



For more info on Stainless Design, check out stainless.co.nz

Stainless Design are market leaders in delivering exceptional laser cutting and precision CNC folding services in conjunction with exceptional fabrication and machining solutions using all grades of Mild Steel, Aluminium and Stainless Steel to produce high quality components.

Former Hillcrest High School student Matt Rowe is making his mark at the award-winning Hamilton engineering business, as he starts his career journey.

This is what he has to say about the company:

"The people here are very approachable... I've never been afraid to talk to our boss, which I think is a really good thing about working here. Also, when I'm learning the process of a machine, I find it quite rewarding to see myself not having to ask for help anymore. Every four months we get a company bonus which is also pretty nice!"



Type of person

- You have to be fine with waking up early (5am in the morning).
- You've got to be physically fit to be on your feet all day.
- Be able to just crack on and do the work
- You've got to have a good work ethic and positive attitude
- Showing initiative is important
- And you can't just sit on your phone!

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

scan here



MATT ROWE
LASER MACHINE OPERATOR



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

WHAT IS A LASER OPERATOR?

A Laser Operator runs the machine and equipment used for laser cutting of metal or plastic in an engineering business. They set up and adjust the machine to meet specifications, run checks and manage maintenance to keep things running smoothly.

WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR ROLE?

I run one of the three laser machines and now I've trained a few people on the one I know how to run. Occasionally I will drive the forklift but for the most part I'm the operator of the machine. We cut aluminium, stainless, steel and mild steel.

WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN THIS CAREER PATH?

I was doing similar machine operating work at my old job, so I was already sort of on this career path before I got here. I knew back in school I wanted to do practical work and I didn't want to sit behind a desk.

TOP CAREER TIP

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH WORKING A JOB THAT PAYS THE BILLS WHILE YOU STILL FIGURE IT OUT.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR ROLE?

The people are cool to work with. I got my forklift license as well as a crane license. I have learnt a lot of useful skills and feel like I am better equipped than before.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST WORKING AT STAINLESS DESIGN?

The management are friendly and especially from my personal experience with our boss Raj, I find him very understanding that sometimes life happens. If you can't come in because something happened I've never felt like I'm in trouble or afraid to tell him about it. He's very approachable and easy to talk to about that type of thing, to which I really think is a good thing about working here.

MATT ROWE
LASER MACHINE OPERATOR



HOW DID YOU GET THIS JOB?

My mate from school started working here. He told me about it and thought it sounded way better than my old job. He gave me his supervisor's number and that's how I got in contact with him and got the job!

WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN THIS CAREER?

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WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR JOB?

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WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT ON THE JOB?

Everything about how to run a laser machine. Before I started I didn't know anything about a laser machine and it was really confusing. It took me a while to be confident to run it by myself. Once I could run it by myself I found little shortcuts to do things to make it easier for myself and also learnt how to troubleshoot the machine and fix it. Every week we do maintenance on the machines to keep them clean and running smoothly.



TIPS & ADVICE

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

It's always good to leave positive impressions when you work. Even if you leave you can be welcomed back into a workplace or you have a positive reference when you're looking for a new job which is really important.

WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE FOR KEEPING BALANCE/MANAGING STRESS?

The fact we finish at 2:15pm, I feel like I still have half the day to do what I enjoy. So it's not like work, sleep, repeat. I usually have football trainings in the evenings, games in the weekends. Sometimes I go to the gym with my mates, spend time with my partner and family. So it's good just having that extra time, not just in the weekends.

