



Paul McLaughlin
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Engineering Apprentice Profile

A little about myself

I went to Royston Comp - where I was the top footballer ! I left with 9 GCSE's all grades A-C. I decided at first to do a GNVQ in engineering - but then I had the opportunity to apply for a job in engineering so - I chose the Modern Apprentice programme which gives you work experience and also pay as you go along.

What encouraged you to go for a career in engineering ?

Well I've had family experience of engineering - my dad is a design engineer with BJD, and I was interested in it.

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

I aim to be a team leader at Manor Bakeries where I work

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

Who knows - perhaps go and live abroad - qualifications in engineering are a good passport

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

Up to HNC and I suppose through to HND yes - but after that I'll have to look for myself—maybe carry on to the degree

Is the progression route for you through Higher Education ?

It's not something I've examined that closely - at the moment I'm taking it one stage at a time

What have you enjoyed most about the Modern Apprenticeship ?

Getting the work experience has changed my outlook, and I think I've matured. There's been plenty of new experiences and I've met new people and new friends, and I've been getting the money.

Have you been encouraged by your employer / training provider ?

Yes - but really only up to completing the HNC - they've not encouraged me to go into Higher Education. I asked after completing the HNC and they wanted me to do one year with the firm first before considering going on any further and supporting





me. If I did the degree it would have to be on a day release or part time basis.

Who has given you most support during your MA ?

My dad - who has a lot of knowledge about engineering and plenty of experience, but also Barnsley College and work to a large extent who've helped me to complete.

What was the nature of that support ?

Encouragement to complete the work and the scheme - my employers have been keen and supportive all along.

Which areas of the MA programme did you enjoy most ?

The first year I think was the best - doing the NVQ2 - it was all practical hands on stuff which I like.

Which areas of the MA programme did you enjoy least ?

The Key Skills. I thought this was a waste of time

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

Organisation of the Key Skills stuff. I didn't get any exemptions and I should have.

Would you recommend the programme to others ?

Yes

What would you tell them about MA 's ?

.....the work experience side of it gives you a big advantage - especially over those people who just do the College courses without the work experience - it gives you a much wider work based view of engineering

