

Work Experience for Young Apprentices

Sharon Davies



It's the time of year when many young people in Norfolk high schools are out of school on work experience placements and this includes Young Apprentices between the ages of 14-16 who attend EAGIT one day a week to complete an NVQ level 2 in Engineering. Despite the Economic downturn many employers still have an eye to the future and are offering our Young Apprentices an opportunity to experience what it is like in the real world of work and gain an understanding of how their qualification can be used in a future career.

As the number of young people studying for this qualification continues to grow we need more and more employers to offer them placements so we can offer the work force of tomorrow a real taste of what it means to work in engineering. Many of the employers that we work with have been involved in the programme from its inception and have offered an increasing number of placements to our learners over the last five years. Others have come on board this year and we remain grateful to them all for giving a great experience to these young people who are hoping to be the engineers of the future.

ATB Laurence Scott have been extremely supportive of the Young Apprenticeship in Engineering for a number of years and have offered placements to many of our learners. This year alone students from Costessey, Taverham, Sprowston and Thorpe St Andrews high schools and the Open Academy, are carrying out a two-week placement with them. These students are currently studying welding and fabrication or electrical, or mechanical engineering at EAGIT and are experiencing how to apply that knowledge in the real world of work. Another local company that have been involved in the programme since 2006 and have offered a number of learners a placement are Ben Burgess, who have shown a strong commitment to developing the future work force through home grown talent.

With over 70 young people to place for summer work experience it can be an uphill struggle especially in a climate of recession but a huge number of local companies, from some of the smallest to some of the largest, have become involved in the work placement side of Young Apprenticeships and given the young people a brilliant introduction to the world of engineering. Many employers have also been pleasantly surprised by the maturity, commitment and enthusiasm of the young people and impressed by their skills, so much so that some have offered young people part time work and in some cases an apprenticeship when they have finished school!

We would like to say a big thank you to all the employers that work with us to make the Young Apprenticeship in Engineering a great and growing success and would ask those that have not yet been involved to give it a go – you might find its not only good for young people but good for the future of your business.

If you think you can offer work experience to a Young Apprentice in Engineering please contact **Charlene Catchpole** or **Sharon Davies** on **01603 401606**.

EAGIT responds to school's request with something new and different

Starting in September 2009, EAGIT will be offering a new **PEO Level 1** qualification in Engineering to another group of learners from local schools. Learners will be in the 14-16 year old age group and will attend EAGIT Training Centre on one day a week for two years. Contact Sharon or Charlene on the above number for further details.