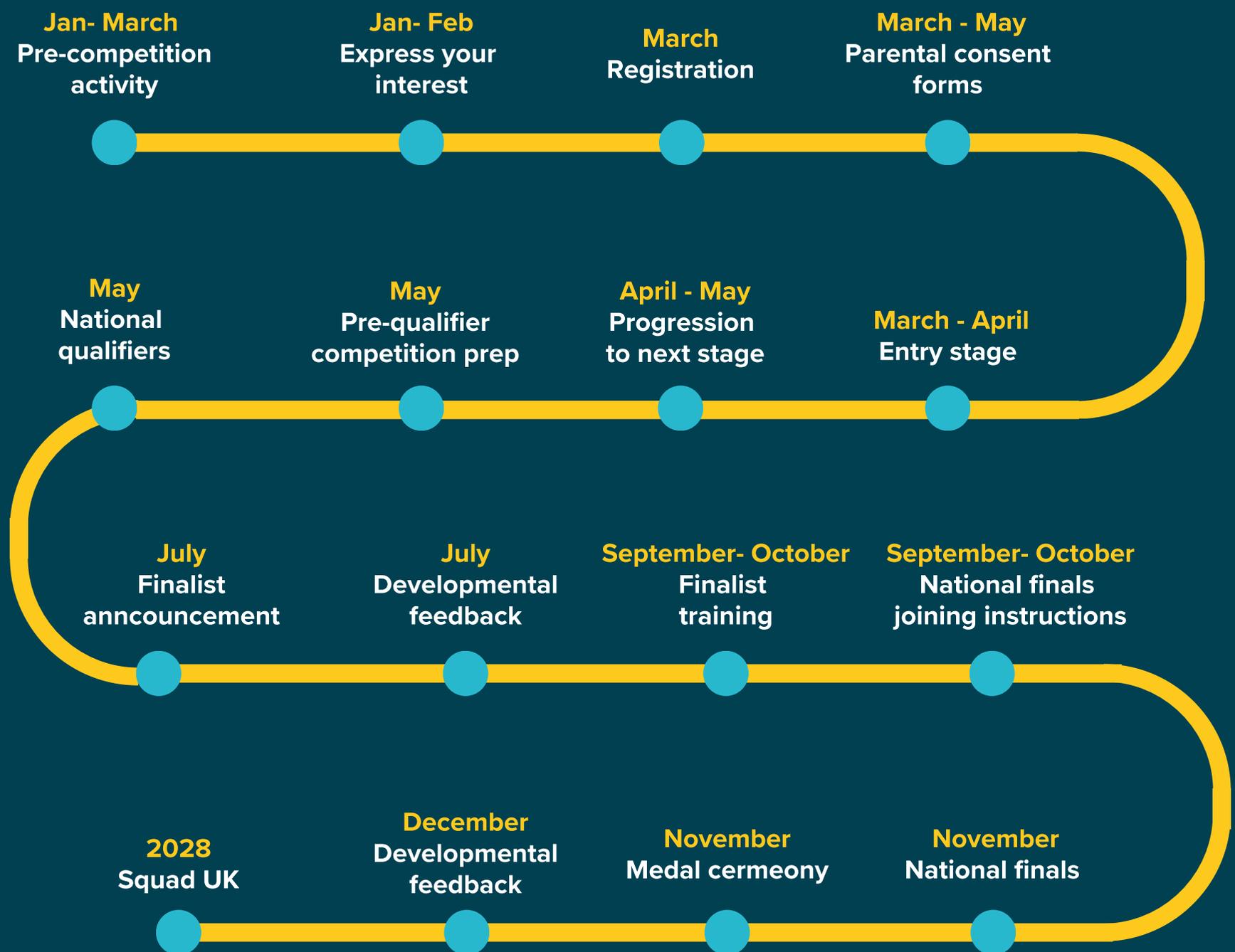
**Automotive Body Repair**- tasks include Preparation and Painting, Paint Fault Rectification, Colour Matching, Plastic Repair and Refinishing equipment as well as looking at soft skills such as problem solving and time management.



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# Competitor Journey 2026 Timeline





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**IMI SKILLS  
COMPETITION**

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# A4 Poster Assets

## What they're for:

Raising awareness of the competitions and key dates.

## How to use them:

- Display in workshops, classrooms, reception areas and staff rooms.
- Include in careers corridors or noticeboards.

[Download here](#)

**IMI SKILLS COMPETITION**  
New talent powering automotive

The IMI Skills Competition supports everyone as we search for the top new talent in the UK

**COMPETITOR**  
Test, learn, achieve and progress whilst improving your skills, including:

- Problem solving
- Time management
- Confidence
- Technical skills
- Communication
- Resilience
- Stress management

**EDUCATORS**

- Showcase your learners, your teaching and your centre
- Inspire and set high aspirations for your learners
- Supports with Ofsted requirements

**EMPLOYER**

- Promote your business by employing top talent in the industry
- Gain additional free training for your employee
- Help promote the automotive sector and attract new talent

**AUTOMOTIVE BODY REPAIR**

**AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY (LIGHT VEHICLES)**

**AUTOMOTIVE REFINISHING**

Start your journey and have the experience of a lifetime here:  
[www.theimi.org.uk/imi-skills-competitions](http://www.theimi.org.uk/imi-skills-competitions)

[Download here](#)

**IMI SKILLS COMPETITION 2026**  
New talent powering automotive

**1. PRE COMPETITION ACTIVITY**  
Jan to March

- Click [here](#) for resources to get your apprentice ready for the IMI Skills Competition
- Sign up to the WorldSkills Learning Lab [here](#) for free extra support for your apprentices

**2. NOMINATIONS**  
2nd - 27th March

1. Nominate your apprentice [here](#)
2. Ensure they accept the T&C's email to continue in the competition
3. Ensure they take the online quiz by 17th April which will be emailed to them

**3. NATIONAL QUALIFIERS**  
May

- The top 18 scorers from each category will be invited to a one-day practical qualifier
- Before they will be invited to a Teams call to meet the IMI team
- An information pack will be sent to you and your apprentice with handy hints and tips on the national qualifier

**4. FINALISTS ANNOUNCED**  
July

- In July the top 6 from each stream will be invited to the final competition in Wales where they will go head-to-head for a medal

**5. EMPLOYER VISIT**  
September

- 1-1 teams set up to talk through the competition's next steps and create a case study of the finalist and their employer to showcase your talent and training

**6. MASTER CLASSES**  
October

- Finalists will be invited to attend a one-day masterclass to train on the latest equipment they will use at the final and a chance to meet the IMI team

**7. WORLD SKILLS UK FINAL**  
November 16th - 20th

- After a familiarisation day there will be two days of practical tasks for the finalists
- The two-day final will then end with a medal ceremony at the ICC in Wales

**8. SQUAD & TEAM UK**  
November onwards

- Top, age-eligible scorers asked to join Squad UK and potentially compete at an international level as part of Team UK

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- All accommodation and food costs will be covered.
- Visitors are encouraged to attend and support their apprentices.
- WSKUK have a travel fund if required.
- We are committed to ensuring the IMI Skills Competition is inclusive and we offer a range of adaptations to meet everyone's individual needs.
- Our IMI staff and volunteer team of judges are from the sector and are there to support and encourage competitors throughout their journey through the competition.
- To enter you need to be studying a Level 3 Automotive qualification or have completed an Automotive Apprenticeship within the last 12 months.
- The competitor should have less than 4 years experience in the automotive industry.
- You will require a total of 7 days to take part in the full competition.

CLICK HERE [here](#) to visit the IMI Skills Competition homepage



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# WorldSkills Poster

## What it's for:

Raising awareness of the competition registration period.

## How to use:

- Display in workshops, classrooms, reception areas and staff rooms.
- Include in careers corridors or noticeboards.

[Download here](#)

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Register now  
for WorldSkills UK  
National Competitions  
Registration period  
**2-27 March 2026**

- Top performers have a chance to progress to the National Finals in November
- For registration inquiries, contact [enquiries@worldskillsuk.org](mailto:enquiries@worldskillsuk.org) or call 0800 612 0742.

Scan to register now!

Funded by UK Government



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# Postcard/Small Infographic

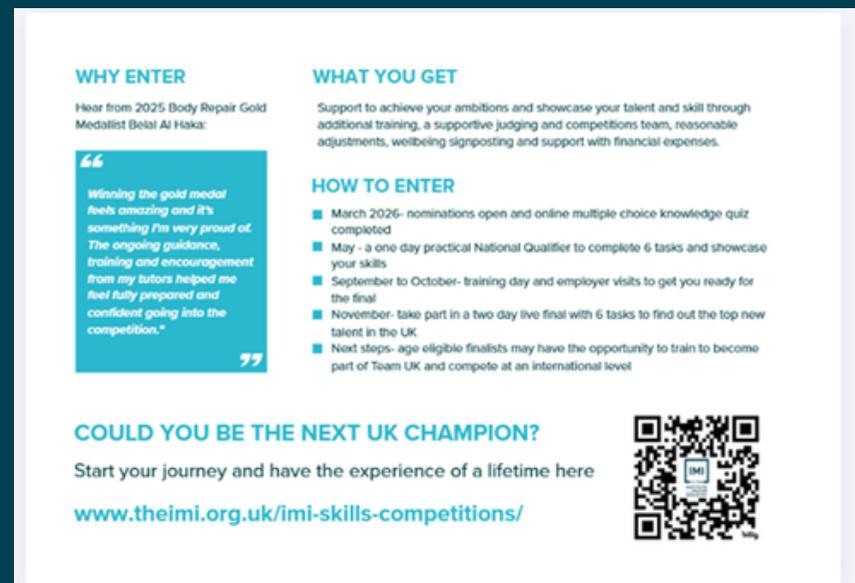
## What they're for:

Quick, eye-catching handouts that prompt action.

## How to use them:

- Give to learners and apprentices during sessions.
- Include in enrolment packs.
- Hand out at open evenings and careers events.
- Leave in common areas.

[Download here](#)





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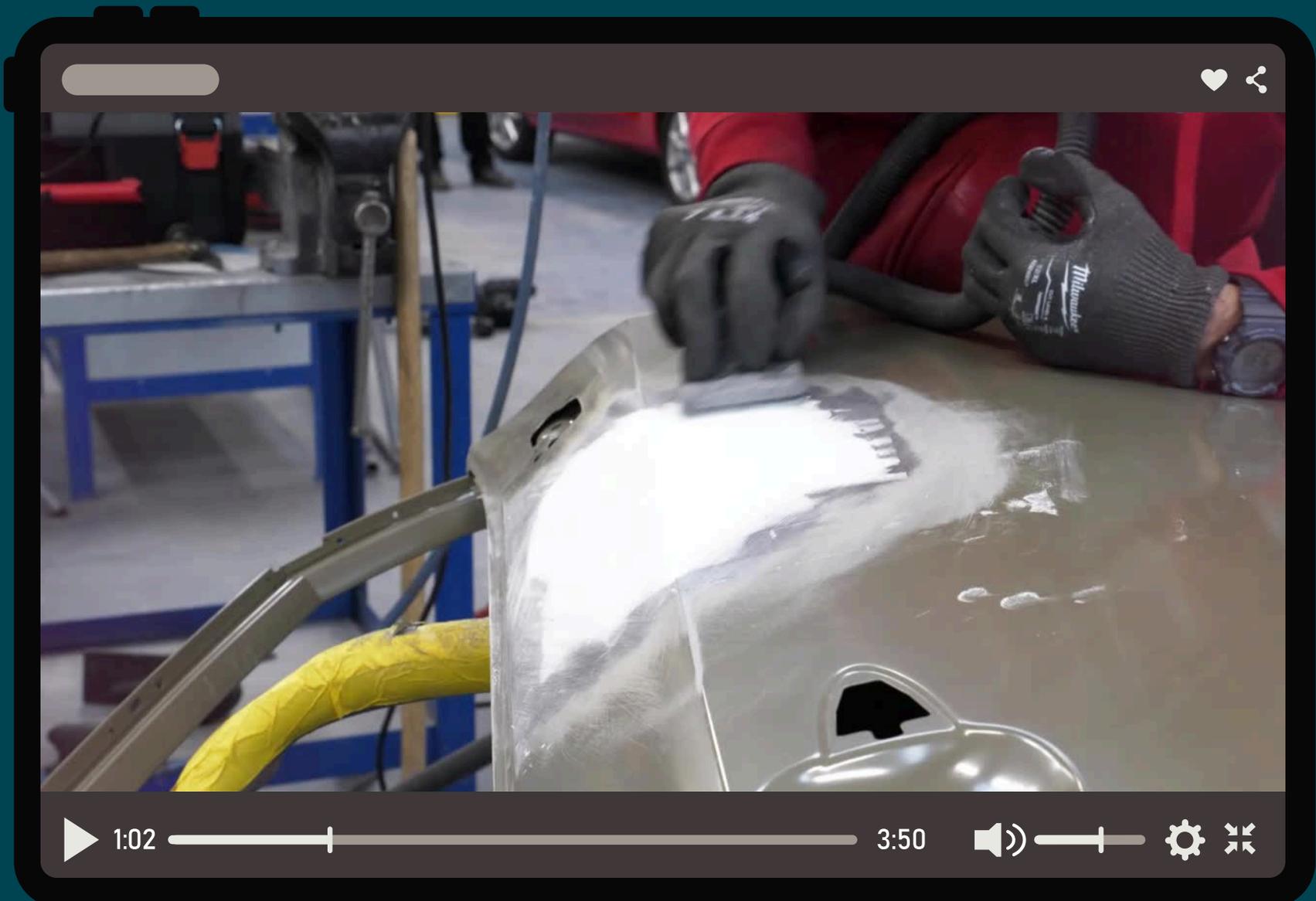
# Promotional Video

## What it's for:

Bringing the competition to life through real footage and stories.

## How to use it:

- Play in reception screens and classrooms.
- Show at open days and taster sessions.
- Share on social channels and websites.
- Include in learner briefings.





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# Case Studies

## What they're for:

Providing real-life proof of impact and progression.

## How to use them:

- Share with prospective competitors and parents.
- Include in careers talks.
- Link in newsletters or student portals.
- Use during employer visits.
- Print for noticeboards.

**Click the image below:**

 <p>Learning and development</p> <p>How Skills Competitions are Powering Automotive Talent</p> <p>5 mins read</p>	 <p>Career development</p> <p>Oliver Thomas' Journey to the IMI Skills Competition Finals</p> <p>3 mins read</p>	 <p>Career development</p> <p>IMI Skills Competition 2025 Final</p> <p>5 mins read</p>
 <p>Career development</p> <p>Marc Cockerton's Journey to the IMI Skills Competition Finals</p>	 <p>Career development</p> <p>Austin Watson Jones' Journey to the IMI Skills Competition Finals</p>	 <p>Career development</p> <p>Omar Hatahet's Journey through the IMI Skills Competition</p>

**Visit the website to register or get  
in touch via  
[imiskillscompetition@theimi.org.uk](mailto:imiskillscompetition@theimi.org.uk)**



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