

HARRY METAL FABRICATOR APPRENTICE



What does an average day look like for you?

I'm currently in my first year doing flexible rotations at SETA, so some of the time I'm at SETA, and some I'm at work.

I am learning a lot and putting in to practice what I am learning at SETA when I go back to work. Depending on the current customer job, will depend on the actual daily routine. One of our current contracts is manufacturing bus shelters amongst other things. I am getting to use a lot of different equipment including the bandsaw, pillar drill, brake-press, handheld linisher, inserting machine, grinder, grainer, as well as the usual bench-fitting tools.

What personal qualities do you think are important to do your job?

Communication and teamwork are a good part of the role. For example if we have large pieces of sheet metal that we are working on, we need to communicate amongst the team to ensure that we all know what everyone is doing to avoid anyone getting hurt, or ruining the actual work/job.

I need to be accurate in my work. I learnt to read engineering drawings at work. They are all particular to each client and by following these I ensure that I'm working to the clients' specifications.

Sometimes the work can be a bit repetitive, so I know that I need to persevere to get it finished.

I'm still learning the terminology for certain things, but this is all part of my 'on-the-job' training.

Why did you choose to do an apprenticeship?

I knew that I didn't want to go to college to do pure academic study, it really didn't appeal to me. I wanted to do something where I got real-life work experience, and the fact that I'm getting paid to learn is great! An apprenticeship is really hands-on, so I'm not just learning theory in a classroom. The skills that I'm learning will stand me in good stead for my future career.

How did you first become interested in engineering?

When I was younger I used to love making things in Mechano, so I think this has stuck with me. I did a week's work experience when I was in year 10 at school at Clarke Lane Engineering. So I applied and was lucky enough to be given the opportunity.

My Dad is an engineer, and actually attended SETA as an engineering apprentice himself in the early 1990's! Dad inspired me to look into becoming an apprentice myself.

What has been your personal highlight so far?

During my time at SETA, I felt proud when I'd finished making the Bevel Gauge as my bench fitting skills had improved along the way!

At work when I was put in charge of a specific aspect of a client job - working on the steel box section on the bus shelters this made me feel independent.

I'm looking forward to the welding rotations and learning those skills so that I can then do this at work.

