



VOICE OF APPRENTICESHIPS

THE INDUSTRY APPRENTICE COUNCIL (IAC) HAS RAPIDLY ESTABLISHED ITSELF AS THE UK'S INDUSTRY VOICE FOR APPRENTICES AND THE WIDER FURTHER EDUCATION SECTOR.

Founded by EAL, the specialist awarding organisation for industry, the IAC is so important that Semta has added its expertise in skills to ensure those choosing the vocational route have even more airtime given the significant government target to support 3 million apprenticeship starts by the end of the parliament in 2020.

The IAC has the backing of some of the UK's largest employers and consists of young people working in the engineering and advanced manufacturing sectors.

It is recognised by government as an important part of the apprenticeship debate, with members regularly invited to address MPs, peers and leaders in both industry and education.

The IAC's annual survey, which more than 1,500 apprentices contribute to, gives a fascinating insight into life in the workplace, covering a range of areas including the wider and changing perceptions of apprenticeships, satisfaction with apprentices' own career choices, and the advice and guidance they were given before becoming an apprentice – helping to inform the direction of future policy.

All members of the IAC are passionate and have their own stories as to why they followed the apprenticeship path. They regularly share them at careers fairs, in schools and through the media to inspire the next generation to consider apprenticeships as a career option.



Ann Watson, chief executive of Semta, said: "The IAC is firmly established as the leading voice of industry apprentices, taking input and feedback from the wider community and representing apprentices at the highest level, including in Parliament.

"This work continues throughout the year, as the IAC members speak to their fellow apprentices and engage in events across the country."

"The power of the apprentices' voice is seen by the fact the survey is taken very seriously. It is presented to the relevant skills ministers, to MPs, stakeholders and policymakers. The first-hand experience of the young people before, during and after embarking on apprenticeships produces compelling evidence which must be heard and acted upon. With the government's ambitious 3 million apprenticeship target we know policymakers agree that

apprenticeships carry equal weight to higher education but previous surveys have consistently shown the need to see that perception penetrate our schools and colleges, so that young people are given all the options and the best start to a career in whatever industry they choose.

"We strongly believe apprentices themselves should have a say in the future of apprenticeships and the IAC is a great way to give them a voice."



To find out how you can become a member of the Industry Apprentice Council visit www.semta.org.uk/iac

Keep up to date with the IAC on twitter @IAC_Apprentices

LIZZIE MOFFATT, 22, HR ADVISOR, VAUXHALL MOTORS

“When I first started my apprenticeship five years ago, they were perceived as a second rate option and for those who were less academic. I felt passionately that the right apprenticeship could be on a parallel to the university route.

When the IAC approached me to become a member and explained to me they would like to give apprentices a voice that can be heard in government and the opportunity to drive change in areas such as careers advice and apprenticeship perception, I couldn't turn it down.

The IAC has helped me in many ways, to grow in confidence through speaking at large events and create a good network in industry. It has allowed me to add value to my organisation through applying best

practice learnt through the other members of the IAC and encouraging other apprentices to become a part of the voice, promoting the apprenticeship route in their local area.

Although my academic grades were good and I was capable of going to university, it was never an option I had really considered. I learn best and I am most motivated when I am able to put theory into practice and apply it to real situations.

I stumbled across the Vauxhall Apprenticeship. This was the

first time I had come across 'modern' apprenticeships and I couldn't believe my luck to find out companies would pay for your education whilst paying you to work for them! This was the perfect choice for me, allowing me to gain the education I wanted and the work experience to put the theory into practice, I haven't looked back since.

Thankfully, my parents understood the benefits of apprenticeships as both of their careers had started from this route.



I hope to secure a permanent job with Vauxhall Motors in my role as HR Advisor and complete the last year of my Business Degree before moving on to my HR professional qualification of CIPD. I would also like to become more involved in shaping the apprenticeship programme at Vauxhall, ensuring it is continually improving and providing a strong talent pipeline within the business.”

JOHN COOMBES, 22, APPRENTICE TOOLMAKER, FORD MOTOR COMPANY

“I agreed to become a member of the IAC as I have a passion for my industry and my chosen path. I feel it is my duty, coming from a fortunate position in an excellent apprenticeship, to drive up standards across the board so that others may benefit from more great opportunities in the future.

I have always had a fascination with engineering and I completed work experience with Ford, which made me decide I wanted to be a part of such an innovative company.

I was attracted by the possibilities offered by a career at Ford; my other

option was going to university to study mechanical engineering. I have no regrets over my decision to follow the apprenticeship route as I have a great career path laid out in front of me and I am studying the degree I aspired to, without the burden of debt experienced by university students.

My father started out as an electrical engineering apprentice when he was 16, he went on to have a great career in manufacturing engineering and product design. I knew therefore that an apprenticeship could be a great route.



Within Ford I wish to become a chartered engineer within product development and aspire to become a lead in developing new, more sustainable, powertrain technology.”

HAYDEN WILLIAMSON, 22, SCHOOL LIAISON COORDINATOR, KMF

“The IAC has been a great opportunity for me to express my passion about apprenticeships and the benefits not only to apprentices but employers too.

My dad was the one who suggested an apprenticeship because he works at a local college and he knew that apprenticeships are the future but the careers advice I received regarding apprenticeships was dismal. You can go as far as you want with

an apprenticeship and I am now studying a mechanical engineering degree.

I have also been shortlisted for KMF's Staffordshire young employee of the year, I am the school liaison

coordinator for the company's Young Engineer of the Year competition and I have experienced many benefits during my apprenticeship including working in Slovakia, receiving German lessons and attending the WorldSkills UK



national finals at The Skills Show at the NEC, Birmingham.