

## Providing the Vital Connection

### Morgan Kidson, Controls Engineer Apprentice



My name is Morgan Kidson, and I am a 26-year-old controls engineer at the Hartlepool factory within JDR Cables. I started my career at JDR by studying at Hartlepool College of Further Education, where I completed a Level 3 qualification in Mechatronics alongside an HNC in Electrical Engineering. Upon completion, I progressed to a degree apprenticeship at Teesside University, studying Electrical and Electronic Engineering while working full-time and attending university on a weekly day-release basis.

After completing my A-levels in sixth form, I considered both university and apprenticeship pathways. The opportunity to gain practical, on-the-job experience while continuing classroom-based learning offered the ideal balance, allowing me to develop my skills in real engineering environments. This route also gave me the chance to learn directly from experienced engineers and industry specialists, gaining valuable insight and mentorship.

The apprenticeship pathway at JDR has played a significant role in developing my skills and professional growth. Rotating through a range of departments provided exposure to different aspects of the business, giving me a broad understanding of the industry while continuously building my technical knowledge. Another highlight is the clearly defined training and structured development opportunities, ensuring consistent progression throughout the apprenticeship journey.

On a day-to-day basis, I work closely with both engineering and maintenance teams to carry out system improvements and ensure the reliability and efficiency of processes across the plant. I also carry out PLC

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programming and system modifications, support the commissioning and testing of new equipment, and contribute to continuous improvement initiatives.

Looking ahead, I plan to continually develop within my role, further expanding my knowledge of control systems and subsea cable manufacturing while contributing to the ongoing success of the business. I would highly recommend the apprenticeship pathway as it offers a clear and practical route into a rewarding engineering career.