

Apprentice Joiners Build On Success With Local Firm

It's always good to hear about success stories from people undertaking a study programme with the College, or a local employer who has direct experience working with our learners. Thanks to Andrew Davis at Tomsett Joinery in Yeovil for his feedback:

"Over the 30 years or so that I have been in the joinery trade, it's been increasingly worrying about the lack of young people breaking into the trade.

I left school at 16 and walked straight into a 4 year apprenticeship with Frank Hodder Joinery in Yeovil. After spending the next 15 years in 4 other jobs, I decided it was time to set up on my own. This was when I first realised that there was a lack of young people going into joinery and having a skill for life.

I kept my company running for 10 years, during which time, I did have 1 successful lad as an apprentice who is now trading by himself, so all the skills he was shown and learnt with me are now paying him back.

I have now taken the role of Workshop Manager at Tomsett Joinery in Yeovil. This is where the association with Yeovil College has started. When I started we had Jack Scriven who was on a 2-year apprenticeship with the College, supported by CITB. He is now a very confident joiner capable of windows, door frames, and doors. He will soon be starting the world of staircases.

Along with Jack we have another success story to follow, in Adam Kellock. He had already done a year full time at college. I was contacted by the College to say that Adam was looking for a placement to continue his path into joinery. After a meeting with Adam, I gave him a 2 week work experience placement. This was to give him an insight into our company and for me to see if he would fit in.

The 2 weeks went really well, and I then offered Adam a job as an apprentice joiner.

He accepted and now we are on the steps for the training to start and another joiner to roll off the production line.

I am really grateful to David Little, Sue Smith and Duncan Richards, who have made the job for Adam happen. Over the next few years I hope that both Jack and Adam continue to succeed with the company, and we can push forward as a unit."

