

## Tom Dalton – Design Engineer Apprentice



I began and currently am still working at JDR as a design engineer apprentice. At the start of my apprenticeship, I started a rotation which would see me rotate through each of the main departments within the business. This gave me a valuable insight of how the business operated as well as broadening my knowledge and helping me transition into my role officially as a design engineer apprentice.

The experience I have gained over the past few years (i.e. dealing with clients, producing drawings and procedures) is extremely useful and will allow me to hit the ground running once my apprenticeship programme is complete.

I joined the JDR apprenticeship scheme after completing my A-Levels as I thought the apprenticeship route would allow me to gain the qualifications required while simultaneously gaining the valuable experience – something which is not as possible when taking the university route.

I am now currently in my final year studying towards a HNC in mechanical engineering. Once complete in summer 2021 I will continue to carry on my studies towards a BEng (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering, all of which will be supported by JDR. The experience, alongside the qualifications, will hopefully give me what I need to progress my career through the company.

My day to day tasks involve working on drawings – using software such as AutoCAD Mechanical / Inventor, writing procedures and dealing with clients all of which are unique to each project.

What I most enjoy about my work is the variety of the day to day tasks which I complete – there is never a day the same. I feel lucky to be working in such an interesting and rapidly expanding sector, especially the renewables side and I am looking forward to seeing what the future will bring.

I would absolutely recommend the Apprenticeship route because it allows you to gain the valuable experience whilst earning your qualifications. In my opinion, this leaves you in a much better position for progressing your career.