

DANIEL BILL

Apprentice Heating & Ventilation Engineer
Engineering



"ONE OF THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING AN APPRENTICE IS THE ON-SITE EXPERIENCE – THERE IS NO BETTER WAY TO LEARN THAN HAVING TO DO A TASK FIRST HAND."

WHAT MADE YOU APPLY FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP?

I applied for an apprenticeship because I was keen to leave school and experience a new challenge in a working environment, where I could learn on site whilst also gaining an academic qualification.

WHY DID YOU APPLY TO NG BAILEY?

My family has always been involved in construction and the business stood out to me as they are family owned and have great values. I read about how the business started as a small electrical company and grew to a leader in its field, which appealed to me as I could see NG Bailey was keen to invest in its future and there were good career opportunities available.

WHAT WOULD YOUR TOP TIP BE FOR ANYONE APPLYING FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP ROLE?

A top tip for applying would be to do your research on the position you wish to apply for as it is important that you know exactly what your job will entail. Do not be afraid to ask questions. Also, do not let your age hold you back – during the application stages I was only 16 and not once did I feel at a disadvantage for being so young and inexperienced.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF BEING AN APPRENTICE?

One of the advantages of being an apprentice is the on-site experience. There is no better way to learn than having to do a task first hand. Having the knowledge is great but also knowing how to carry out an installation is where site experience is key. The apprenticeship scheme with NG Bailey is great. You have someone to speak to at all times and there are progress reviews, which allow you to reflect on yourself and the work you have done and set more goals and targets to achieve throughout each year. Attending college is another aspect I enjoy as you get to meet more people who are learning the same skills as you.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR APPRENTICESHIP?

The biggest challenge in my apprenticeship was online study at the start of my first year due to Covid. This made the learning process harder, especially since everything I was learning was

new. Once I was able to go into college the learning aspect became a lot easier to understand and made it a lot more enjoyable.

WHAT PART OF THE ROLE GIVES YOU THE MOST PERSONAL SATISFACTION?

The part of my role that gives me the most satisfaction is testing. This is when all the water goes into the pipework fitted and withstands the pressure desired. It's a great feeling, knowing that after many days of hard work and problem solving, I get to see my installations are fit for purpose.

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL DAY LOOK LIKE?

A typical day for me is arriving at the compound and having a chat with my co-workers before heading on to site around 7:30am. We then have a daily briefing before being given a task to complete. For me this will normally involve fitting pipework, crimping, making up valve sets, setting out bracketry and testing. On my current site, some of the rooms are empty at present, which enables me to see what progress has been made after each day.

WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO IN YOUR APPRENTICESHIP?

I am most looking forward to achieving my certificate and knowing that after four years of hard work I was able to succeed in my studies. I would then like to further develop my skills and become more independent on site. In the following years with NG Bailey I would like to take the opportunity to develop my career as I know there are options to further enhance my abilities and knowledge within the company.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT AS PART OF THE APPRENTICESHIP?

My greatest achievement would be passing all my third-year tests first time. This was a proud moment for me as the theory work is very challenging and I put a lot of effort into my studies. It also meant I didn't need to re-sit anything, which allowed me to have more time to focus on my welding skills and improve in this area.