



Apprentice Ambassadors Q&A





Eden McGlen

Press Maintenance Apprentice, aged 19

“Since joining Unipres, I have become more confident.”

How old were you when you started your apprenticeship and what were you doing prior to it?

I was 17 when I started my apprenticeship and went to college for my pre-apprenticeship, which I did straight from school.

Why did you want to get involved in manufacturing?

I've always had an interest in engineering, so when I left school I looked around to see what I could do that would help me find a way into industry. I found out about pre-apprenticeships when a college came into school to do a presentation. I decided to give it a go. I eventually applied for some maintenance apprenticeships, with manufacturers, and really think the pre-apprenticeships are perfect for opening doors into the sector.

What made Unipres stand out against other manufacturers?

I first went to Unipres with the Industrial Cadets programme for a week. I really enjoyed it and found it fun and interesting, so when I applied for apprenticeships, I made sure to get my application in. That work experience I did at Unipres was really valuable to help me make my final decision.

Can you tell us what your typical work day at Unipres involves?

My typical day at work isn't at all typical. No two jobs are the same at Unipres. There are many different issues to many different presses. But whether it's the hot press or the transfer presses or progression presses, each repair is different, we always get it fixed, but there's no such thing as a typical day.

What skills have you learned since joining the company?

Since joining Unipres, I've become more confident and put into practice all the skills I've learned during my apprenticeship, whether those are my personal skills, electrical skills or mechanical skills...I use them all on a daily basis.

What has been your proudest career moment so far?

One of my proudest moments was going through to the finals of the Industrial Cadets programme and getting to meet Prince Charles. It was also a really proud moment when I was made an Apprentice Ambassador, as it has given me a lot of opportunities to go into schools and promote apprenticeships and explain that they're great for anyone who wants to do them.



And what are your plans for the next five years?

Over the next five years at Unipres, my aim is to become a fully qualified maintenance electrician and qualify through the apprenticeship scheme to keep progressing and complete my HSC qualification.

What would you say to someone considering taking up a manufacturing apprenticeship?

I am a Young Ambassador and through Unipres I get to go to careers fairs and events such as Great Exhibition of the North, and speak to young people to explain how apprenticeships are a fantastic choice to take that first step on the career ladder. Because there are so many different apprenticeships in so many different sectors, they open doors into all kinds of amazing careers.

How has your apprenticeship helped you grow as a person?

I think becoming an apprentice has really helped me develop personally and professionally, but most of all it's helped me access so many opportunities that I would not otherwise have even thought about.

Finally, if you could sum up your time at Unipres so far in one word, what would it be?

Rewarding – I have had so many fantastic opportunities and experiences not just work and learning my trade, but by being an Industrial Cadets finalist and representing Unipres as an Apprenticeship Ambassador, speaking to young people and helping them make the right career choices for them and ultimately being exactly what they want to be.





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