



**SOUTH DEVON
University
Technical
College**

in Engineering, Water and the Environment



**Environment
Agency**

Connected Employer Focus: Environment Agency

The Environment Agency is keenly interested in the developing opportunities that our partnership offers in preparing our students for a fulfilling and impactful career in Science. Engagement in our transition activities, input to our recruitment and admissions activities, mentoring, curriculum design, careers talks and work experience have presented a model of truly connected and integrated involvement in the education of South Devon UTC students.

James Trout, Laboratory Manager at the Environment Agency, commented:

“The Environment Agencies National Laboratory service employ 85 technical staff locally. Part of maintaining a

successful and thriving analytical service is to ensure we engage with the next generation of scientists and technicians. We are keen to encourage this talent to see the Environment Agency as a potential route for their career.”

James continued: “We have recently completed our first round of apprenticeships with all our apprentices completing their studies and achieving permanent employment within our Laboratories.

We have been so impressed with our apprentices’ skills and determination and will be recruiting again in the summer. We support South Devon UTC with work experience and all the students who have come to learn with us have displayed commitment and professionalism.”



James Trout, Chair of Governors, South Devon UTC



EA Student Transition Event

Work Experience

The laboratory monitors levels of environmental pollution across the country and receives samples. Our partnership with the Environment Agency has enabled Dylan to take up the opportunity to experience a working week in a high-paced and challenging laboratory setting.

Dylan B, Year 13 Applied Scientist, enjoyed his week working with over scientists at the National Laboratories based in Starcross, Devon. “I really enjoyed the experience. The whole company surprised me. I wasn’t expecting it to be as big as it was and was very different to every other work-place I have worked in. I was able to get a real feel for the work the Scientists do in this Industry Sector”.

Andrew Welham comments “The fact that Dylan did a work placement at the EA gave the agency a chance to see how he fitted in with the team. Our team is so much under pressure, the requirement to fit in with the team is so important.”



Dylan Bayliss, Work Experience, National Laboratory

25th to 29th March 2019

Monday Metals	Dylan worked with scientist, Andrew Welham analyzing samples for metals such as Mercury, Cadmium, Aluminum, Lead, Zinc and Copper. He prepared the samples using the Aqua-Regia method where the metals are dissolved in Nitric and Hydrochloric Acid bringing them to solution for analysis.
Tuesday Organics	The Organics team will work to ensure that standards are met and test for chemical waste of an organic nature. Dylan prepared 25 samples for chemical analysis..
Wednesday Inorganics	Dylan applied his technical skills to determine the quantity of inorganic pollutant in waste samples. In this local area slurry, is a key pollutant and Dylan’s work helped to ensure safe and hazard-free disposal.

Thursday Bacteriology	Dylan filtered samples to check for levels of e-coli in samples and prepared filter papers on selective e-coli agar plates.
Friday Quality Standards	The production of quality samples will enable comparison against measured acceptable standards and is a core stage in the process of identifying levels of pollutants. Dylan worked with the QA team to setup the quality samples.

Employer Led Careers and Guidance Workshop

Drawing attention to the national awareness on Apprenticeships, the Work Ready Day aimed to prepare the students for an Apprenticeship pathway and in partnership with leading South West employers to encourage students to consider apprenticeships.

Students had the opportunity to meet current apprentices who are working for a range of local employers including the

Environment Agency, MB Aerospace and South West Water, meet potential apprentice employers and attend a series of workshops designed to help students make the right choice when it comes to choosing an option post college.

Interview skills workshops will be led by Strata, MB Aerospace, South West Water and Valeport.

Young people interested in a career in STEM will have the opportunity to perfect their interview skills with some of the South West's leading employers, giving them the best chance of securing an apprenticeship after leaving South Devon UTC.

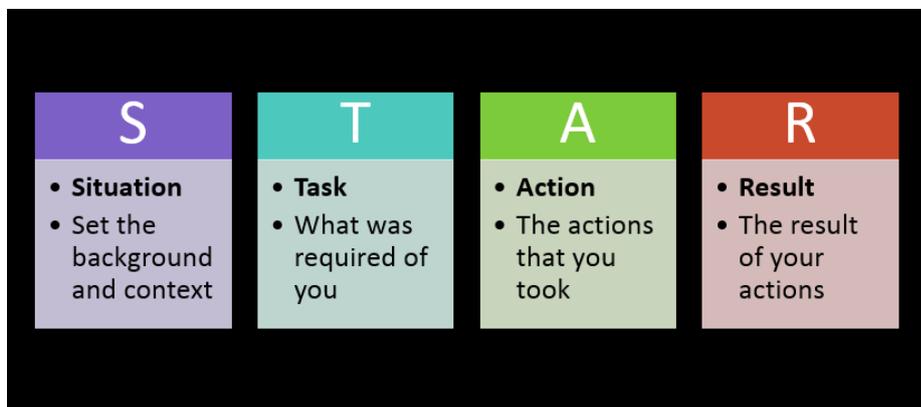


Careers Workshop: Interview and Shortlisting Success



Andrew Welham met with Year 12 and 13 Science students to share his advice and guidance to ensure success at interview. His experience has enabled our students to be better prepared for the challenge of the selection process in all applications for apprenticeships and employment. They gained an insight into the selection process and advice on how to best showcase their personal qualities, skills and attributes giving

them advice on preparation and planning, relaxation techniques, responding to challenging questions and role-play, curve-ball questions and ways to present specialist skills and projects to the interviewer.



STAR Method for Interview Success