

WAYNE EVANS 20

## 1ST YEAR PLUMBING APPRENTICE

Wayne Evans, 20, is a first year JTL-managed apprentice at Advanced Plumbing and Heating Ltd in Doncaster. A job in a skilled trade seemed a logical idea to Wayne. "I have been working since my GCSEs, mainly labouring and plastering, and I decided that I wanted to learn a trade."

"I think the advantages of the apprenticeship are that I get paid and I always have someone working with me and teaching me new skills."

The hours spent on-site tend not to vary that much from day to day, "I start at 8.30 and finish at about 4.30 when on-site and at college I work from 9am until 5.30."

Whatever work Wayne does on-site, he must learn it at college first, "I am doing first fixing, which includes fitting all of the main pipes, and second fixing, which includes fitting radiators and bathroom suites, at the moment and at college I am learning about pipe bending. College is good for learning a particular skill before perfecting it on site."

Life after the apprenticeship could take many routes for Wayne, "I'm not sure what I will be doing when I have finished my apprenticeship, it depends on how I feel, but at the moment I want to develop my skills and become a tiler as well." When asked where Wayne sees himself in 5-10 years, he said, "I would definitely like to stay in plumbing and would consider moving down to London."



*My friends are happy that I am learning a trade that I enjoy. A lot of my friends are actually plumbers too.*

Summit SKILLS

REBECCA RITSEMA 22

3RD YEAR ELECTRICAL APPRENTICE

Rebecca Ritsema, 22, is a third year electrical apprentice with JTL. JTL offers advanced apprenticeships in electrical installation and plumbing and mechanical engineering services.

The idea of a career in the electrical industry came to Rebecca while studying A Levels. "I did physics A Level, so I already had an interest in that type of thing. I did work experience as a receptionist but found it boring. I didn't particularly want an office job anyway and a degree didn't appeal to me either. I also like the fact that you get paid to learn as an apprentice and that you meet lots of people."

Rebecca added, "At the moment I carry out day-to-day activities including socket and lighting installations on domestic and commercial sites. There are a lot of different jobs to do - I like the variety."

The college work does not offer any obstacles to Rebecca. "To be honest I find college work quite easy! I think the balance between college and on-site work is about right. My foreman is very helpful to me and is always there to support me."

Rebecca doesn't think that the fact she is female has held her back at all. "It was not as difficult as I first expected and I settled in very easily. I don't think it makes a difference what sex you are if you want to be an electrician."

"I think after I have finished my JTL apprenticeship, I want to study the Technician's Course and perhaps go into consulting or designing. I would like to get more experience in the office and perhaps become a foreman so that I can gain more knowledge and add more strings to my bow."



*Rebecca doesn't think that the fact she is female has held her back at all*



DAVID HOLMES 19

## REFRIGERATION ENGINEER

David Holmes, 19, always knew his career would be in refrigeration. He started work as an apprentice engineer at York International when he was 16.

“After working with York for two years, I achieved my NVQ Level 2. Initially this consisted of a four-day week onsite alongside a qualified York Engineer, where I quickly learned the ropes, along with one day a week at City College Birmingham. The mix of college and onsite work is ideal for trainee service engineers.

“My first job was at the National Indoor Arena and International Convention Centre in Birmingham. It’s a vast site with lots of walk-in refrigeration equipment, as well as large air conditioning units. Now I’m in charge of servicing and maintaining the entire site’s refrigeration and air conditioning equipment.

“My experiences of this industry have all been extremely positive and I have clear plans for my future. After a gap year to train for an international competition, I will be returning to college in September to do my Advanced Modern Apprenticeship.

“My advice to anyone planning to enter a career in building services engineering would be - go for it! It is a good trade, you don’t just learn one skill, you learn a variety - plumbing, electrics, air conditioning, refrigeration, health and safety, etc.”



*David has worked for York for three and a half years*