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Shipwrights

Case Study – Callum Courtney – Marine Engineer (funded 2015-16)

Herbert Woods

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Hello, I'm Callum and I'm currently working at Herbert Woods where I'm on my first year of a four-year apprenticeship doing Marine craft fitting; working along side the engineers as well as working independently, my roles can vary from changing batteries on a boat to installing shore power.

Before I started on the apprenticeship, I was just at college full time without a job so working at Herbert Woods has allowed me to earn money and get a qualification as well as be more independent.

The money invested by your Shipwrights Apprenticeship Scheme to Herbert Woods has helped me get a wage increase, as well as the courses I do at college and some training programs that I will do over the time I spend here. Some courses I have done since I started my apprenticeship is a grindstone wheel course so I could safely use and dress the grinding wheel and angle grinders and hopefully I will be put on all the courses available. Something I would like to do before the year is up is the First Aid course and if possible a lifeguard course, from the company or done outside of work if needed.

Since starting my apprenticeship in October I've done a lot of different jobs, the one I have enjoyed most would be installing Shore Power onto 'Flash of Light'. This is because I was partly working independently with the assistance of the other engineers if I had any questions or queries. This job included a variety of tasks from drilling a hole for the unit to linking and stripping the wires for the socket and batteries so it could become a spilt charger and also charge the starter battery as well as the domestics and inverter batteries. I enjoyed this job more than others because this is the first big job I've done, without the constant assistance of an engineer working on the boat with me the whole time, instead was given the freedom to do the job. Then trusted to ask others for any help if I needed to; which I did when it came to wiring the RCD unit to the double socket I installed. The reason this would be the most enjoyable job because after I finished the job, I had some sense of achievement because I did it myself instead of watching or partly doing something. I did feel proud afterwards because it showed others, as well as, confirm to myself that I could do it.

Some parts of my job aren't all so amazing but no job can be, but I understand that this is needed because without changing the batteries they wouldn't be able to send the boat out

and let the customers go out on it and at the end of the day there isn't a job where everything is perfect. Something else that isn't the most favourable thing is working in all-weather sometimes it can be freezing on a boat or too warm but not that often in Norfolk. So you just have to be that bit more careful and understand that you may have to wait to do something or carry a bottle of water around with you to overcome the problem but overall I don't mind working in whatever weather because I still enjoy what I do at the end of the day.

At college I'm currently doing my Level Two, Machinery Maintenance and will hopefully go onto Level Three after next year and then continue to on that for two years until I complete my apprenticeship. Somethings I do at college do transfer to the workplace. This has been anything from the health and safety side that I used all the time or for what is planned for me to do later in my apprenticeship like cranes and slings.