

WILLIAM BUCHANAN



Following his GCSEs at Cookstown High School, William has progressed to the Level 3 NVQ & Diploma in Brickwork Apprenticeship programme at South West College. William has always enjoyed working outdoors and using his hands so working in the construction industry was naturally on the cards for this young man. He attends the college one day per week and the rest of his time is spent working with a local contractor on private residential projects.

Speaking about working as a brickwork apprentice William says;

“There’s so much more to bricklaying these days and it goes far beyond the hard hat, trowel and concrete. Between the college workshop and on-site with my employer I’m constantly learning about new techniques, technologies and materials to create buildings that are smart and energy efficient to meet today’s building regulations and client expectations.

“My role on site is a varied one, from preparing the site through surveys and markings to doing foundations, setting timelines with a team and placing orders for raw materials such as drainage, insulation, damp proof course, cavity trays, timber, bricks and machinery. This also gives me a wider set of skills which are increasingly in demand.

“I also get the chance to work with a range of other people involved in building projects such as other labourers, building control, suppliers, architects and clients. As well as learning how to communicate and set targets with these groups of people, it also keeps me on my toes with regards to what’s going on in the wider industry and how our roles impact the job.

“The work is demanding and we also work to tight deadlines, and then of course there’s the inclement weather but I wouldn’t have it any other way. There’s a great sense of achievement in working on housing projects from start to finish and there is always some piece of knowledge and experience which I can take from one job to the next.”

The construction industry is changing, with the new skills, techniques and requirements within it so there is big demand for brickwork apprentices. On completion of his Level 3 William plans to continue his studies with HNC Construction.



CASE STUDY