

Helen Brindley

Job Title: Higher Engineering Apprentice DF PD Site: Manchester

At age seven, my brother left home to study aeronautical engineering at university. This ignited my passion for engineering as, when he was home, he would show me drawings explaining why a change of a few millimetres in the angling of the wing meant that the plane wouldn't fly. I wasn't interested in engineering planes so I needed to find what I was passionate about.



When I was in **Year 10** we were given the opportunity to do a two week work placement. I was lucky enough to do a this in a small engineering firm in Cheshire, where I developed a love for CAD and seeing what can be developed on a computer, negating the need for paper drafting.

Later on that year I was given the opportunity to do a placement at **Jaguar Land Rover** aimed at getting women into engineering I spent the day repairing one of the robots used to build the cars.

I am currently a second year higher DF PD apprentice, In my role we undergo a number of placements throughout the departments within DF PD and direct what the future will hold. Last November (2017) I was awarded runner up in the North West for the EEF first year higher apprentice of the year award.

THE FUTURE

AGE 7 Throughout high school I was greatly supported in my quest to discover what engineering had to offer. I was chosen to be part of an enterprise engineering challenge 'The Make AGE It Challenge', which a team from my high school took part in and won not only our heat but the final. I was sure that I wanted to be an engineer so when the time came to choose my A-Level options I decided to GE Δ take Maths, Computing, Physics and Chemistry. All was going well until I started to really struggle when undertaking assessments within my Physics lessons and I began to fail. This was when I was told I wasn't going to be an engineer as I would be unable to get the grades. At this time someone came into my college to talk about the finance and **AGE 16** commercial academy at Siemens. I mentioned this to my dad and he said Siemens are a big engineering firm and that they control most of the train signals in the country. So then I looked at roles with Siemens, which lead to my current job. I was lucky that Siemens look for an individual that shows passion and a willingness to learn, meaning my less **CURRENT** than perfect physics score didn't hold me back

> As of yet I am undecided as to what the future will hold, I currently think I want to go into projects as this will allow me to have a hand in both the CAD and the more practical aspect of the business. However I am still only at the beginning of my career so I am unsure as to what the future will hold after completing my placements.