

## Providing the Vital Connection

### Macy Ball, Design Engineering Apprentice



My name is Macy, and I am a 17-year-old Design Engineering Apprentice at JDR. I began apprenticeship at JDR in September 2023 at the Littleport facility after completing my GCSEs. I had always been committed to pursuing an apprenticeship, recognising it as one of the best pathways to gain both practical experience and formal qualifications simultaneously.

Prior to starting my apprenticeship, I completed a week-long work experience placement at JDR whilst still in school. This experience provided a valuable insight into the various departments within JDR and the nature of their work. It was during this time that I discovered my passion for design engineering as a career path. Motivated by this experience, I decided to return to JDR and apply for the design engineering apprenticeship programme the following year.

Now in 2025, I am in the second year of my apprenticeship. I currently attend Cambridge Regional College, and upon completing my 3 year apprenticeship, I will have achieved a Level 2 & 3 Diploma in Advanced Manufacturing Engineering with a Product Design and Development pathway. Looking ahead, I am eager to further my education, by pursuing a HNC/HND. This week, I had the pleasure of attending Cambridge Regional College's Apprenticeship awards evening where I received the 'Engineering Apprentice of the Year' award. I can say for sure that I would definitely not be in the position to win the award without the support and guidance I have received so far from those I have met along the way at JDR.



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One of the most valuable aspects of an apprenticeship is the opportunity to study whilst gaining hands-on experience working in your preferred industry. For someone like myself, who thrives in a practical learning environment, an apprenticeship has by far been the best decision. So far, I have thoroughly enjoyed working as part of a team, gaining more knowledge about the industry I work in and learning from other who have been down the same path as myself.