

*“Don't hold back as there are so many amazing opportunities out there”*

## Introduction

My name is Grace Bell and I am 19 years old. I completed my GCSE's and A-Levels at Ivybridge Community College and then applied for the Apprenticeship at Wrigley Plymouth. Having joined the apprenticeship, I have spent my first year full time in college completing necessary modules, and I started my second year in September. Since then I have been spending a number of weeks in a variety of departments to have an insight into the different work areas of the Wrigley Company.



Image: Grace Bell, Apprentice – Wrigley

## How did you get started in your career?

I knew I wanted to do an apprenticeship as it seems to be the best way to learn, instead of university or getting a job. I had an interest in engineering whilst I was completing my GCSE's but did not pursue it into A-levels. When I heard there was an engineering and production apprenticeship available at Wrigley I applied and successfully got it.

## Can you outline a typical work day?

At the moment I am completing a placement in the Quality department. My day starts off with being informed on if there has been any quality concerns over the past 24 hours and if any of them are still running. I then spend time overlooking what the quality team are completing and gain an insight into what their job entails. I then add the knowledge that I have gained from that day to my placement write up.

## What do you enjoy most about your job?

The most noticeable thing about the Wrigley business is that every associate is friendly and approachable. It is a very comfortable business to work in as you feel comfortable speaking to every associate no matter their job title. I also like that all associates are treated the same and everyone looks the same in the aspect of clothing. All associates wear the blue and white overalls so everyone has the same clothing expectations.

## What skills and qualifications are important for someone starting in your business?

The qualifications needed for my apprenticeship were 5 GCSE's A\* - C grade, including Maths, English and IT. It was not necessary for me to have an engineering background or to have worked in this type of environment previously. The qualifications that I will have received by the end of my apprenticeship will be hugely beneficial to me in my future career.

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

Every associate in the factory with stop and speak to you no matter who you are, this is a massive attribute to the company as it encourages a family-like workplace and makes everyone comfortable when it comes to speaking to any other associate regardless of their job title. I feel that because of this, when it comes to recruiting individuals they should show a sense of kindness, friendliness and to have made it known that they want to work in the kind of environment that The Wrigley Company have to offer.

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

Apprenticeships all the way. The suggestions I have to any young people eager to join this kind of industry is to go along to any available apprenticeship fairs near to them. I went to one held in the Guild Hall in Plymouth, which is held annually, and this was extremely helpful when it came to seeing what kinds of industries are out there for individuals to work in and gave an insight into what the layout of the apprenticeship will be like.

## Why is it important for the construction sector to attract and train young people and new entrants?

The majority of the Wrigley workforce have been working here for a long period of time and many are slowly moving towards retirement. As a result of this, there is an aging workforce and this calls for new associates to be employed. It is very beneficial to the company to have a set of fresh eyes to look at the way the factory is run as many associates have got used to the way of work which way not be seen as 'dangerous' or 'unsafe' as they are so used to it.

## 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 predict that The Wrigley Company will employ many newer apprentices into their team of associates and bring many opportunities to these individuals. Wrigley is a huge, well-known company and it will only grow larger and larger over time.

## General words of wisdom

If you are unsure on what you would like to do with your future after you leave school, do some research into what is available to you in your area through apprenticeships. Apprenticeships are brilliant as they allow you to work, learn and get paid for the time that you are spending in college or in work. Don't hold back as there are so many amazing opportunities out there.

## Further contact/information

Company website: [www.wrigley.com](http://www.wrigley.com)