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Marshall Profiling is a dedicated cutting centre specialising in CNC plate and sheet processing of carbon, stainless steel and aluminium materials.

This includes:

- » Laser Cutting
- » Plasma Cutting
- » Oxy Fuel Cutting
- » Pressing
- » Rolling
- » Machining

The FutureForce® Team sat down with Matthew Old, former Hillcrest High School student, to talk about his career and what he does day-to-day!



Type of person

- Has a good attitude
- Good listener
- Willing to learn
- Patient
- Open-minded
- Keen to do the work



Useful School Subjects

- The engineering class at my high school was very good
- DVC – Graphics/ Design
- Maths
- Physics – not that I was any good at this!
- Metal

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

scan here



MATTHEW OLD
MECHANICAL ENGINEER APPRENTICE



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

HOW DID YOU GET THIS JOB?

I was a sanitiser for a couple of months then I got offered a placement in the dispatch sending off packaging, pallets and stuff like that. Once I'd done that I got sent to a couple of different machines doing night shift and spent a few months there. It was a year and a half before I got brought up to start my apprenticeship. I was able to make my way up. I applied for a job here years ago and never got in. Once you've gotten your foot in the door you're sweet, it's just getting it in there to begin with which is hard. It's worth persevering!

WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN THIS CAREER PATH?

My old man is doing the same thing as what I'm doing. I've kind of grown up around the engineering side of things so it's basically all I know. I guess it has a lot to do with what I'd grown up around and been influenced by as a young kid. It has definitely helped to have had a bit of knowledge outside of the workplace before I started in.

TOP CAREER TIP

I CAN'T EMPHASISE ENOUGH HOW IMPORTANT A GOOD ATTITUDE AND WILLINGNESS TO LEARN IS. IF YOU CAN PUT YOUR MIND TO LEARN SOMETHING, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO PROGRESS EVEN FURTHER THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF YOUR LIFE.

WHAT DO YOU DO?

We get customers wanting a part, or getting something cut out or an engineering drawing with something they want machined. The team in the office do the drawings, put it on the computer, send it to the machine, then the machine cuts it out. I work at the machine shop that does any repairing or further machining if needed; drilling, threading holes, welding prep, etc. It requires a lot of troubleshooting and problem solving to service these parts.

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WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT WHAT YOU DO?

The work is good, it's a good field to be in. You can travel the world and really go anywhere with it – I love the opportunities it brings. A good day to me looks like being productive, and having a good challenge. You have to think a lot outside of the box and it requires you to use your brain.

If you know what you're doing it's rewarding but sometimes it can be really hard learning a bit of the stuff.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO SOMEONE STARTING THEIR CAREER?

Get more experience! Always try new things.

If you go into any work place with a good attitude and keen to learn, you'll go places. Knowing what's good and bad for you is also important, like surrounding yourself with the right people outside of work. Your life outside of work has a lot to do with your life inside of work. If you don't prioritise your wellbeing outside of work, your career and your training won't be as easy. The apprenticeship guys always talk about prioritising diet, physical exercise, having a good social life – balancing life out – makes all the difference too. Getting too carried away with work in your personal life and vice versa is not so good.



DID YOU STUDY/ARE YOU STUDYING?

» Currently I'm doing block courses that cover a few things. These courses and information are split up between being online and theory work in the workshop – which you get paid to do of course.

HOW DO YOU MAINTAIN A GOOD WORK/LIFE BALANCE?

I do a lot outside of work. I play football, I enjoy racing. I have an active mind so always need to keep myself busy with something – inside and outside of work. I find for me that when I don't keep myself busy I go downhill.

You're always gonna get down in life. Some weeks I'll have a really amazing week then two weeks later I'll have a bad week, bad fortnight. If you have something to fall back on and look forward to, it keeps you going. Have things in your life to keep you going. If you just work and go home and have nothing outside of what you do, you get trapped into a cycle and everything gets very repetitive.

WHAT DO YOU WISH YOU KNEW WHEN YOU LEFT SCHOOL?

It's not for everyone to start an apprenticeship right away or go to uni right away and it always pays off to go and experience a few things. Don't regret trying new things. Until you go and do some hours in work and actually be put on the spot in a job, you don't always know what to expect. Trying a few things can help you narrow down even more on what you want to do. I'd definitely recommend getting work experience – it's a good thing for your growth. Even if it's just for 1 or 2 days.