



Mark Ledger
Chesterfield College

Engineering Apprentice Profile

A little about myself

I've completed my Modern Apprentice technical cert C&G228, my NVQ3 and Key Skills and I'm doing a National Certificate in Engineering year 1. I attended School in Sheffield - it was All Saints' on Granville Road. I work for Edward Prior in Sheffield it's a small engineering company in Sheffield with about 60 - 70 employees.

What qualifications did you leave school with ?

I left with 11 or 12 GCSE's - all at grade "d"

What encouraged you to go for a career in engineering ?

I applied for the Army first of all - but before I was accepted I got a temporary job which involved CNC machining, and setting up and operating the machinery, and I liked that - so I went on to do a CNC machining course at Sheffield College.

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

Well I'm working for Edward Prior in Egerton Street in Sheffield - doing Laser Marking, and making stamps and dies. I hope to do the HNC in Engineering if the firm will let me.

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

I would hope to be progressing through the company maybe to a management position. The company manufactures a range of conventional manual marking product alongside pneumatic and hydraulic presses and leading edge computer controlled dot and laser marking systems. There's a heavy emphasis on engineering skills.

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

Yes - but I'm keeping my options open and I'm taking my chances though with what turns up

Is the progression route for you through Higher Education ?

I think so but I'm not all that clear about the details





Who has given you most support during your MA ?

I have been supported by my family, and also the Business Manager at the firm

Have you been encouraged by your employer / training provider ?

Yes the firm has supported me so far. I hope they'll support me to get higher qualifications.

Have they given you information about pathways to progression ?

The Business Manager has been helpful and provided me with relevant information

What was the nature of that support ?

The Business Manager has taken an interest in what I am doing

Which areas of the MA programme did you enjoy most ?

The on the job learning has been the most interesting and rewarding, and the general learning about engineering techniques and skills has been good.

Which areas of the MA programme did you enjoy least ?

Some of the practical work wasn't that relevant to the kind of work I'm doing - maybe it will be useful later.

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

Perhaps changes to the general syllabus could have been made sooner that allowed you to do more portfolio work. I think it's easier to do things that way, but some people are scared that standards will drop in doing portfolio work and they might be right, but that's just an opinion.

Would you recommend the programme to others ?

Yes - it helps you progress through engineering and helps you get some good background skills

What would you tell them about MA's ?

Make the most of your opportunities !

