

## SPENCER LEVEL 2 WELDING APPRENTICE

### What does an average day look like for you?

I am in the first year of my apprenticeship and doing my training on a block release basis at SETA. I have completed two rotations at SETA so far - Sheet Metal Work and MMA Welding. In between my time at SETA I am training with my company Puma Engineering.

When I am at Puma we start work at 7.30am, so I get there 10 minutes beforehand so that I can get ready for the day. I make sure that my bay is tidy, so I know where my tools are. I ask if someone has a new job for me, otherwise I carry on with the work from the day before. At 10am we have a 15 minute break, then we work through until lunch at 1pm. We get another break in the afternoon, apart from on a Friday as we finish at 1.30pm. Everyday before we go home we must clean our workspace.

When I am at SETA I need to be there for 8am, so I try to get there 10 minutes early so that I can get ready for the day. I keep my working area tidy, and return all the tools that I have used to their tool box at the end of the day. We are in the workshop four days a week doing hands-on practical stuff, which I enjoy. We also have one day a week in the classroom doing theory work

### Why did you choose to do an apprenticeship?

I haven't really been one for sitting in a classroom learning and would rather be learning on-the-job. An apprenticeship gives you hands-on experience working 'on the tools' and learning directly from people with loads of welding experience. So I believe that this is the best route for me personally.

### What has been your personal highlight so far?

When you are training for your apprenticeship, you are learning from people with decades of experience, which I really like. They pass their knowledge on to you, and it is up to you to make the most of this as it will enable you to progress as a welder.

ME WITH MY MMA WELDING  
PIECE!

### What was your route in to engineering?

My Dad is a carpenter, and so I followed him into this trade initially, but did not enjoy it.

I learnt about welding from my stepdad and so did my own research into it looking at YouTube videos. I sent my CV to Puma engineering and they took me on. They offered me a Level 2 Welding Apprenticeship.

I didn't get my English GCSE, so alongside my workshop training I am studying for a Level 2 Functional Skills in English, as I will need this before I can finish my apprenticeship.

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

I think there are various qualities that are important. As a welder you need to have a steady hand, as well as patience and concentration. When you are an apprentice, you are just learning so you are going to make mistakes, so it is crucial that you make sure you learn from this. You can't let it get to you.

With engineering safety awareness is very important. You must adhere to all guidelines and protocols and ensure that you wear the correct PPE for the tasks.

