

Siemens Links with Leeds City College for Newest Apprentice

- Siemens young apprentice the first to attend Leeds City College
- 180 applicants for single apprenticeship
- Siemens' commitment to training tomorrow's engineers

Siemens Mechanical Drives (MD) has linked up with Leeds City College for the company's latest apprenticeship.

18-year-old Matthew Jackson is one of 160 apprentices that Siemens has recruited UK-wide in the last six months. There were 180 applicants for the single Leeds apprenticeship, proof of the growing recognition of the value that modern apprenticeships have in the UK.

Rugby-playing Matthew was taken on at Siemens MD in Leeds last September, and is now six months into his training. Previously, Siemens MD apprentices had attended Bradford College, but the company relocated from Bradford to Leeds two years ago, so it made sense to create a new link with Leeds City College.

Matthew was educated at Royds School in Oulton and had wanted to study engineering at university, before he found out about the Siemens apprenticeship opportunity.

"My interest in engineering was sparked at about nine years old, when I used to mess about with bicycles and repair them for my mates. I found out about the Siemens apprenticeship through apprenticeships.org and still can't believe I managed to beat 180 other applicants. I'm the first engineer in my family, and very proud of it."

Andrew Scanlan is Head of Faculty, Engineering, Manufacturing and Science at Leeds City College. He commented: "We were delighted when approached by Siemens with a view to taking Matthew down the apprenticeship route and he has proved to be a very worthy candidate for the company as he is progressing extremely well. From the College's perspective, it's really positive to see companies like Siemens supporting the revival in engineering apprenticeships, to ensure the country secures its future as a strong manufacturing base. This is just the start as we hope to continue to develop our relationship with Siemens for many years to come."

The college's Level 2 Performing Engineering Operations course was compressed from 36 weeks to 18, and Matthew was one of the first to complete the full course within the allotted time frame. He is now studying one day a week at the college for a BTEC National Diploma, which is a two-year course.

"I'm finding much of it very straightforward, having done maths, physics and product design at A level, and I think my interest is heading in the service engineering direction – like wind turbines or the heavier side of industry. I'm really enjoying the hands-on experience and I'm glad now that I didn't opt for the university route."

Matthew is being mentored by another apprentice, Mike Peate, who joined Siemens in September 2006, completing his apprenticeship in May 2010.

ENDS

PHOTO-CAPTION (ref: 5354): Matthew Jackson, the latest Siemens Mechanical Drives young apprentice at the Leeds factory

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Notes to editors:

Siemens plc

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* Data includes intercompany revenue. Data may not be comparable with revenue reported in annual or interim reports.

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