

Riverside College's Recent Apprentices

Three things are needed for a successful apprenticeship. An apprentice, an employer and a training provider. Riverside College is a further education college established from the merger of Halton College and Widnes & Runcorn Sixth Form College in August 2006. Today, Riverside College has two campuses in Widnes. In 2020 it was rated Outstanding by Ofsted. We asked two recent apprentices about their apprenticeship journey.

Q. What did you do before your apprenticeship?

Megan: I was originally a full-time student at Riverside College

Sarah: I was a business student at Cronton 6th Form College

Q. How did you find your apprenticeship?

Megan: I thought originally that I would like to specialise in engineering maintenance. I then went to a talk at College about welding and thought it was something I would like to try.

Sarah: I chose to study an apprenticeship because I did not feel University was the right choice for me. I wanted to be employed and gain experience as well as a qualification. In 2018, I started a Business Administration level 2 Apprenticeship within the Employer Services Department and then topped this up with a Level 3 Apprenticeship.

Q. Who is your Apprenticeship employer?

Megan: Shearfab. They are a locally based metal fabrication company with a long history of investing in apprenticeships. They provide specialist sheet metal fabrication services to a wide range of industrial sectors. I am part of their in-house teams that provide customers with a wealth of experience and skills to blue chip customers from automotive to telecoms and even nuclear industries.

Sarah: I now work for Riverside College's Employer support service. We are the main contact for employers relating to apprenticeships, distance learning courses and the College's partners. I support a team of 5 specialists who help generate apprenticeships and maintain digital accounts for employers.



Megan



Sarah

The team also support setting up distance learning courses and working closely with stakeholders and other training providers to prepare potential students for apprenticeships, employment or full time course in the future.



Q. What is the best thing about your apprenticeship?

Megan: I started with a Level 2 NVQ in Performing Engineering Operations and thought I'd like to specialise in engineering maintenance. I never expected to be working as a welder, nor how much I love it. My apprenticeship is helping me develop my skills and I hope that within 5 years I will be a qualified welder. I also love being a female in this industry and inspiring other females who might love welding to take it up as a career too.

Sarah: I loved my apprenticeship. Learning while working suited me. I am now an ambassador for Apprenticeships at Riverside College. After completing my Level 3 apprenticeship in November I am now a permanent member of staff.



Shearfab Limited in Widnes

A word from their employers

Shearfab Limited

“ Megan started her apprenticeship in September 2019 and since then her skills as a welder have gone from strength to strength. She is a valued team member and the investment we have made in Megan and our other apprentices has significantly benefitted us as a company. ”



Riverside College in Widnes

Riverside College

“ During the Apprenticeship, Sarah's confidence, ability and knowledge has grown and it has been fantastic to see her go from strength to strength. Sarah has been given many opportunities during her apprenticeship including organising the annual Apprenticeship Awards Evening, building relationships with our students and Partners and most recently assisting Employers with the Apprenticeship Digital Account. Sarah is a valued member of the college and we are so pleased she chose to accept the Apprenticeship opportunity that we offered her. ”

