

# Apprenticeship Ambassador: My story..

**Name:** Alex Leech

**Job title:** Warehouse Operative

Alex is currently undertaking an Intermediate Apprenticeship in Warehouse Operations with Vauxhall. This is his story.

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## My Story

When I left school I wasn't sure about what I wanted to do. I didn't hear anything about Apprenticeships when I was at school. I then went on and studied Electrical Installation at College for a year but I wasn't really enjoying it. I then worked in a warehouse, spent a year doing odd-jobs, went back to College to study PC maintenance and then worked in Retail.

I'm 26 now and I'm glad to say I'm settled with Vauxhall. My dad also works for Vauxhall and told me what a great company they are and the range of career opportunities. I decided to apply and I'm really glad that I did. It sometimes feels a bit strange being at College when almost everyone else is younger than me, but no one really notices!

A typical day for me starts with cycling or walking into work for about 7:15am. There is a signal to work which is like an alarm and we need to be at our work stations ready to start at 7:30am. It makes you really disciplined and means that everyone starts work at the same time. We have alarms for lunch and also for the end of the day. I finish at 6 minutes past 3:00pm. It sounds like a strange time to finish – but it's calculated by our breaks and work hours. Although we start early, we also finish early, which is great!



The thing I most enjoy about this job is using the powered equipment. There are 8 different types of equipment from fork lift trucks through to stand-on pickers. They make the job really interesting and learning to use them is a great skill to have.

Lots of people think that apprentices don't get paid very well, but we do at Vauxhall. I've got my own flat, buy my own clothes and pay my own bills. I'm completely independent and this is only the start. I'm hoping to progress into management and one day buy my own house and car.

I'm really glad to be working at Vauxhall, especially coming into it as an older apprentice. My advice to others would be to work hard at school and really think about what it is you want to do. Listen to your parents, they have a lot of experience and good advice, especially when it comes to careers. Don't waste your time doing jobs that have no career prospects – try to find something you're interested in, where you can gain qualifications, get paid and progress.