

Q. You are an apprentice in the Inspection team at Nasmyth Coventry. What attracted you to engineering and how did you get into your current role?

I come from a family of engineers. I joined Nasmyth Coventry almost four years ago as an apprentice Inspector as part of the Nasmyth Academy formal training scheme. I am due to complete my apprenticeship this summer and have really enjoyed my time with the company so far.

Q. Could you tell us a bit more about what Nasmyth Coventry does and in the sectors in which it works?

Nasmyth Coventry is part of the wider Nasmyth Group of engineering companies. It sits within the Technologies Division of the Group, alongside sister company, Nasmyth Ferndown. Nasmyth Coventry primarily manufactures and supplies uniquely integrated precision engineering solutions for the gas turbine, airframe and power generation markets.

Q. Describe your experiences with the Nasmyth Academy?

In my first year, I undertook several work experience assignments, honing my skills and gaining valuable qualifications and hands-on experience in areas such as milling, turning and CAD. I was also taught skills in welding,

Q. What have been the greatest challenges in your engineering career so far?

I am still learning everything, so that is the greatest challenge. I'm only 23 so there is a lot to learn. I started my apprenticeship a bit later than everyone else in the Nasmyth Academy too, so I guess another challenge is adapting to a different way of thinking at a slightly older age. I have felt very well supported in my journey with Nasmyth Coventry and Nasmyth Group though, and I have relished the challenges I have been set along the way. I have been fortunate enough to work on some major projects which has been really interesting and I have learnt a lot from those.

Q. In your opinion, what qualifications and character traits should women have to enjoy a successful career in engineering?

Definitely a mathematical background. All those things you learnt at school. You use a lot of maths when working with machines. You also need a strong character, especially if you are female. You've got to mould yourself to work well with both men and women and you must accept the kind of talk that goes on. It can be very 'old school' regarding how men interact with each other in a factory. I don't think that is going to change quickly. As long as you accept that, however, you will be fine and readily accepted.

Q. Tell me about attitudes towards women in engineering

Nasmyth Coventry has been extremely willing to welcome women into its midst and I feel like a fully integrated and respected part of the team and the wider Technologies Division within the Nasmyth Group. It is becoming far more

acceptable across the board to have women and men working alongside each other in engineering scenarios and part of normal life to see women fulfilling engineering roles. The old stereotypes are slowly being eradicated as more and more women show an interest and join engineering teams across the industry. That said, I don't think there's enough education out there yet for girls to know what engineering is really like. Even for me, when I was at school I thought engineering was just about spanners under the bonnet of a car. I never knew how broad it was until after I left school.

Q. So, you think that schools still have a way to go when it comes to engineering and the STEM subjects?

For sure. Not just for girls either. I mean the boys too. They expect everyone to aim for university – that's where all the 'top people' go. There is far less emphasis on schemes such as apprenticeships and STEM-related opportunities within a work setting. That needs to change and we need a greater emphasis on STEM subjects and what you can do with them once you leave school.

Q.