



**SOUTH DEVON  
University  
Technical  
College**

in Engineering, Water and the Environment

## Connected Employer Focus: MB Aerospace



MB Aerospace is keenly interested in the developing opportunities that our partnership offers in preparing our students for a fulfilling and impactful career in Engineering. 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.

## 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



*Work Ready Day*

skills with some of the South West's leading employers, giving them the best chance of securing an apprenticeship after leaving South Devon UTC.

## Apprentices: Inspiring the next Generation



*Apprentice-led Workshops*

Advanced Level Apprentices regularly work with us in order to inspire our young Engineers. Team-challenges, problem solving and 1:1 mentoring help to give our students an idea of the nature of every-day life as an apprentice.

Prospective UTC students have an opportunity to connect with our employer partners through the “Keep Warm” events that take place throughout the Spring and Summer term. The input during these events enables them to get a picture of the application of their studies to real-world scenarios and to get a flavor of our strengthening relationship with future employers in the Engineering industrial sector. Their engagement with the UTC has encouraged more students to take the step to apply to join the company as an Advanced Level Apprentice and a number of students are embracing the opportunity to become technically competent and skilled Engineers in the Aerospace industry.



*Apprentice Support Transition Projects*

## Work Experience

“It was interesting to see the working conditions and atmosphere of a working environment like this. It was quite loud where I worked, it was something between 40 and 60 decibels. You had to shout



*Ed Coomer, Year 10 Radio Amateur*

to be heard. There’s always something going on, always things to look at. It gave me a bit more social confidence... I don’t usually talk to many people, I would rather sit and read a book but it has helped with things like if I need something I’ll go and ask. “

Ed is considering a career in Electronic Engineering and is looking forward to exploring a diverse range of Engineering applications before he settles on a specialism.

### Ed Coomer, Work Experience, MB Aerospace

1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Monday <b>Systems at MB/Centrax</b>	Ed, Ethan and Joe were given a tour of the site and were shown the machines that make components for aircraft engines. The CNC machines that make these are very large but they make highly accurate and precision machines accurate to 8 microns.
Tuesday <b>Research and Development, MB Aerospace</b>	The students saw robots used to test parts of components in the Research and Development section. They used the Arduino microcomputer to automate the measurements on parts and used them along with servo motors to test tolerance and accuracy. The students were given an opportunity to programme the robotic arm and were given the task to set the location and co-ordinates to set it drawing a simple shape. Ed had the chance to programme the Arduino.  Other work experience students were given the chance to use the welding station at Centrax and made a 3D dice.
Wednesday <b>Maintenance of CNC machines</b>	For Ed the most interesting aspect of this was to see the CNC machines in action “it was funny to watch the coolant keeping the machinery cool and reducing friction. It used a fan to blow the coolant off – the whole process was fascinating to see”. An opportunity to watch Engineers repairing the Milling machine was enlightening and gave them an insight to the patience and perseverance required by the team to ensure that the machines are up-and-running at all times.
Thursday <b>CNC Machines</b>	Working with Engineers, the students were able to see the control boards of a range of machines and to gain knowledge of the inner architecture of these exciting machines.

*STAR Method for Interview Success*