



August 2016

Nearly 1 year on for our Engineering Apprentices

In September 2015, Heat Trace employed two Engineering Apprentices, George Warner and Lewis Houghton. Now, one year into their Apprenticeship, they have both had a diverse experience within Heat Trace's Engineering Departments.

We received over 65 applications from across the North West for the roles. HR Manager, Nicola Scappaticci-Fletcher and Managing Director, Dan Berrisford, selected 16 candidates to attend an assessment day at the Helsby factory. Both Apprentices attended the assessment day that consisted of a presentation from Dan, a group exercise, a question and answer session and an interview.

Both George and Lewis joined Heat Trace after completing their GCSE's. George completed his GCSE's at Neston High School and Lewis completed his GCSE's at Helsby High School. Currently, George and Lewis go to Mid Cheshire College, studying a 3 year, Level 3 Engineering Course on a day release basis and work at our Helsby factory.



George's Apprenticeship Experience:

"I've always been interested in Engineering, throughout high school in my Design Technology lessons from year 7 – 9. I am always enthusiastic and want to improve my Engineering knowledge. When it came to picking my options on what subjects to take for my GCSE's, I was delighted to see that my school (Neston High School) offered a Level 1 and Level 2 BTEC Diploma in Engineering, it was inevitable that I would choose this course. Throughout the course I tried my hardest and developed a great relationship with the staff and my teachers in the Engineering Department. As a result, I was successful in obtaining a Distinction* in Engineering.

After finishing my GCSE's, I was confident that Engineering was the occupation in which I was most interested, and it was the path I wanted to follow. Therefore, I began to look around for an Engineering Apprenticeship, that is when I applied to attend the selection process for Heat Trace. I was delighted to be accepted by Heat Trace, giving me a huge opportunity to pursue an Engineering career.

When I first started at Heat Trace it was a very daunting feeling, going into the world of work at only 16, however, I couldn't have picked a better company. All the staff were welcoming and made me feel at home. Everyone was willing to assist me and pass on their knowledge to help me develop as a Heat Trace employee.

Now, nearly one year on, I have nearly finished my first year with Heat Trace and I have completed the PEO (Performing Engineering Operations) course at Mid Cheshire College. After summer I will begin the Level 3 Electrical Engineering course. In addition to college, my time in the factory has been very educational and I have learnt multiple new skills. I have spent time in production; learning how the cable is produced and what factors affect the quality of the cable. Furthermore, I have worked in the Quality Department developing my understanding of what standards need to be met prior to sending our cable to our customers. I have also spent time with the Maintenance Department, ensuring all the machines that we use are kept in a good working condition and repairing any faults that occur.

Finally, at the moment, I am beginning my time in the Technical Services Department, where I get to look further into the scientific properties behind our cable and researching of potential faults and how they can be prevented." George Warner

Lewis's Apprenticeship Experience:

"Throughout my life I have always had an interest in activities that involved me upgrading my hands-on skills and practical knowledge. Sport has always been a main part of my life such as rugby, football, badminton, golf and general exercise. At a young age, I started working alongside my Dad at the builder's yard doing general labouring to earn extra money over the weekend. Once I completed my GCSE's I always knew I wanted to go straight into a working lifestyle because I was more practical and hands-on compared with academic roles. Therefore, I ended up getting a summer job with a building company called Roundhouse. I acquired different skills that could benefit me in the future. Once the summer was over I became an apprentice at Heat Trace, where I began to learn about electrical engineering in college and work. I am currently studying a 3 year apprenticeship which will cover mechanical and electrical engineering that hopefully will allow me to become a competent engineer. My time at Heat Trace so far has been fantastic because I am enjoying learning new things each day. The experience I have gained so far has made me optimistic about my future and career at Heat Trace." Lewis Houghton