



## DEVELOPING A SKILLED ENGINEERING WORKFORCE FOR THE FUTURE AT THE PROGRESSIVE APPRENTICE ACADEMY

One of the challenges faced by many engineering companies is the ability to recruit skilled and enthusiastic engineers to maintain a strong yet dynamic work force.

With an expanding fleet of high-end multi-axis machining centres and complimentary processes, as well as the increasing customer demands, Progressive Technology set up it's own on-site Apprentice Academy in 2015, with a vision of training young individuals in machining highly complicated components from a variety of metal alloys. The purpose-built facility is comprised of manual milling, turning, bench fitting and assembly, as well as a dedicated programming office, all lead by two full-time trainers with a wealth of industrial experience.

In partnership with Basingstoke College of Technology, the apprentices spend one day at college studying core disciplines, for example, general mechanical and electrical engineering, design principles in engineering and CAD/CAM. These modules are then supported by 3 days in the academy on-site and one day in the main factory. Whilst in the factory, our apprentices work alongside the rest of the established Progressive team in a variety of different roles including machining, programming and inspection.

As a result, the cross-functional apprenticeship produces an all-round, knowledgeable understanding of engineering, something which is critical to our success.

*"During my studies we have covered many subjects as well as various manufacturing and engineering processes.*

*I believe this understanding will help me in my career at Progressive and have enabled me to educate myself with respect to engineering"*

**Gabor Fekete  
Apprentice**



## Recognition

Bailey Weeks, a 1st year apprentice, recently received the Excellent Achievement in Workplace award. Gabor Fekete, studying a Level 4 BTEC HNC, won the Commitment, Motivation and Achievement Award and Adam Hughes won the Level 3 Engineering Apprentice of the Year award.

*"I had been studying for 1 year on a level three engineering course whilst working part time at Progressive, every Thursday and Friday since September 2020. My course was a general engineering course which covered basic engineering knowledge in most sectors such as mechanical, electrical and aerospace and also practical lessons on mills and lathes as well as TIG welding with basic knowledge of AutoCAD too.*

*I think it was a really good way to kick-start my engineering career and solidify basic general knowledge and prevent me from making stupid mistakes. It also helped me forge relationships with experienced machinists that can answer most of my questions and also give me a good insight into the world of engineering."*

Bailey Weeks  
Apprentice



## Applications

We are extremely proud of our Apprentice Academy, and the fact that everyone who has completed the multiple year program is still in full-time employment with the company.

Ambitious, mechanically-minded individuals considering a career in precision engineering, seeking an opportunity to earn while they learn, should get in touch now.

Visit our website for more details, or:

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

*"Progressive Technology are extremely proud of the achievements of all apprentices and look forward to seeing their growth within the business in the future"*

Steve Shadwell, Operations Manager  
Progressive Technology

## Inside the academy

To get a real feel for the pride we take in our Apprentice Academy, take a look at our recent video. Meet Neville, one of our experienced trainers, and hear from one of our apprentices first hand about how rewarding a placement can be.

You will find the video on the apprentice page of our website, or you can click below to go straight to the video.

[VIDEO: THE APPRENTICE ACADEMY](#)



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