

Annabel Austin – Business Administration Apprentice



Annabel grew up in the Bedford area and attended Harlington Upper School for her GCSEs and AS Levels. After her first year in Sixth Form, she decided to pursue an apprenticeship to help her get experience in the workplace and the necessary skills to be successful without going to University.

In September 2015 Annabel started working at HAV as a Business Administration Apprentice whilst studying at Bedford College, and has recently commenced the Level 3 course.

Annabel has been involved with many events throughout her first year at HAV. She attended the 2016 Farnborough Airshow with the STEM team back in July and has had the opportunity to help with various events at the Hangar, including multiple media open days, as well as meeting the Airlander Club's Honorary President, HRH The Duke of Kent, at the official Airlander naming ceremony in April 2016.

“During the first year of my Business Admin apprenticeship I have learnt many beneficial skills for working in an office environment, and have been involved in day-to-day business activities and some unique & exciting events at Hybrid Air Vehicles. The course has been tailored to fit my role at Hybrid Air Vehicles by selecting the most relevant units with my training co-ordinator, line manager and HR Officer to ensure I get the most out of my apprenticeship. I have been very well supported and encouraged by my colleagues at Hybrid Air Vehicles and my mentor and tutors at Bedford College throughout my apprenticeship. I am looking forward to new challenges and opportunities in my second year!”

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Jacob Pulley – Engineering Apprentice



Jacob Pulley was born in Stevenage and originally lived in Letchworth before moving to Shortstown, Bedford, where he could see the Cardington Hangars from his bedroom window. He went to Shortstown Lower School (where the logo on the school uniform is a conventional airship!) before going on to Abbey Middle School, in Elstow. Following this he attended Samuel Whitbread Academy from Year 9 to the end of Sixth Form.

Whilst at Samuel Whitbread he completed his GCSEs, where he worked hard to achieve a Grade B in both Resistant Materials Technology and Level 2 Diploma in Engineering. In Sixth Form he took his A-levels, achieving a Grade C in both Level 3 Engineering and Mathematics for Engineers.

At school Jacob was deeply involved in Young Engineers Formula 24 Team, who race the electric car that they built at regional and national events. Whilst completing his A-levels Jacob got himself a part time job working at Greggs Bakery.

Once he had completed his A-levels, Jacob continued at Greggs full time whilst waiting for his apprenticeship interview and to hear whether or not he got the role at Hybrid Air Vehicles. After finding out that he'd got the apprenticeship, Jacob started working at Hybrid Air Vehicles on the 7th September 2015.

In his time with the company so far, Jacob has been heavily involved in the production of the Airlander: he has assisted with engine building as well as the follow-up testing, working on electrical and mechanical systems inside the hull, and attaching major fixtures to the outside – including engines, Fins, and the Mission and Fuel Modules, to name a few. He also rigged the fins and was involved with airfield activity, such as preparing the Towable Mission Module (TMM) in the mooring circle.

Jacob has also had some amazing opportunities such as meeting the Duke of Kent, manning the stand at Farnborough Air Show Futures Day and many other STEM events.

Joseph Fairey – Engineering Apprentice



Joseph Fairey grew up living opposite the Cardington Hangars, meaning he has always been fascinated by them and has enjoyed watching the blimps come in and out over the years.

He attended Samuel Whitbread Academy to study a Level 2 Diploma in Engineering, getting an overall B. Joseph also completed the first year of a BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Engineering, before coming to Hybrid Air Vehicles. Other subjects he studied included Level 3 Maths for Engineers, in which he got a B, and a Level 2 BTEC in IT.

Since he was a child, Joseph has always aspired to be an aircraft technician. He has a long family history that has been steeped in engineering for generations, which has served as an inspiration to follow in their footsteps.

When Joseph first heard about the apprenticeship going at Hybrid Air Vehicles it instantly clicked with him that he really wanted to work there. His intention was to stay at school and finish his A Levels but when he found out he had won the apprenticeship working on the world's largest aircraft, he knew it was an opportunity not to miss. He was overwhelmed and incredibly excited to start the career he'd been dreaming of for years.

"Becoming an apprentice on the world's largest aircraft is absolutely amazing and becoming an apprentice on a prototype aircraft is amazing but being one of two apprentices in the whole world who work on the world's largest prototype aircraft is extraordinary and the amount of publicity we get for working here is such an amazing feeling. Within two months we were filmed to be featured in a film. What an amazing opportunity to be working here and I enjoy waking up and going to work every day."