



The Worshipful
Company of
Shipwrights

Case Study – James Stacey - Engineering apprentice (funded 2019-20)

Stelios Philanthropic Foundation Sponsored Apprentice

Morgan Marine, Brightlingsea, Essex

<https://morganmarine.com/>



James has made a truly outstanding start to his marine engineering career at Morgan Marine in September 2020. Read on to learn about James's background and his progress since joining Morgan Marine, in Brightlingsea Essex. In recognition of his exceptional promise and talent, James was sponsored by us via a donation from the Stelios Philanthropic Foundation. (<https://stelios-uk.foundation/>).

James was aged 20 when he joined Morgan Marine, and hails locally from St. Osyth. James left school with excellent 'A' level grades and had already accepted a place at Portsmouth University for a degree in Engineering and Technology. However, he then spotted the Engineering Technician apprenticeship opportunity and he jumped at the chance as above all else, loves the hands-on practical mechanical work.

James Stacey – Morgan Marine

James had previously undertaken work experience with Morgan Marine and he impressed everyone with his diligence, knowledge and attitude. Outside of work he's a member of the



local sailing club and committee, as well as being part of a team that teaches children how to race on the water. He is assistant Bosun of Brightlingsea sailing club. He maintains and look after all the sailing equipment and boats that the sailing club own. He is British Spitfire National Champion in 2017 as well as British Spitfire Inland National Champion 2018. Suffice to say James has already covered a lot of ground for a 20 year old!

We sat down with James at the end of his first year to assess his progress....

Making his mark...

“Every day at work continues to be different throwing up new challenges. The learning curve has been steep throughout the year as I develop and get given new tasks to challenge myself with. The diagnosing and fault finding is one area that I have been finding stretching. This is because every problem to deal with is completely different to the previous job. Although it is challenging, it is a vital part of our day to day work and is gradually improving as I learn new techniques and in-depth knowledge into different brands and their common faults.

I've really enjoyed the hands-on engine work as this allows me to visually see what I am learning in theory at College. At the beginning of the year I had little to no knowledge to do with engineering and maintenance tasks which is almost non-comparable to where I am today. One part that I am excelling in is engine servicing, gradually getting up to pace with the other engineers while keeping a high quality of finish.



Skills and Knowledge...

Over the second half of the year, my knowledge base has expanded massively with help from my College. I have expanded my knowledge base to include methods and techniques of fault finding, fixing and sourcing the cause of the faults, the general components of an outboard and inboard engine and their purpose. As my knowledge has grown, my confidence has grown too. I now feel more confident in taking on new jobs and being set off on my own to do different tasks.

My confidence with teamworking skills is still growing. I now share thoughts with the rest of the team and am more able to assist and help the others, whereas before I was more there to watch and learn.

One new skill I have gained over the second half of the year is handling and helming larger boats. Previously I had only been moving smaller boats and ribs around, whereas now I am being taught how to handle the larger boats that we see. This allows me to sea trial and moor up the bigger boats that we see.



The apprenticeship has benefited the company massively by supporting me throughout the year. It has helped increase my efficiency and productivity, alongside bringing new ideas to the workshop, such as methods to do tasks. Within the local community I have been working on the local sailing club's boats, four RIBs and a committee boat, regularly checking the boats over and servicing their engines, making sure they are all ready for what the club needs. For example, racing activities through to the sailing school.

And what about the future?

I plan to continue to work at Morgan Marine through to the end of the apprenticeship. Post finishing the course, I plan to stay with the company as it expands and grows within the local area, as we try to become the best small marina on the east coast.

In summary the apprenticeship has been an amazing opportunity, and I still have no second thoughts on choosing it over university. I'd like to say a massive thank you to The Worshipful Company of Shipwrights that have supported me throughout the year and has helped give me this brilliant opportunity."



James Stacey – Morgan Marine