

"It is by far the best decision that I have ever made"

Introduction

Hi, my name is Ollie and I work for Wrigley but also the much wider organisation of Mars incorporated. I am currently a manufacturing apprentice and I am in my second year. During my time at Wrigley, I have already learned a lot of fundamental skills which will help me with my future career. Wrigley is part of a much wider global organisation of Mars. Mars are a family owned business who produce confectionary products such as Mars bars, Galaxy, Bounty and Twix but also own other companies such as Uncle Bens, Pedigree, Aquarian and Klix.



Image: Oliver Pile, Apprentice – Wrigley

How did you get started in your career?

I was always interested in the engineering industry. I was considering the Royal Navy, however I had a tour with my previous college around the Wrigley factory. I found this really rather interesting and therefore applied for the upcoming apprenticeship vacancy and had to follow lots of aptitude tests along the way and followed the process. I was then selected from the list of people to be an apprentice starting in September 2015.

Can you outline a typical work day?

Day to day duties often change with the different placements around the site. Therefore, it's important to be able to adapt to what's around you. Day to day duties typically consist of learning from the engineer/operator who you are placed with and making sure that you are working safely and competently with what you are doing.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I personally like the mutuality of the business. All of the company associates are all treated equally regardless of position within the business. This is good because it helps to promote positive attitudes within the workplace.

What skills are important for anyone wishing to start in your profession?

For the Apprenticeship application it required a minimum of grade C or above at GCSE in all core subjects and any additional qualifications are taken into account during the shortlisting process. However, the first year of the apprenticeship is spent at college, working towards a BTEC level 3 in Manufacturing Engineering and an NVQ Level 2 and 3 in Engineering.

What main personal attributes do you think is important for your type of job?

One of the main things that Wrigley looks for when recruiting is attitude and the drive of the individual. Hand skills, also problem solving skills and the ability to present in front of a small group of people also helps.

Do you have any tips or suggestions on how young people and adults can enter your industry?

My main suggestion is to research the company which you are applying to beforehand and try and understand some background knowledge. It's also important to try and gain the relevant qualifications to a high standard around the area of business which will help you in the application process.

What career progression opportunities are available in your business/sector?

The availability to grow in both Wrigley and Mars Inc. is extensive. With Mars being a global company the freedom to grow within the business is good and the company recognise this so encourage the growth of individuals. Having a global business also means that there are many opportunities to travel to different factories and offer lots of different roles within the business.

Why is it important for your sector to attract and train young people and new entrants?

Many young people are more advanced with new and upcoming technologies and the rapid growth of new technology means that more highly skilled operators are needed to work and maintain these machines.

What trends do you predict for your industry within the next 10 years? E.g. is it a growing market requiring more young entrants

I personally think that the workplace will be more modernised with new machines and technology which will help us to produce a larger quantity of gum more efficiently and in a timely manner. I think that Mars will continue to grow and develop its workplaces for the next 10 years to come.

General words of advice

If you have desire and a drive to work within engineering or Wrigley itself, I would strongly recommend applying. It is by far the best decision that I have ever made. I love working for Wrigley, as part of Mars incorporated. I'm looking forward to see what the future holds for me. I really enjoy turning up to work every day.

Further contact/information

For further information on Wrigley and their careers and Apprenticeship programme, please visit their website www.wrigley.com/uk/index.aspx