

Case Study: April Lancashire



Profile

19 years old and a third year Engineering Advanced Apprentice, April was a former student at Itchen College and is now working as an Apprentice Control Systems Engineer at Gravatom Engineering Systems in Bishops Waltham.

Questions

What careers advice did you get at school?

Because I was good academically, the routes that were suggested were all about college and further education. Apprenticeships weren't mentioned; I guess they didn't think they were relevant to the subjects I was doing or my ability.

Why did you choose an apprenticeship?

I decided not to stay on at college; it wasn't really suiting me and I wasn't enjoying the approach to studying there. My Dad had done an apprenticeship in the past and so he encouraged me to explore this route.

How did you get the job?

Looking on the internet, I saw there were possible openings at SETA. I attended their open evening and chatted with some of the employers there, and then completed an aptitude test. I had two interviews and was then accepted at Gravatom.

Would you recommend an apprenticeship to others? Why?

I would really recommend an apprenticeship because it is continuing in education but in a different way. I am learning a lot more through doing, as well as continuing my studies day-release at college. I am now in my 3rd year of the apprenticeship. Being able to 'earn while I learn' is great; I enjoy my job and hope to stay at Gravatom and maybe work my way up here.

I would recommend an apprenticeship to other girls. I wasn't the only girl at SETA, and I haven't felt intimidated or awkward at all.

Describe a typical day for you now.

It could be almost anything, working on documentation, programming, imaging, drawing, testing... I get to experience the wide variety of roles engineering has to offer.

Why do you think your employer invests in recruiting and training apprentices?

I think Gravatom benefit from teaching apprentices, like me, the way of working and the skills which the company need in the way that they want it. They get people who are trained in a way that fulfils their needs and standards. It is also a good value way for an employer to have enthusiastic workers, who hopefully will continue with them after they have qualified.