



Inspirational Apprenticeship Stories



Morgan Tabb - Fitter/Welder (Recent Apprentice)

At 16 I was looking for an apprenticeship in engineering, and Whale Tankers came to light. I completed my two stage interview and was offered the job with a big smile. My parents got shown around the factory too! From there my journey started with whale, commencing a full year at college, learning the trade and then received my first ever toolbox. The skills and confidence I have achieved over the last 5 years has allowed me to gain vital knowledge for me to successfully progress within my role. Now that I have finished my apprenticeship, I'm fully qualified in Level 3 Plate Welder and have been given the opportunity to progress further.

I am currently working in the Crane house dealing with hydraulics, vacuum circuits, water circuits and much more. I really enjoy using the plasma cutter to create big holes in the tank to then weld pipework in!



Jamie Timmins – Tank House Supervisor and Apprentice Mentor

I was employed by Whale Tankers after doing a weeks works experience for my Engineering college course.

Whale employed me as a modern apprentice in 1999. I had the opportunity within the company to see every side of the business from working in the drawing office to seeing how the stores area works within our logistic team.

After completing my tour of the factory I settled in the main production area of the business where I learned the various amount of skills, mainly fabrication and welding but due to our various vehicle types I had to have knowledge in mechanical fitting, hydraulic pneumatics and basic electrical knowledge.

I would say that how Whale set me up as an apprentice, they gave me the skills to progress in my work and become a valued member of the team.

After completing my apprenticeship, I had the opportunity to become the apprentice mentor on the shop floor helping improve the structure of the scheme. Over the years we improved the scheme and we now have number of apprentices being in high positions within the company which I am really proud of.

My career also progressed as now I am a manager of a section at Whale and I am still involved in the apprentice scheme within the company.



Matt Broadhurst – Manufacturing Manager

The apprenticeship scheme provided by Whale Tankers provided me with the platform to learn practical skills, understand key engineering principles & gain workplace experience.



The education and training provided both at college and within the workplace has been essential in providing practical welding & fabrication skills, theoretical engineering knowledge and Whale Tankers process / product knowledge.

The skills, knowledge and experience gained through the apprenticeship programme have provided me with the necessary tools to support our current business objectives and allow continuous personal & career development throughout my time at Whale Tankers.

In my 10 years at Whale I have had the opportunity to fulfil my ambition and progress within the company. Within this time I have progressed from the foundation of the business as an apprentice to Manufacturing Manager. From my experience of the apprentice route I would encourage and support others to explore the opportunities that are available through the apprenticeship scheme.



Luke Choudhury – Test Pad Supervisor

I got an apprenticeship at Whale as a welder/fabricator and studied at college in Leamington throughout my time as an apprentice. I began working in the Crane House at the start of my apprenticeship and enjoyed it being hands on and creative with the fabrication work I was doing. For the first year I was permanently at college and the second year was one day a week, spending the other four days a week learning on the job how to build the trucks. We received yearly pay increases in relation to meeting our targets set by work and college.

After I completed my apprenticeship I changed roles within the business and joined the technical department as a design engineer, using the skills I had learnt on the shop floor and putting them into CAD software like Solidworks to aid the design process of the trucks. I spent roughly a year in technical before moving to a new role as a supervisor on the test pad, which I still enjoy today after two years in the job. My previous experiences during my apprenticeship and the years after have helped me to progress in the business.



Ethan Burton – (Current Apprentice)

Hi I'm Ethan and currently undertaking my second year of my apprenticeship as a welder at Whale Tankers. During my first year I spent the majority of time at college learning the basic skills needed for welding and some further additional skills like CAD and project management. When entering into my second year I was hesitant if I would be capable of the job, however everyone at whale was always willing to help and advance my knowledge and skills to meet the requirements. My second year so far has been extremely enjoyable spending most of my time on the job and now I'm looking forward to the future to see what more Whale has in store!