

**Stafford Engineering is a successful Hamilton business with a proud history of developing world-class engineers for the future.**

Established in 1986, Stafford is a multi-disciplined precision engineering company servicing clients involved in the local and global food processing, packaging and pharmaceutical industries. Stafford started life as a machine shop and has grown to include world-class design and fabrication capability, with about 60 team members committed to keeping customers happy and business humming.

FutureForce sat down with former Fraser High School Student Adam Wood to chat about his role...

For more info on Stafford Engineering, check out [stafford.co.nz](http://stafford.co.nz)



**ADAM WOOD**  
LIGHT FABRICATION APPRENTICE



The FutureForce® Crew sat down with Adam to chat about his role...

## WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN THIS CAREER PATH?

Covid happened, and I was made redundant. Then I thought, hang on... I kind of want a change. I thought the role at Stafford could be quite a match for me as I'm quite pedantic and like working on cars and machines.

## WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR JOB?

Basically, there is a lot of welding and fabrication in general. I like the fabrication part, where you can stand back and go, "Woah! I made that!" That's why I enjoy it – seeing something completed.

## WHAT DOES SOMEONE NEED TO KNOW WHEN STARTING OUT AT WORK?

Health and safety is important. If you're in this industry, knowing what you're doing and what tools to use is a good start. If you're not sure about something, it's okay to ask for help.

## TOP CAREER TIP

**WORKING ISN'T ALL FOR THE MONEY, IT'S ALSO FOR THE LOVE. GET YOURSELF OUT THERE AND GET STUCK IN!**

## WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE DECIDING ON THEIR CAREER?

Do as much research as possible into what you're getting into. To know what you're getting into, and for what reason, is important. Get a taster of the work that you could be doing by getting some work experience.

## WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT WORKING AT STAFFORD?

I like how it's quite flexible and there's a variety of work. I got pretty hands on quite quickly which was cool. There's a vast range of things I can do, and a lot of learning straight off the bat.

## BECOMING AN APPRENTICE



### Type of person

- Pedantic
- Have the drive to do a good job
- A bit of a perfectionist



### Recommended subjects

- Maths
- Physics
- English
- Technology
- Trades Academies
- STAR programme
- Gateway programme

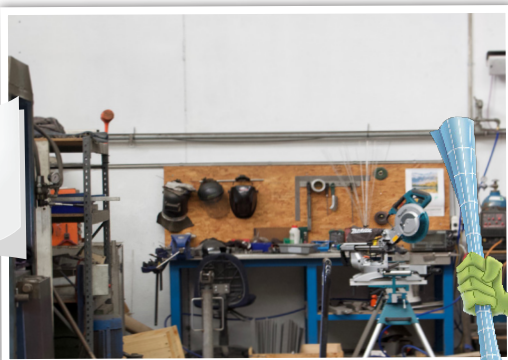
To find out more about this sector, profiles of young people like you in the industry, and career tools and tips...

scan here



## ADAM WOOD

LIGHT FABRICATION APPRENTICE



### ANY USEFUL SUBJECTS AND QUALIFICATIONS?

Getting a qualification in automotive and working on cars gave me a good general understanding of the work I do now. I love working on cars and that definitely gave me a good grounding for the engineering side of things. Maths is useful, as is learning to use hand tools and learning to weld. Get as much experience as possible. If you can learn to weld at school that's even better.

### WHAT SORT OF PERSON DO YOU NEED TO BE FOR THIS WORK?

Someone that's pedantic and who has the drive to do a good job. At the end of the day, everything must be done properly. You've got to be a bit of a perfectionist. Everything needs to be pretty bang on.

### WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO WITH YOUR CAREER?

To get my qualification under my belt and see where it goes!



**GET AS MUCH EXPERIENCE AS POSSIBLE!**



## ADAM'S TASKS

**ADAM'S TAKEN UP THE TOOLS AS A LIGHT FABRICATION APPRENTICE, WHERE HE'S LEARNING A RANGE OF TASKS INCLUDING:**

- » examining detailed drawings and plans
- » operating hand tools, machine tools and welding equipment
- » fabricating components and assembling parts and structures
- » folding, forming and shaping metal
- » joining and welding metal pieces
- » polishing a finished product
- » checking quality

