

SUCCESSFUL YOUNG APPRENTICE LANDS JOB WITH UK COAL

Pictured is Aiden Baker, who has started his full time employment at UK Coal in Harworth, after completing the two year Young Apprenticeship in Engineering programme in May 2009.

Aiden, who studied at Serlby Park (a 3-18 Business & Enterprise Community) in Bircotes, began the Young Apprenticeship programme in September 2007 and worked towards a Performing Engineering Operations (PEO) level 2 qualification at West Notts College in Mansfield.

In addition to his qualification, Aiden completed extra certificates in Preparation for Employment, Health and Safety and basic First Aid. Aiden completed in excess of 70 days work experience at a local engineering company during the two year programme, which gave him valuable knowledge of the world of work and particularly an engineering environment.

UK Coal contacted Jason Fury, the engineering Young Apprenticeship manager at NEBA, after becoming aware that the learners from their local school had already completed what is the first year of a modern apprenticeship. After a site visit had been arranged and UK Coal's own apprenticeship programme had been explained, Richard Webster, Group Health and Safety Advisor invited 5 Young Apprenticeship graduates to apply for UK Coal's own apprenticeship programme as a vacancy was soon to be available.

Aiden applied for the post, was interviewed by UK Coal and was subsequently offered the job by Kevin Ashworth, who is the Workshop Manager, and started at the end of July 2009. Richard Webster explained "doing the course, the work experience and gaining the qualification, ultimately got Aiden the job. He is an exceptional apprentice and has the ability to go to a high level within the company."

On completing the course, Aiden commented that he found the Young Apprenticeship programme "more grown up at college and enjoyed the work experience side of the qualification from day one". Aiden also realises that completing the Young Apprenticeship programme ultimately secured him the job and he would recommend the programme to any future learner.

Catherine Hoyle, Director of Lifelong Learning at Serlby Park said that the Young Apprenticeship programme gave Aiden a "sense of purpose within school and helped him to concentrate more on his Maths, English and Science". She also said that Aiden "had matured and his attitude towards learning had improved immeasurably"

Aiden is now on a four year apprenticeship at UK Coal and is proof that Young Apprenticeships do work and that given the right learner with the right attitude and a company that supports the programme, there is future for school leavers within an engineering environment.



Photo caption: L to R Kristian Garry, supervisor UK Coal, Richard Webster, Aiden Baker.

