

Providing the Vital Connection

Cory Doble, Production Engineering Apprentice



My name is Cory Doble, and I'm 20 years old. I'm currently a Production Engineering Apprentice at JDR's Hartlepool Factory while studying at Hartlepool FE College. I've completed my Level 3 Mechatronics and Level 3 Mechanical qualifications, and I'm now in my final year of studying for an HNC in Mechanical Engineering. My apprenticeship lasts four years, and the HNC takes two years to complete. Once I finish, I'll be awarded a HNC in Mechanical Engineering, and I'm considering progressing into an HND to see where that takes me.

When deciding between university and an apprenticeship, I knew I wanted a hands-on experience alongside my studies. For me, an apprenticeship offered the perfect balance between practical work and classroom learning. I liked the idea of applying what I learned directly to real-world situations, making the knowledge much more meaningful and relevant.

My journey with JDR started earlier than my apprenticeship. Back in 2018, when I was still in secondary school, I first came across JDR at a careers event. After school, I went on to complete a full-time engineering course at college for two years. During that time, I attended apprenticeship events where I saw JDR again. Knowing it was a well-established company in Hartlepool, with a strong local presence, it felt like the right place to start my career.

One of the highlights of my time at JDR so far has been the opportunity to rotate through different departments. When I first started, I worked in Design Engineering for a year before beginning my department rotations. After my first month in Production Engineering, I realised how much I enjoyed the mix



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of hands-on and office-based work. At the time, the factory was undergoing upgrades, and I requested to extend my placement by another month, which was approved. Once I completed all six of my department rotations, I requested a permanent move to Production Engineering, as it was the area I was most passionate about. In February 2024, I officially transitioned into the role of Production Engineering Apprentice, and I've now completed my first full year in the position.

Looking ahead, in five years, I see myself as a fully qualified Production Engineer. The experience and knowledge I've gained through my apprenticeship have been invaluable, and I'm excited to continue learning and growing in the field.