

Apprenticeship case study: Tori Macartney (Building Services)

"I am having a great time here and definitely made the right choice when it came to choosing between apprenticeships.

I enjoyed doing graphics and woodwork at school and went on to do a foundation course in Art at York College, but I didn't really know what I wanted to do career wise.

I've always liked making things and had worked with builders since I was 13 through contacts of my mum's. My dad is a mechanic for Coca Cola, so I probably got my interest in how things were put together, from him!

I wanted to do an apprenticeship and was pleased to see there were quite a few opportunities out there with different employers in the city in all kinds of trades. But it was a council apprenticeship I really wanted to get. I know they are a good employer to work for and they have the best workshop facilities in York!

I did start off by applying for the Gas apprenticeship but I didn't get it - and I'm really glad now as I love joinery and seeing a finished product that you've made at the end of the day.

The guys here have been fantastic. They've given me opportunities that I wouldn't get anywhere else - and the chance to learn from my mistakes without causing anyone any problems! I have been getting a full range of experience - going out to people's homes and tackling any number of jobs, from floors and skirting, doors, cupboards and worktops. I get a lot of satisfaction from hanging doors - I've really perfected that!

As there isn't much opportunity for roof construction and maintenance at the council they have helped me construct a scale model in the workshop. So my knowledge isn't limited to a particular roof type; the model is gable ended at one side and hip ended at the other. I have loved learning the geometry skills, woodworking, guttering, fascias and tiling and can't wait to get back to it every morning. Talk to any joiner and they'll say there are many different ways of doing things, but I'm learning to do it all 'the text book way' with a lot of great advice from the team.

I'd like to go on and work for the council once I've finished my apprenticeship. I can't think of a better job right now than making homes a better place for people to live in - and the chance to look and admire my own handiwork!"