

North East Institute of Technology

Newsletter – November 2022



East Durham College



Case Study – Jason Walpole

Former student, Jason Walpole, has successfully secured a job at Pulman Volkswagen Durham straight after completing his Level 3 in Light Vehicle Maintenance & Repair Principles at The Technical Academy.

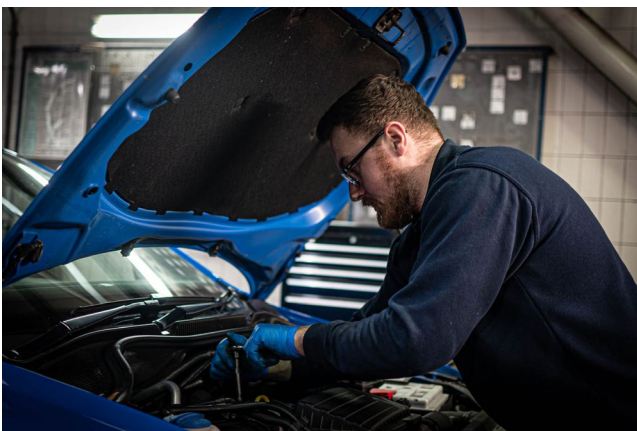
Jason Walpole, 25, from Hartlepool, left East Durham College's Technical Academy earlier this year after successfully completing a Level 3 in Light Vehicle Maintenance & Repair Principles. After leaving, Jason quickly secured a job as a service technician at Pulman Volkswagen Durham, earning a fantastic starting salary.

This comes after Laura Makepeace, HR Manager from Pulman Volkswagen Durham, developed a new scheme to recruit technicians straight from education, allowing young graduates a foot in the door into employment and provide Pulman with eager new technicians. The scheme has been praised by all in the organisation, with Aftersales Manager, Phil Arnott, saying recruits like Jason are "great for business as they have a guaranteed skill level when coming straight into the job".

After struggling to decide which career path to take and floating between jobs after school, Jason says joining EDC and choosing the motor vehicle industry has been the best decision he's made. He added: "I've found my feet quite quickly at Pulman and I'm settling in really well".

Jason has accredited EDC for preparing him to join the workforce. He said, "The Technical Academy helped me by providing me with practical experience and the lecturers were brilliant. I'd recommend EDC to potential students as the support I received was really good."

Going forward, Jason wishes to stay with The Pulman Group and become a Diagnostic Master Technician. To achieve this, Pulman has his progression mapped out and will help Jason to receive his Service Technician Accreditation, then provide him with diagnostic training.



Middlesbrough College



T Levels are the Ticket to homegrown Talent in Teesside.

Middlesbrough College was one of the first institutions selected by Government to deliver the pioneering new qualifications, developed in partnership with local employers to deliver cutting edge courses that equip learners with the skills they need to enter the world of work.

As an early adopter of T Levels, Middlesbrough-based software engineering firm NorthLink Digital is already reaping the rewards of opening its workplace to the next generation – and is calling on others to do the same. Phil Smith, chief technology officer at NorthLink Digital, said: “We’ve always been passionate about working with young people and showing them that they don’t have to go to university in Manchester or get jobs in London.”

“And because that’s traditionally what would have happened, we noticed a real skills gap when trying to employ skilled developers locally.”

“For us, T Levels have filled that gap. They deliver technical skills that fuel the success of local businesses like ours, as well as the digital cluster here in Middlesbrough. Ultimately, it’s our responsibility as employers to open up our workplaces, invest our time in the next generation and showcase what’s on offer here on Teesside – because there is a lot to shout about.”

T Level courses, which are equivalent to three A Levels, include work placements of at least 45 days – allowing students to get essential hands-on experience in their chosen industry.

Following his successful placement with the NorthLink, 18-year-old Moritz Cornieje was offered a permanent role as a software developer alongside his studies. He said: “I started out studying A Levels but soon realised it wasn’t for me. I then heard about T Levels and loved the sound of the work placement and getting real, hands-on experience.”

“It means you can really integrate yourself into the business and quickly prove yourself to be an asset. And for some, it can lead to a permanent role, like it has for me.”

“There’s only so much you can learn in a classroom. I had the opportunity to work on real client briefs and build my confidence in a professional environment – it’s been invaluable.”

From September 2023, the College will deliver a full suite of T Levels in Business & Law, Catering, Childcare, Construction, Catering, Digital, Engineering, Hair & Beauty, Health and Science, offering up unrivalled opportunities for learners. Katharine Hawking, head of work experience and T Level industry placements at Middlesbrough College, said: “Traditionally, young people thought they had to move away from the area to get a ‘good job’ but we’re proving that there are fantastic opportunities and careers right here on Teesside.”

“T Level placements offer up a unique opportunity for employers who want to shape the way young people are trained to meet their future needs. They address the pain points that many report – including lack of hands-on experience.”

“They’re also an opportunity for businesses to play a much bigger role in the growth of our local economy and the futureproofing of skills in the region.”

Some of the next generation of business leaders will start their careers with T Levels. [click here to find out more.](#)



NEAA in partnership with North East IoT - Emerging skills to support the transition to net zero event

Working with the North-East Automotive Alliance and the North-East IoT, NA College recently hosted an event that over 40 businesses and individuals attended to look at emerging skills and how they can support in achieving net zero.

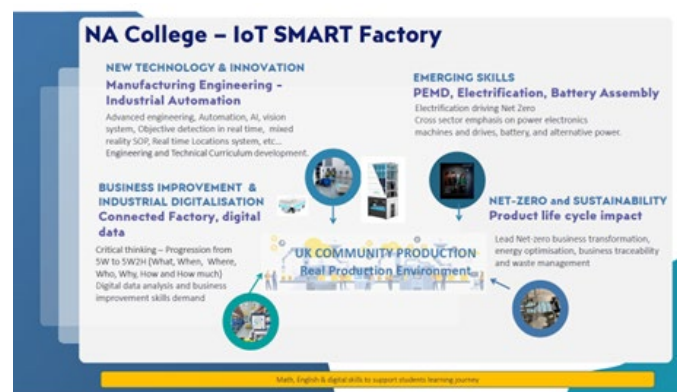
To meet net zero carbon commitments, the UK needs to invest in technologies for electrification, meaning many employers and employees will need to up-skill, re-skill and new-skill to meet the emerging demand. The event was hosted for industry and education providers to collaborate and collectively address the future skills needed ensure the UK is at the forefront of the electric revolution, supporting the green agenda.



NA College SMART Factory

The IoT building at NA College is now complete and is housing an impressive SMART Factory incorporating a range of automated manufacturing tools and technology to give learners practise with future processes. This includes areas such as Electrification, a Learning Production Line, Robotics & Automation, and a SMART Data area for learners to put their new skills and knowledge into practice. The SMART Factory enables learners to gain technical skills ranging from data handling to business improvement to machinery programming, enriching their professional abilities and developing competitive employee candidates.

NA College's IoT Sustainable SMART Factory is the first learning production line shaped in the Education Sector and creates a link between Employers' skills demand and training education. The revolutionary equipment ranges from innovative collaborative robots to the EffiMat pick and place system, each piece of technology preparing learners entirely for work in the manufacturing sector of tomorrow. The Smart Factory is a fantastic asset for the North-East Institute for Technology and will support evolution and the key challenges of the Sustainable Development Strategy.



New College Durham

100% Pass Rate for T Level Students



New College Durham's first cohort of T-Level students are celebrating an astounding success having all completed and passed their T-Level qualifications. All New College Durham T-Level students have secured their chosen next steps. Students are heading into a mix of full-time employment in their chosen sector, higher apprenticeships or continuing with further study including degree level study at York University, Northumbria University and New College Durham University Centre.

T Level Site Visit

For many of the students this was their first visit to a live construction site. The site, operated by GMI

Construction Group, is located in Bowburn, Durham and is part of the Integra 61 development of logistics, warehousing and industrial units to be completed over the coming 12 months.

The college's first year T-Level in Construction and Civil Engineering students were invited to site by the GMI project team and were given a highly informative tour, together with a talk by the on-site management team that provided them with a valuable insight into various roles and opportunities available in today's construction industry.

All of the students enjoyed their visit and returned to college with a greater understanding of construction site activities and an increased awareness of the opportunities available to them as they begin their journey into a career in the construction industry.



BTEC Construction students visit Beamish

BTEC Year 2 Construction students recently visited Beamish Museum to look at architectural styles over the years. Beamish has a whole host of buildings from the 1800s, 1900s, 1940s and the new 1950s. The students really enjoyed their visit taking a trip back in time.



Employer Engagement

TRIDONIC

Tridonic are working with apprentices and supporting the development of T Level students. Not only have NCD students visited their facilities, but Tridonic have kindly provided a

masterclass at the College where students completed dexterity testing, the next steps will be for students to undertake work placements. Ben Kennard (Manufacturing and Supply Chain Manager at Tridonic) has recently joined as a member of the NEIoT Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering Advisory Board.



Ian Oates approached NCD to develop an academy to assist the skills demands of the region by helping to support young people gain progression into apprenticeships and employment. The academy is due to launch in March 2023 and provides a "stepping stone" for students onto traditional toolmaker/ machinist apprenticeship routes by focusing upon developing those key skills.

The programme will consist of developing foundation competency whilst at college and reducing the overall length of the apprenticeship.



Ian has committed to supporting this initiative and creating a model that other employers can replicate. Watch this space for further developments.

Sunderland College

New North East Lecturer of the Year Prize



Andy Worthy, who teaches engineering at the college's City Campus, received the New North East Lecturer of the Year prize at the Lord Glenamara Memorial Awards after being praised for his journey from industry to education, as well as his dedication to helping students achieve and progress into rewarding careers.

Alongside his teaching role, Andy also helps prepare students for inter-college skills competitions and delivers interactive sessions to secondary school pupils at open events, encouraging them to explore the world of engineering and the careers it can lead to.

After receiving his award, Andy said: "I am honoured to have even been nominated for this great award and feel humbled to win it.

"Since joining the Further Education sector from the engineering industry, I have been supported by so many great people. The amazing team around me has made my transition so justifiably easy. Without their support, in particular, that of my brilliant and supportive line managers, I wouldn't be where I am today.

"This award really is for me and my colleagues and the tireless work that we all do to ensure the best possible learning experiences and environments for our students. Long may we continue to encourage and support one another as we work toward a better future for our great region."

Joining Sunderland College in 2017 as a workshop technician after working at automotive manufacturer Unipres, Andy soon developed a passion for teaching, which led to him studying his PCET at the University of Sunderland.

Following positive feedback from students and his colleagues, he was successful in being appointed as a lecturer within the Advanced Manufacturing department and quickly became an integral part of the curriculum team. With his industry links, he took on the role of Apprenticeship programme lead, delivering workshops, producing resources, and ensuring off the job training was delivered to the highest standard.

Curriculum Manager, Chris Lindridge, who nominated Andy, added: "Andy is truly deserving of this award. The Lord Glenamara Memorial Awards were a celebration of the best educator in their profession and Andy did himself and every one of us proud. He has taken the step to move from industry into education and has given 100% throughout his journey. He is always the first to offer a solution and can always be relied upon to help both staff and students without fail. He was humble in his acceptance speech but having the opportunity to be present to see the joy that this award brought not only to him but to his family was so rewarding.

Andy embodies the college values in everything he does, and this award is testament to his commitment to Sunderland College and the students who he has inspired both past and present."

Introduced by the Department for Education in 2012 in memory of former Education Secretary and Newcastle MP Ted Short, the Lord Glenamara Memorial Awards allow top talent from across the North East to take centre stage, celebrating the great achievements and talents of young people across the region in technical education, emerging teaching talent, and also those involved in pastoral care and careers education



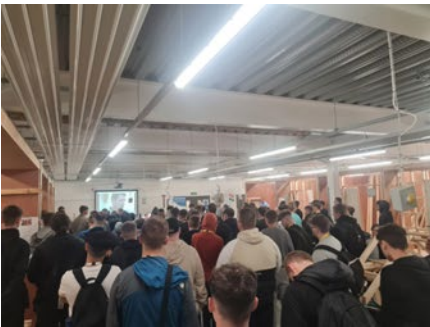
Tyne Coast College



Keeping everybody safe in construction

TyneCoastCollege

Tyne Coast College were delighted to host guests from the HSE, Esh Group, North Tyneside Council, Seymour Civil and Carney Consultancy in September for learners to have a full day of health and safety training from industry experts. Learners gained access to theory classes looking at the safety of using industry tools, breathing apparatus and also practical sessions with learners fixed and identified real life health and safety incidents in the TMC (Tyne Met Construction) workshops which were setup for the day. Learners were also shown footage from Jason Anker who could give a real-life experience from an accident which happened to him on a construction site in 1993 which left him paralysed. Over 200 full time learners engaged with these workshops and gained valuable experience which they were then able to instantly put into practice within the workshop to ensure everybody is safe while working within construction and use within their courses.



NEXT GENERATION OF EDF RENEWABLES WIND TURBINE TECHNICIAN APPRENTICES BEGIN THEIR TRAINING

The next generation of EDF Renewables Wind Turbine Technicians have begun their journey, as 9 apprentices from across England and Scotland start their new roles. As part of the scheme, the new recruits will spend their first year and a half at TyneMet College, Wallsend Campus, before learning the practical elements of the job at a number of EDF Renewables sites across the UK. These are operational wind farms such as Dorenell and Fallago Rig Wind Farm in Scotland, and service centres in Livingston, Meadowfield, Goole, Hartlepool and the Fenlands.

The new apprentices are: Conor Maver, who will be based at Dorenell Wind Farm, Matthew Moran and Chloe Atchison, who will be based at Durham Service Centre; Harry McDowell and Christopher Matthews, who will be based at Teesside Wind Farm; Camilla Home, Rory Morrison and Cameron Stark, who will be based at Fallago Rig Wind Farm and Livingston Service Centre; and Jack Spinks, who will be based at Goole Service Centre.

In addition, Adam Parry has joined EDF Renewables as part of its Environmental Management Degree Apprenticeship Scheme, and will be based in the Rainton Bridge office. Harry Grey has joined as Marine and Access Coordinator apprentice, and will be based at Teesside Wind Farm, and will complete his academic training at South Shields Marine School.



Once they have settled into college, the first task for the apprentices will be a ten day training course in North Tyneside where they will be put through their paces to ensure they can safely work on-site. This will cover working at height, manual handling, first aid and fire awareness, as well as other topics which are standard to the wind industry and which must be completed by all EDF Renewables technicians.

During their time at college, they will also complete a number of work placements at operational wind farms, before going on to spend 12-18 months working full-time alongside EDF Renewables' technician teams.

NORTH EAST
I N S T I T U T E OF
T E C H N O L O G Y

NCD T-Skills Ground Breaking



Work is well underway on the £8.9 million extension at New College Durham. A ground-breaking event which was attended by the senior leadership team at the college and representatives from Esh Construction officially marked the start on site!

Named T.H.E Hub, the new building will provide a collaborative and integrated learning space for students to study higher and technical level skills qualifications.

Middlesbrough College T Level Placement

Meet Freddie, a T-Level Civil Engineering student from Middlesbrough College who is currently undertaking a placement on site at The Buttery.

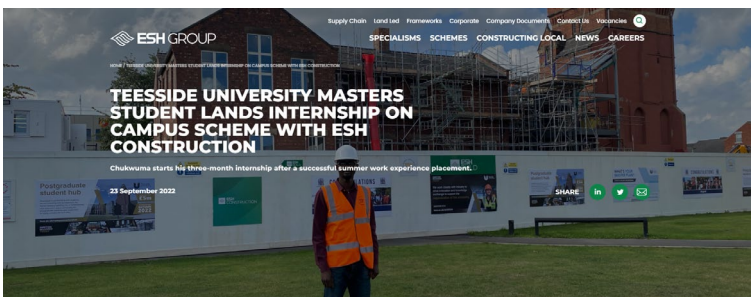
We caught up with Freddie to hear how he is finding his placement, he said:

‘At college I learn what is going to happen, on site I can see in person each stage taking place and see how everything fits together.’

‘A typical day consists of going out and looking at structural repairs, observing the on-site sub-contractors, completing site permits, and talking through each stage of the project with the site management team.’



Teesside University Paid Internship



Esh Construction has rewarded master's student, Chukwuma Ifeanyi Akanno, with a paid three-month internship after he wowed site teams during a nine-week work experience placement in the summer. Chukwuma will work on The Buttery project which Esh is delivering on behalf of Teesside University, just a stone through from the campus Chukwuma studied at.

Sharon Grant

Director of NEIoT

0191 375 4050

sharon.grant@newdur.ac.uk

Maxine Lee

Administrator (Principalship & Corporate Services)

0191 375 4336

maxine.lee@newdur.ac.uk

