

Title: **Case Study
Engineering & Manufacturing
in the West of England**

Sean Cornock has just finished the final year of an Apprenticeship with aerospace giant Rolls-Royce.

From there the 19-year-old goes on to a full-time job with the company in Filton, Bristol as an engine fitter.

“It’s probably one of the best apprenticeships around,” he says. “I have friends who are on apprenticeships in other places, but they’re not on as good money and they don’t get the same training opportunities. It’s pretty good.”

Sean went to Brimsham Green School in Yate, and left after taking GCSEs. He found out about Engineering Apprenticeships while attending a year 11 careers evening.

An Apprenticeship at Rolls-Royce is an option for people who want to gain technical experience and earn while they learn.

You’re expected to have a minimum of four GCSEs at grade D or above in Maths, English, Science and one other subject, ideally a technical one.

Other equivalent qualifications such as BTECs and other vocational qualifications are also considered.

Gaining a place is very competitive – hundreds apply for just a handful of places, so you really have to sell yourself, and your application has to stand out.

Sean had to demonstrate why he wanted to work in Engineering and what experiences he had to demonstrate it. “I was always interested in cars, planes – anything mechanical,” he says.

His training began with learning the basics like fitting, turning, milling, sheet metal work, welding and drawing. Then he had the chance to put his new skills into practice by working in different areas around the company.

In the final stage his training has focused on developing the skills he needs to do a full-time job.

Throughout his training he attended City of Bristol College part time, gaining a BTEC National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering. He followed that up with a Higher National Certificate in Mechanical Engineering.

After that he could choose to move on to a Foundation Degree and then a full Honours degree at the University of the West of England, though he has decided he has enough qualifications for the time being.

“There’s obviously a future in Engineering, it’s well paid and you get qualifications from it,” he says. “It’s an interesting line of work and it’s a good company. Everything is there for you and there are lots of people about the place to help you.”