



Ronnie Jackson, Health & Safety Coordinator Apprentice, Basildon Council



What do you think are the benefits of an apprenticeship?

The benefits are that you are getting paid whilst doing a qualification. This is a real advantage as a lot of full-time courses cost money, but as an apprentice your employer pays for your training and you earn a salary too! You also get more experience working, doing different jobs, and improving your knowledge as well. Just the experience you get and the amount of knowledge you gain has made the apprenticeship route such a good choice in my career. You also don't realise how many different departments all work together to make sure the council runs as smoothly as they do. The apprenticeship develops you, and your career prospects - as you are mixing with different people from different teams, gaining knowledge on what they do. You are always developing because you are always learning something new.

Why did you choose an apprenticeship?

What made me apply for an apprenticeship role for the council was the opportunity to work for different departments, try different jobs and find out what I wanted to do. At the time before getting the apprenticeship, I didn't know what career I wanted. So having this chance, to do a business admin level 2, and then year after to do a business admin level 3 - not only was I getting a decent qualification but also experiencing different roles across multiple departments. I passed both level 2 and 3, which wasn't easy to do - especially for me!

What has been your biggest achievement since becoming an apprentice

My biggest achievement so is completing the level 2 and 3 business administration apprenticeship, and starting my career in the Health and Safety team, doing the SHE apprenticeship course. This was a great achievement, by becoming an apprentice it helped me to find a pathway I could excel at. The most rewarding part so far was achieving the qualification. I had to work hard, and to see the reward from this gives me a sense of pride. Also knowing you have supported your team as well does make you happy and want to carry on.