



**Reliance<sup>®</sup>**  
Precision Limited

**Are you an Engineer  
of the Future?**

**Engineering  
Apprenticeship  
Scheme**



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Rowley Mills, Penistone Road, Lepton  
Huddersfield, HD8 0LE, England

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# About Reliance

Reliance is a world-leading precision manufacturing company, engineering solutions for customers across a diverse range of industries. For sixty years we have offered an apprenticeship scheme to support young engineers starting their careers.

## Who are we looking for?

We are looking for strong candidates who enjoy practical engineering work, are computer literate, and want to further their education while gaining practical skills.

You need a positive approach to training and a genuine enthusiasm towards developing a career in engineering, as well as being determined to work hard in order to improve your skills throughout the apprenticeship.

You should have, or expect to gain, at least five GCSE passes at grade C or above - including Maths and Science.

## What will you do?

During your apprenticeship with Reliance Precision, you will:

- Work alongside fellow apprentices in an accredited training facility
- Receive training in a range of engineering disciplines
- Learn to fully operate manual machinery
- Learn to programme machines using CNC (Computer Numerical Control)
- Gain recognised further education qualifications
- Have the opportunity to apply for higher education sponsorship
- Complete an Advanced Modern Apprenticeship

Apprentices at Reliance are considered full-time employees from the start of their apprenticeship. After successfully completing the four year programme and achieving the necessary qualifications, apprentices are guaranteed continuing employment at Reliance.



Nathan Horsfall working on a lathe in the Apprentice Training Area.

# First Year

## Nathan Horsfall

I applied to become an apprentice at Reliance Precision because I had been studying engineering at school as one of my GCSEs and I knew that I wanted to learn more. At the moment I'm in my first year but the overall apprenticeship takes four years to complete. We have been learning manual machining but have recently moved on to learning Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machining. I also go to college once a week to study a BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Mechanical Engineering at Kirklees College. Next year we get to move from

the training area to experience the different departments at Reliance and I am really looking forward to working in the Turning Department.

I think the Reliance Apprenticeship Scheme is better than most because you get to experience a lot of in-house training and it is a nice environment to work in. You feel quite independent as you are not constantly being told what to do but there is still a supervisor on hand if you need any help!

**“ You feel quite independent as you're not constantly being told what to do but there is still a supervisor on hand if you need help!**

**”**



Isaac Abbs learning to use a Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) machine.

# Second Year

Isaac Abbs

**“ The other apprentices and I are currently spending time working in each department so that we can experience the different stages of manufacturing ”**

After school I realised that going to university wasn't really the right thing for me. I applied for an apprenticeship at Reliance because I knew it was a much more hands-on course, which I knew I would enjoy more than sitting in a classroom. I'm in my second year of the apprenticeship. The other apprentices and I are currently spending time working in each department so that we can experience the different stages of manufacturing and learn how the company works. On average we

stay in each department for around two months, attending college one day a week. So far I've liked all of the departments and I've worked with a lot of different people which is something I've really enjoyed.

If I had to choose I'd say that working in the Tool Room has been my favourite part of the year so far. I think I like it best because every job is different and we get to work on some exciting things including projects relating to the space industry.



# Third Year

## Matthew Booth

After finishing my A-Levels I decided that an apprenticeship was a better fit for me than university. I've always been interested in engineering and I was eager to get a more hands-on learning experience. I had already completed some work experience at Reliance so I knew I'd enjoy it here.

I am currently working in the Milling Department which I chose after spending a few months in each department in my second year.

Once you make your choice, you begin learning about each process in more depth allowing you to gain a better understanding of the specialist techniques. However, I have found that there is still opportunity to work in other areas. I chose Milling as my main department because I like how you get to work on complex parts which end up in a variety of products in many different industries- there's always something new to learn.

**“ You get to work on complex parts which end up in a variety of products in many different industries - there's always something new to learn. ”**





Jacob Booth operating one of the CNC machines in the Turning Department.

# Fourth Year

## Jacob Booth

I always knew that I wanted to study engineering of some kind. While I was still at school I did some work experience at another company in Huddersfield and from there I began to apply for a few different apprenticeships in the area. Although I was offered places elsewhere, I chose Reliance and I'm really glad I did. I think an apprenticeship was a good choice for me and I must admit, I also liked the idea of being able to learn and earn money at the same time!

Right now, I'm in my last year of my apprenticeship working in the Turning Department. Over the last year or so I've started to learn how to operate more of the equipment

and I'm learning programming so I can operate the CNC machines. I can't really explain it, but there's something really nice about being able to hold an object in your hand that you've created working to a set of often very strict tolerances- you get a real sense of achievement. It's also worth mentioning that I have made some great friends here. I really enjoy working with the people I've met but I also enjoy socialising with some of them outside of the company. We all enjoy a good night out together every so often! I plan to continue working at Reliance after my apprenticeship is over and I hope to get more involved with programming within the department.

# After Your Apprenticeship

Although apprentices at Reliance are training in engineering, the opportunity to build a career in other departments is also available.

We are proud to have employees who joined the company through our apprenticeship scheme working in design engineering, manufacturing operations, sales and supervising our apprentices.

## Hannah England Mechanical Engineer

Even while I was at college working on my UCAS application I wasn't entirely convinced that going straight on to university was the right path for me. Luckily, one of my teachers in the Design Technology Department suggested that I apply for an apprenticeship and specifically recommended the Reliance Precision Apprenticeship Scheme. At first I was unsure if I wanted to do an apprenticeship but once I learnt more about the company, I realised that Reliance would be a great fit for me.

One of the deciding factors was that completing a Reliance apprenticeship would give me the qualifications I needed to go on to university to study engineering. I personally think that I benefitted from a more vocational approach to learning the basics of engineering. It was also brilliant to think that I was getting paid to study something that interested me.

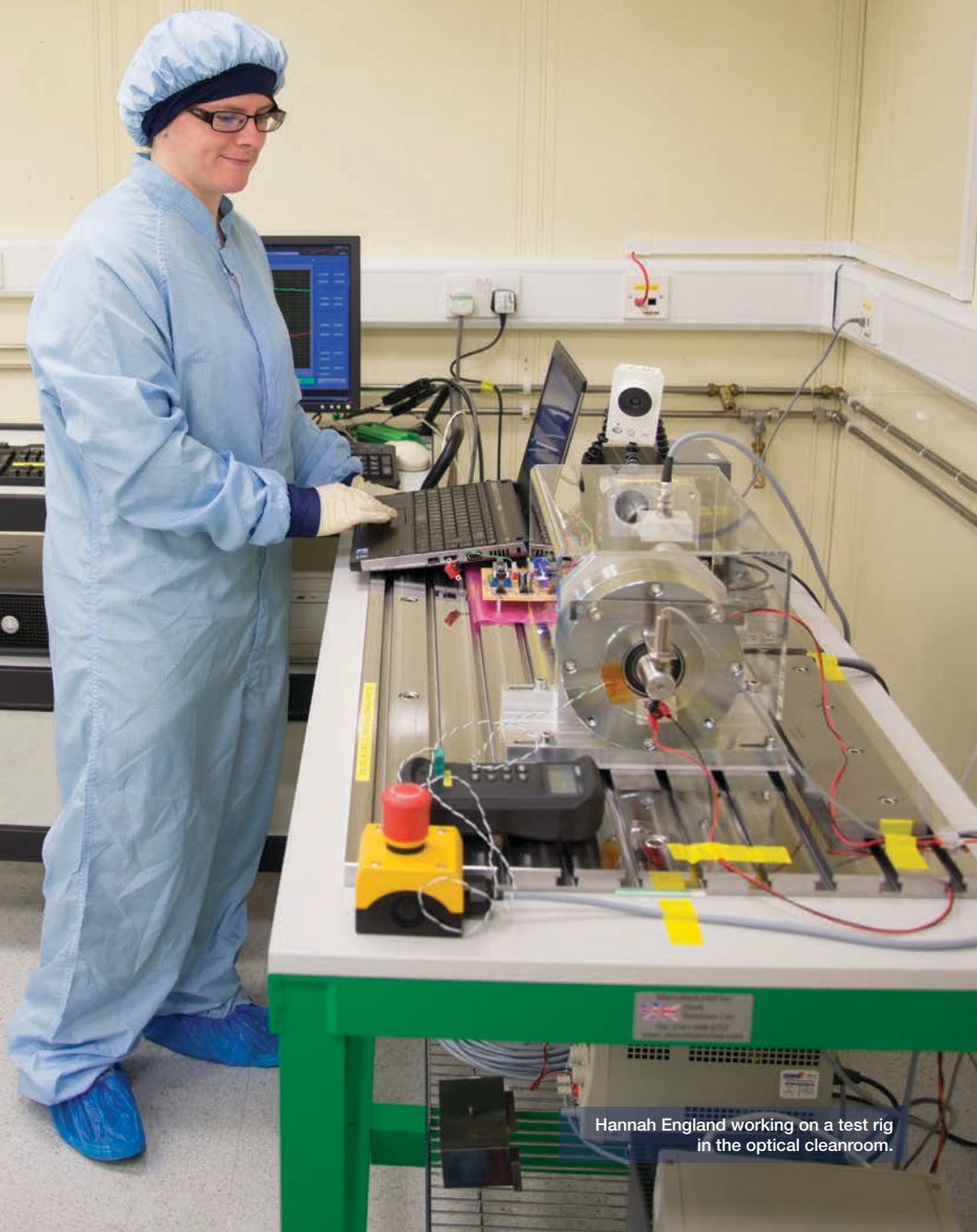
After I'd completed my apprenticeship, I went on to study Mechanical Engineering at Newcastle University

for four years, gaining a master's degree. I was then able to return to Reliance to work in the Engineering Department where I currently work as a Mechanical Engineer focusing on process development and validation of space mechanisms. Although I work in the Engineering Department my job can still be relatively practical and I'm not just sitting at a computer all day like you might expect. My role includes aspects of project management, planning, assembly, development and building for test.

I think there's something exciting about working on projects for the space industry. During my time at Reliance I've had the opportunity to work on some interesting projects and it's always amazing to think I've played a part in engineering something that is intended for space!

For me, the Reliance apprenticeship gave me the knowledge and understanding I needed to go on to study at a higher level which has allowed me to advance to the job I hold today.

“ For me, the Reliance apprenticeship gave me the knowledge and understanding I needed to go on to study at a higher level...”



Hannah England working on a test rig in the optical cleanroom.



David Black and David Torr working in the Metrology Department

## David Black

### CMM Programmer/Inspector

After finishing my apprenticeship I was able to join Reliance's Metrology Department as a full-time employee.

I chose to work in Metrology because I thought it would be a good opportunity with plenty of scope to challenge myself, learn new skills and perhaps even progress further through the company.

My current role includes programming inspection equipment to carry out quality control checks. The Metrology Department supports most areas of the organisation. It's important that we take pride in our work and that we pay close attention to what we're doing. In Metrology, we

have the responsibility of ensuring that components meet the correct tolerances to maintain the high standards Reliance upholds.

I think a Reliance apprenticeship gives you the knowledge you need to explore different specialities until you find an aspect of engineering you really enjoy.

I personally found working in the Metrology Department the most interesting option because the job is extremely varied. Each new project brings an opportunity for me to push myself and develop my understanding of both quality control and engineering.



# Danny Lunn

## Tool Room Team Leader

When I joined the apprenticeship scheme in 1999 the first of the four years was spent at a training centre in Brighouse. The course I completed there was actually designed to be a foundation for a wide range of engineering roles which meant that there was quite a difference between the first and second year of the apprenticeship scheme. However, Reliance has since adopted a more tailored approach to learning the basics of engineering which ensures that apprentices are able to work to the precise standards the company adheres to. This training is now completed in-house.

When I returned to Reliance for my second year I began working in the Model Shop. Apprentices were, and still are, able to choose which department they'd like to work in. They are encouraged to develop their skills in their chosen area in the way that suits them. Like many of the other apprentices in my year, I was given the opportunity to go to university. However, I opted to continue working, completing additional courses and software training sessions over the years in order to keep up with new technology. I now work in the Tool Room as the Team Leader, overseeing the department.

The Tool Room is linked to the apprentice training area and is actually predominantly staffed by apprentices. As the Team Leader,

I find it really rewarding to see the apprentices progressing through the scheme, producing things in their second year that they couldn't have even begun to make when they arrived at Reliance. The company has also recently invested in both areas, purchasing a new full 5-axis milling machine and updating the layout of the room to allow the departments to function better together.

All of the tooling for jobs carried out within the company are produced within the Tool Room. The department, which didn't actually exist when I began working at Reliance, has since become an incredibly important part of the works supporting nearly every department within the company. Tool Room employees will see a job evolve from a blank obtained from Bar Stores to the finished article, which is then assessed by the Inspection Department. They also produce rigs for the Engineering Department, which allow components or assemblies to be tested thoroughly. The work is wide-ranging so time-scales and difficulty levels do vary from job to job. The harder a job is, the more interesting I find it.

I believe that a Reliance apprenticeship was a good choice as it was suited to my own interests. It gave me money, independence and, for me, it was far more interesting than sitting behind a desk all day in full-time education.

# Contact

If you would like to discover what a career in engineering at Reliance Precision can offer you, contact us or visit our website.



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Richard Walley, Training Cell Supervisor,  
with Zac Danks and Joe Clayton



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