



Craig Batty
Barnsley College

Engineering Apprentice Profile

A little about myself

I'm 22 and I went to Darton High School and left with 5 GCSE's all A-C grades. I'm now working for Compass Engineering in Barnsley. We specialise in structural steelwork for the construction sector. I'm currently working on 3D modelling using a package called Xsteel. This is interesting work as it allows you to improve your drawing accuracy and productivity. I can create real-life models of any steel structure. It can then be followed through the design, fabrication, and erection phases of a project.

What encouraged you to go for a career in engineering ?

I was interested in a career with manual skills, and I was interested in the money when starting work. I started off as a plater welder, but then moved onwards to a draftsman position and did my apprenticeship from there.

Where do you aim to be career wise - in 5 years time ?

I hoping perhaps to become the manager of my own project, having completed my HNC/HND work

Where do you aim to be career wise - in 10 years time ?

Hopefully I will have achieved a position in management - possibly design

Is there a clear progression route for you to this position ?

Not particularly clear - I'd hope to make step by step progress and review it along the way

Is the progression route for you through Higher Education ?

Yes I'm moving up to the HND

What have you enjoyed most about the Modern Apprenticeship ?

Meeting a whole range of people and learning new skills

Have you been encouraged by your employer / training provider ?

Yes I think so - they have encouraged me, and they have fairly set procedures





Who has given you most support during your MA ?

Barnsley College staff have been great, and also Compass Engineering

What was the nature of that support ?

Good teaching and giving me the opportunity to progress and help with my work on course

Which areas of the MA programme did you enjoy most ?

The technical certificate work - this was interesting and practical, and also I enjoyed getting the work experience

Which areas of the MA programme did you enjoy least ?

Doing the Key Skills - this wasn't a good experience - and I think we were directed poorly in completing this

What could have been done to make the MA programme work better for you?

I would have liked to have more input on structural engineering, and perhaps more engineering related to construction work rather than metallurgy which I didn't really want.

Would you recommend the programme to others ?

Definitely - it's a good start in engineering

What would you tell them about MA 's ?

....there's plenty of opportunities, and money with the training - and also you're learning the skills direct on the job....

