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Shipwrights

## Case Study – Sion Eccles – Marine Engineer apprentice (funded 2018-19)

### West Coast Marine

<https://westcoastmarine.co.uk/>

My apprenticeship has been very interesting so far. I've gone from changing lubrication to doing a full service, stripping gearboxes, removing exhaust manifold and risers. One of my favourite jobs is removing or fitting new exhaust manifold and risers. I feel like I struggle with water pumps at the moment for some reason. I just haven't got used to it and found an easy technique. But fair play my co-workers are ready to help. Another part of the work I'm involved in is locating faults. I'm usually with someone when I do this type of work, I make sure that I always ask for help or if I'm stuck.

Last week we received a job from our customers saying he had an engine temperature problem - it was overheating. We ran the engine up just to have an idea of what was going on. We noticed that it wasn't sucking all the water and that she was wasting. So, we took the drive off because of the alpha drive (water pump is in the gearbox) changed the water pump (all the gaskets, cleaned the plates re-greased everything and fitted a new impeller). After that we bolted the drive back on and ran the engine up. Straight away we could see a difference. She was pumping more water so that could have been one of the problems. We had a look at the thermostat and that looked like it was in a bad condition and hadn't been changed for a while. We changed the thermostat and cleaned the thermostat housing ready for a new one. After fitting a new thermostat, she was running fine and the temperature gauge was spot on. This was my recent locating fault job. My foreman was with me on this job because I hadn't done this before.

I'm enjoying working with West Coast Marine and I really look forward for the future there.