



 Class of 2020

**EAST OF ENGLAND  
APPRENTICESHIPS**



CELEBRATING APPRENTICESHIPS

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**JOB ROLE**

Welder/Fabricator

**COMPANY**

Warren Services

**COMPANY SIZE**

Small Business

**APPRENTICESHIP**

Level 3 Welding and  
Fabrication

■ **INTRODUCING  
JAMES HUTCHINGS**

Upon finishing school, James went straight to college to study for his Level 2 in Engineering. It was here that his teacher pointed out that an apprenticeship might be a good option for career progression - given that James completed the course early. Although aware of apprenticeships, James didn't fully understand the benefits until he thoroughly researched his options. To kick things off, James gained work experience with a number of companies, giving him a great understanding of which field he would be most keen to progress in.

Having formed relationships with different team members at Warren Services, James decided that they would be a great match for his development. In order to undertake his apprenticeship at Level 3, James first needed to gain his Level 2 PEO qualification (Performance Engineering Operations), gaining experience with skills from electrical, welding and toolmaking. This experience proved vital for James as he felt the Engineering qualification was too generalised. It was also where he discovered his 'knack' for his current role - welding.





## ■ GETTING STARTED WITH THE ROLE

The course was clearly broken down, with the three units spread out across multiple months. This gave James a clear focus, and taught him skills he never thought he would acquire (like reading technical drawings). He found the skills he was learning in college were applicable to his day-to-day role, and before long was a trusted member of the team developing at a lightning pace. Developing a deeper understanding of engineering processes, James proved his understanding through write ups and live test pieces - ensuring he was operating to the correct standards.

Looking back, James said that an apprenticeship was “the best thing for somebody in his position”. He doesn’t consider himself ‘academically charged’, but rather a practical person that benefits massively from hands-on experience. Moreover, where additional guidance was needed he felt supported throughout the process, and found learning on the job a lot of fun.







## ■ TODAY

Today, James is working full time and has moved on to much bigger projects - working on large fabrications, farming projects and even stainless steel welding, a harder technique which is more challenging to master.

Having battled though the stress of completing an apprenticeship during Covid-19 (completing assessments and communicating with a mentor from home), James is currently awaiting his results - good luck James!

**“AN APPRENTICESHIP WAS DEFINITELY THE BEST DECISION FOR ME - AND WOULD BE FOR SOMEBODY IN MY POSITION!”**





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