

As we inspire the next generation of Female Engineers, Macy Ball our Design Engineering Apprentice tells us how she has entered into this male dominated industry and how she encourages others to take the plunge!

I unknowingly started my journey at JDR when I was still in school looking for work experience options. Upon looking at different places to go, I knew that I wanted to spend my time at a company in the engineering industry but not really knowing what field I wanted to go into. I came across JDR through a friend and discovered that as part of my work experience placement I would be taking part in a rotational plan where I would be able to go around different parts of the business to give me a real feel for what different operations take place. During this time, it confirmed to me that design engineering was definitely the area I wanted to pursue and being hands on in other departments gave me a really good insight into the company and an understanding of how the operations worked alongside one another.



To date, having only been at JDR six months, I have been given the opportunity to develop new skills within the working environment. Carrying out multiple online training sessions to learn more about applications I use every day to improve my work. Working as an apprentice at JDR means that a percentage of my time will be allocated towards my education. This means that for 3 days a week I attend college where I complete written and practical assignments within different engineering sectors. Whenever I do not understand anything revolving around my college assignments or work, I am always given the time to talk this through with other members of my team in JDR because lots of people I work with have already been through the same journey I am starting.

Since joining JDR there have been discussions about what my interests and aspirations are and how JDR can help me to accomplish them. One of these discussions has revolved around where I can go in terms of my education. As of now I am working through my level 2 qualification and next year I will be completing my level 3 qualification. In addition I have already spoken to my Line Manager about going as far as degree level. Within my team and the business as a whole I always feel supported and know that if I ever need any help there will always be someone to assist. This drives me to want to go further with my education and look to always improve my work.

Prior to starting my apprenticeship, I knew I would be one of few females in the industry. Although it can seem daunting at first there is really nothing to worry about because everyone, I have worked with at JDR has treated me with equal respect and kindness, they have supported me on my learning pathway regardless of my gender.