

# International Women in Engineering Day

Nineteen-year-old Skye from Dereham in Norfolk recently completed a City and Guilds Level 2 NVQ Diploma in Performing Engineering Operations Apprenticeship via Poultec Training at Scoots Hire which is based in Yaxham. We interviewed Skye to get an insight into what it's like being a woman in engineering.

**Q: When did you first get into the engineering industry?**

**A:** Nearly 3 years ago. I started as a motor bike cleaner and was fascinated how my colleagues would turn around such damaged bikes. I would always be curious and ask questions. My colleagues recognised my interests so started me doing odd jobs around the workshop such as oil changes and changing tyres on the tyre machine. They then offered me the apprenticeship position which I was incredibly excited about.

**Q: What does your job entail?**

**A:** Upkeep and maintenance of my works rental motorbikes, which range from 50cc to 125cc. My main responsibility is to service the bikes when needed, repair any damage to the bikes, ensure every bike is at a high enough standard to be on the road and keep our customers safe.



**Q: What is the best thing about being in the engineering industry?**

**A:** For me personally it is the hands-on side of things. I love to be involved in all kinds of projects, such as rebuilding crashed damaged bikes. This industry has allowed me to be exposed to all sides of the field from the small things such as fixing damaged cosmetics to the complicated side such as completing an engine rebuild.

**Q: What is it like being a female in engineering?**

**A:** Although I know it can be hard for women to find their footing in an engineering environment due to stereotypes, I have been very lucky. I am treated no different in my workshop and feel like part of the team just as much as anyone else.

**Q: Why did you choose to become an engineer?**

**A:** I have always had an interest in being hands on, fixing things and finding out how things work. So when I was asked if I wanted this opportunity there was no way I could decline.



**Q: What advice would you give to any woman looking to do an engineering Apprenticeship?**

**A:** I highly recommend just going for it. I was hesitant at first but as I progressed at Poultec and at my workplace all my doubts disappeared. I grew confidence and love where I am at today. Ignore any doubts and just give it a go, you may surprise yourself!

**Q: Why did you choose Poultec Training to complete your Apprenticeship through?**

**A:** I heard such positive things about the place and its structure. My colleague also completed his apprenticeship there and is one of the best mechanics I've ever known.

“ Skye is a valuable member of the workshop team, she is extremely hard working and eager to learn new skills. - Barry Lynes, employer. ”



**Q: What achievements have you had within engineering?**

**A:** So far I have completed things I never thought I was capable of doing. At the beginning of 2020 I had no idea how to repair certain issues on a motorbike or what a specific service entailed. Now I can confidently diagnose and rectify most problems with the bikes that come into our workshop. Recently my colleagues have been showing me the steps of an engine rebuild so when the next one comes in I will be doing it solo handedly.

**Q: Why is it good to smash stereotypes?**

**A:** In today's world people are becoming more open and accepting of things. It's still rare to see a female in the engineering industry but it is becoming more and more popular, and I think that's a very positive thing which I am proud to be a part of.

**Q: Why do you think it's good to raise awareness about women in engineering?**

**A:** This allows women who may be hesitant to start their journey in the industry to realise that it is okay to not follow the stereo type and if it's something they want to do, there are other women out there who can advise them or even inspire them to pursue their ambitions.

**Q: Why are you proud to be female engineer?**

**A:** I am proud to be a female engineer as when people ask what I do they are usually surprised but then congratulate me for doing what I want to do and not letting stereotypes stop me. This gives me a sense of achievement along with all the skills and knowledge I can now use throughout my life and future in the engineering industry.

**Q: Did any other female engineers inspire you? If so who and why?**

**A:** No specific female inspired me to join the engineering industry, but online I would see videos pop up of female engineers which made me think if they can do it so can I.

“ Overall, I think this story is an excellent way of raising awareness of females in the engineering industry. I'm an honored to be asked to represent it and hope that it encourages other females to give it a go just like I did. ”

“ International Women In Engineering Day is a fantastic way of recognising the role that women play within the Engineering Sectors. The opportunities that Engineering offers as a career are vast, and the Industry is keen to encourage further women to join it. Skye is not only part of the new generation of women choosing Engineering as a career, but is also a brilliant example of why women are so important to Engineering. Skye's attitude and dedication towards both her apprenticeship course and career are outstanding. Her achievements should be an inspiration for any young woman who is considering pursuing a career in Engineering – Jon, tutor ”

“ We as an employer are very lucky to have Skye working for us and look forward to overseeing her as she learns new skills and gains confidence. - Barry Lynes, employer. ”

