CHANTELLE - SOUTHERN WATER
MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN APPRENTICE

WATER for LIFE from Southern Water

What does an average day look like for you?

It is an early start as I live on the Isle of Wight and travel to SETA everyday on the ferry. I am lucky as my employer, Southern Water, pay for this.

When I get to SETA we are mainly in the workshop doing practical tasks. Depending on which rotation we are doing will depend on which designated area you will be based. We carry out practical activities for most of the day, four days a week. This is mixed with time in the classroom to go through the theory that accompanies the rotation, as well as being given time to write up our job reports for each task.

One day a week we are working towards a BTEC qualification. This can be quite intense at times!

We also have tutorials on different subjects which have been interesting. They have been on topics such as financial planning, safe driving, mental health awareness, online safety and neurodiversity to name a few.

What personal qualities do you think are important to do your job?

I think that you need to be able to solve problems, especially being out on site. I'll be required to identify any issues, and if I can't resolve it there and then, then I'll need to liaise with other members of the team. So communication skills will be important, as well as being a 'team player'.

I expect that it will be quite hectic at times as it will be constantly changing out on site, so being able to work under pressure will be needed.

How did you first become interested in engineering?

I've always found mechanics fascinating. My Dad was an electromechanical engineer and a great role model to me. When I was younger I would hold the hand-torch for him and pass him his tools when he was working on motorbikes. I also got to accompany him on a few of his jobs!

Why did you choose an apprenticeship?

I am already learning new skills at SETA in lots of different engineering areas. I chose to do an apprenticeship as I have always been interested in engineering and wanted to 'earn while I learn'.

I'm definitely a hands-on learner, and enjoy practical stuff more than being in a classroom. An apprenticeship lets me do this!