



Adam Bishop

From

Apprentice Mould Room Technician

To

Radiotherapy Mould Room Technician

Level 2 Apprenticeship *Improving Operational Performance & Performing Engineering Operations*

ADAM SHARES THE REASONS FOR CHOOSING AN APPRENTICESHIP, WHAT HE HAS LEARNT AND ADVICE FOR FUTURE APPRENTICES

Adam Bishop was 20 years old when he joined the Trust to complete a Level 2 Apprenticeship in Improving Operational Performance & Performing Engineering Operations. In January 2013, Adam was recruited as an Apprentice Mould Room Technician to work in the Mould Room within our Radiotherapy Physics Department – he was the first Apprentice in the department.

Radiotherapy is the use of high-energy x-rays (and other rays) to treat cancer. Radiotherapy has to be aimed very precisely to make sure that exactly the right area of the body is treated each time.

It's important to lie still while the treatment is in progress as any

movement could change the area that gets treated.

When a patient has radiotherapy to treat tumours in the head and neck area or brain tumours, it is even more important to be as still as possible. To help with this patients wear a radiotherapy mask/mould during treatment.

Adam's apprenticeship involved him making these masks/moulds for our patients to reduce the possibility of any movement while receiving their radiotherapy treatment.

Here Adam gives details of his experience as an Apprentice and offers advice to anyone considering an Apprenticeship with the Norfolk & Norwich

University Hospital NHS
Foundation Trust.

Why did you decide to complete an Apprenticeship?

I was always interested in working with the NHS and fancied the idea of an apprenticeship as opposed to going to University. I felt like an apprenticeship would offer a good career path whereas with University I felt that even if I was to complete a course there isn't necessarily going to be work at the end of it.

Family members have had to go through radiotherapy and so when the opportunity of an apprenticeship working within radiotherapy came up, I didn't hesitate to apply and was very

happy when I found out I had been offered the position!

The work is always different and interesting and the reward you get from the job itself is enough to motivate anyone. This is the main factor that helped me decide to complete the apprenticeship; a sense of helping people after seeing family go through the same thing, working towards a goal at the end and the feel good factor of the work itself.

How has the Apprenticeship benefited you?

I have new appreciation for the NHS as all the work that goes on behind the scenes is remarkable!

If I wasn't working here myself I would have no idea just how much care and time is dedicated to each patient.

My skill set has grown as this is the first time I've undertaken something with an engineering element.

Going to an engineering college one day a week, is really helping me develop on that side of things.

Furthermore, the amount of patient contact you have within the apprenticeship is helping and will continue to help my people and communication skills.

Each patient is different and so you will always be having different conversations and having to use initiative to know how to conduct yourself.

For example, if you can tell someone is nervous it's good to try and keep them relaxed by going about the job in a calm manner, sometimes being quicker and less 'chatty' with them so that the job is over and done quickly

(but always to a high standard) can also help.

The apprenticeship is also helping in growing my initiative.

I feel as though I will keep benefiting from this role not only until the end of my apprenticeship, but further yet.

What are your future plans?

When I finish my apprenticeship I will be recruited into Band 3 post for 1 year to consolidate my learning. After this I will be appointed to the Band 4 Technicians post.

In addition, with the support of my manager we are investigating the possibility of me going to the University of Swansea to study a BSc in Healthcare Science (Radiotherapy Physics).

What Happened Next?

Adam is now working at the Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital as a Radiotherapy Mould Room Support Worker and pursuing enquiries in respect of suitable degree programmes..

NEXT STEPS

Speak to our Apprenticeship Team:

01603 286231



Apply for an Apprenticeship at www.jobs.nhs.uk

Research our Trust at www.nnuh.nhs.uk