



SFA Alumni Profile

Edward Green - Engineer

What do you do in your job?

I currently manage a small team in a CNC workshop. We make parts for organisations such as JCB and the MOD. My main role is to plan the work which comes in and communicate to the customers. I oversee the quality of the components and ensure that the staff and machinery are meeting the standards required. I play a big part of the design and development aspect of new components by utilising CAD software such as Solidworks and Autodesk whilst liaising with the customers to create the perfect part.

How did you get to where you are?

I left St. Francis after my GCSEs and got myself an apprenticeship in a factory in Willenhall. Whilst completing my apprenticeship, I attended Walsall college 2 days a week to complete my level 2 and level 3 NVQ diplomas in improving operational performance and mechanical engineering. After this, I was given a promotion and became manager of the workshop which I had trained in.

After a while working full time, I decided I wanted to push myself further. I applied through UCAS to the university of Wolverhampton. I was offered an unconditional place to study aerospace engineering (I am currently in my second year).

As well as studying at the university, I continue to work at the factory, and I am currently up for another promotion.

What has been your proudest achievement or what do you enjoy most about your job?

The thing I love the most about my job is being at the leading edge of technology. I get to oversee elite machinery capable of producing some of the most intricate parts. I also love getting to meet people from other companies and get their insights into the industry.

What school subjects do you think are most useful to the job you do?

Design technology, Business studies, Physics, Mathematics and English.

What advice would you give to our students to help them in their career journey?

Persistence is key. Failure is a common process which everyone experiences so don't be disheartened if it happens to you. Analyse what went wrong, discuss why it went wrong, make corrections and go again.

A big part of what I tell my team is skill and will. Skill is great because it is a foundation for success. Skills show what a person has the capability to achieve. However, not having a skill isn't an issue. This is why we attend schools, colleges, universities and apprenticeships. We are all here to learn new skills and unlock talents. We develop new skills every day and we are forever improving. Skills are fantastic but having will is better. Everybody likes someone with a willingness to succeed and a willingness to learn. Through will, we can push ourselves further to learn and develop more skills. I would prefer someone on my team who has no skills but has a willingness to learn, rather than somebody with all the skills in the world but is lazy. Skills can be taught to anyone but only you can give yourself the will to do better.