



Scenic Metalwork Apprentice

Case Study

**Name: Les
Hamilton**

Where did you see the apprenticeship advertised?

I was out of work and my CSCS card had expired so I started doing some work experience at my local job centre where I saw a poster for the apprenticeship.

What made you apply for the apprenticeship?

I'm getting older and I've not really got any full qualifications so that was the main pull for me. It also helped that I've always had an interest in welding and how it works.

Describe a 'typical day' as an apprentice at the ROH?

I'll arrive in the morning and get changed. I'll then gather up my PPE and report to my manager, who will assign me a task. This could involve making lugs, working of a drawing, assisting one of the senior workers, putting deliveries away or cutting lengths of material.

How do you find the workplace/college balance?

I find there's a very good balance, I attend Prospects College in Basildon every Friday which breaks the week up nicely.

What do you enjoy most about your apprenticeship?

I most enjoy the feeling I get seeing one of the sets completed knowing I played a part in making it.

Is the apprenticeship what you expected?

Pretty much. I anticipated that welding itself would be a bit easier but I now realise there's a fine technique to it.

What would you like to do after your apprenticeship is completed?

I would like to remain within the scenery building field but ultimately would love to end up doing some underwater welding at some point in my career.

What advice would you give to someone considering applying for an apprenticeship at the ROH?

At the end of the day you haven't got anything to lose. It takes less than half an hour to complete the application and this could be the start of a bright future.