



CASE STUDY

Carl Harvey, Managing Director of Design Dimensions

We spoke to Carl about his experience of becoming the Managing Director of Design Dimensions, where he first started off as a Trident student and the importance of supporting the Trident scheme as an employer.

Where and when was your Trident work experience placement?

I completed my work experience in 2003 at Design Dimensions, Ken Hopes the Director at the time gave me a good report and asked me to contact him when I left school the following year. Before I had finished my GCSE's I made contact and Ken

offered me an apprenticeship with almost an immediate start. I started working for Design Dimensions very shortly after in July 2004 and from then have worked in all areas of the business working my way up which has led to me part owning the business today.

Has your Trident work experience influenced your career journey and if so how?

Coming from a family background in carpentry I knew from a very early age that is what I wanted to do, my work experience just helped me to confirm that. I know for many the choice isn't so easy and can be very difficult. My advice to any young student we take is to approach the time with the right attitude and give it your best shot,

even though you may not have ended up with your first choice of placement you will gain a lot of transferable skills from your time if you are keen and willing.

How do you think your Trident work experience benefitted you at a young age?

It was daunting at first coming from a school environment into a workplace as I was quite shy but after my work experience, I felt I had gained confidence and enjoyed having the independence to be working on my own small projects and thinking through the processes of what I had to do to complete the work.

Your company, Design Dimensions, has been offering work experience to Trident students for many years. Why do you feel it is important for you as an employer to continue supporting the scheme?

Both myself and my partner came through the work experience so we know first-hand how valuable the process can be to the student's future. If we can come across young people interested in learning the trade through the scheme, then it will only benefit the company in the long run.

What advice would you give to a company thinking about taking on a Trident student?

Go for it! You could unearth valuable talent and assets for your company in the future.



Get in touch

Trident is an introduction to the world of work for students in Years 10 or 11. Students spend two weeks of curriculum time out of school and in the workplace. At this stage most have never worked so the concept is totally new to them – the aim is to give them a chance to see what different working environments are like, instil a work ethos and start to develop basic life/employability skills. Whilst they are in the workplace they can learn all of these for themselves (by doing them) rather than being told what is expected of them in a classroom setting – which is never as effective.

