

Case Study – Lewis Osborne Aged 18

Lewis Osborne started his Bricklaying Apprenticeship with Leicester College in September 2016.

Originally working for a local builder, Lewis was then offered a job with a larger and expanding construction company called Caxton Builders (Midlands) Ltd. Based in Stoke-on-Trent, the company undertake projects in the areas of sub-contract masonry and joinery packages and also operate their own property developments division.

The company was one of the sub-contractors working with John Sisk Ltd on the New Walk development site in Leicester when they approached Leicester City Council looking for a bricklaying apprentice.

The Council contacted Leicester College who identified Lewis as a candidate with great potential. Lewis was then invited to an interview which he was successful with.



Leicester City Council, who runs an initiative called Constructing Leicester, is keen to ensure that local people can access opportunities generated from new developments. Project Manager Sandra Rieger said: “The Constructing Leicester project makes a difference by ensuring that local people have the skills and the opportunity to access employment opportunities generated from these new developments. It is a great way of helping local people develop new skills or progress into a new career.”

Work experience placements, apprenticeships and employment opportunities are all part of the menu which is based on an approach endorsed by the Construction Industry Training Board’s (CITB). The success of the project is built on a partnership with Leicester College, Job Centre Plus, Connexions and other local providers.

Lewis, who currently works on the New Walk development site said: “There are great opportunities in construction for those willing to learn. I enjoy laying the bricks and blocks even though setting out the bricks is by far the hardest and the most challenging task in my role. The work is hard at times, and you have to be prepared to get up early and wear warm clothes in winter. I also had to learn to work as part of a team as I have never worked in a team environment before. My career ambition is to become fully qualified and then maybe a site manager further down the line.”

Paresh Damani, Recruitment and Retention Officer at Leicester College, said: “The construction industry is facing huge skills shortages. By training an apprentice, companies are getting the best out of young people for the benefit of business growth. They invest in their own skilled workforce for the future.”

Further details about the Constructing Leicester project are available from Michael Rose on 0116 454 2947 and Sandra Rieger on 0116 454 2942. Alternatively, e-mail: michael.rose@leicester.gov.uk or sandra.rieger@leicester.gov.uk