



**Craig Johnstone, Apprentice Boatbuilder**

**DDZ Marine, Largs, Ayrshire**

**Mid-year progress report Feb 2022**

**<https://www.ddzmarine.co.uk/>**

I am Craig Johnstone working at DDZ Marine LTD doing an apprenticeship in boat building, this report is to let you know how much I have progressed over the past 6 months since starting the apprenticeship in September.

Since September I have taken part in many tasks involving fibreglass and GRP work including: re-coppercoat jobs, Grinding glassing filling and fairing on a Beneteau 50, grinding out cracks from the keel pan on a moody 376 and osmosis repairs on a GRP hull. All of these jobs at some point during them involved sanding, grinding, filling with epoxy filler and making sure that all was done safely by wearing the correct PPE, making sure there was no hazards or potential hazards in the work space that could have cause harm to me doing the job or anybody walking past. As well as doing these jobs I've been doing general every day boat maintenance of washing, polishing, antifouling, changing anodes, cleaning drive gear.

While doing this I've been attending weekly zoom calls with my college tutor Ross, on a weekly basis he gives me tasks which are helping me to understand and develop the skills I need to be able to do the jobs that I have been doing and will be doing more of in the future.

So far it has mainly been based on the health and safety of working safely in the work area, working safely with hazardous chemicals that I will be working with on a day to day basis, working at heights, working safely with hand and power tools that I will be working with regularly. Ross has been very helpful setting out the tasks and being readily available to offer advice on anything I

might be stuck on. I find it very useful when I send him what I've done and he responds with some feedback on points I've missed or where I could add more to my answers to cover the points that need to be covered.

A couple things I've found really interesting have been doing repairs to boats whether it be I watch my experienced colleague Ollie do the job and ask questions as he's doing the work so I learn what to do that way or I do the job with him watching me and talking me through what I'm doing step by step. We have done this on a few occasions whether it be a small gel repair, osmosis repair or a big fibreglass repair which I have enjoyed doing and gaining experience from it.

One thing I struggled with at the start was judging how far to grind or sand a damaged area enough so it could be filled, but now I feel more confident in judging how far a repair needs to be taken back and the best way to do it.

The main knowledge that I have gained so far would be on the health and safety side of the work, how to keep me and others safe while working by wearing the correct PPE making sure there are no hazards about, where and how to store chemicals correctly so they can't become a potential hazard.

Learning safe working practices has really given me the confidence to carry out the tasks safely and begin to concentrate more on the skills needed to carry out the work.

By gaining these skills DDZ have benefited from this by being able to bring in more work because there is now an extra person who can help with the work, this is also helping the local economy and community because I am practicing safe working techniques which is making it safer for members of the public who are walking about the marina and my colleagues who are working with me.

My main goal is to learn a wide variety of skills that can be applied to many aspects of the marine industry. I do enjoy watching some of the more complex composite works and joinery, these are skills I would really like to hone in on and excel at throughout my career. I have a keen interest in high performance boats and luxury bluewater cruisers and hope my career will give me the opportunity to apply the skills I learn at college to these kinds of boats.

