

BTEC Construction Learner of the Year

Joseph Kizhakechethipuzha



After completing a bachelor's degree in Control and Instrumentation and embarking on an engineering career, our 2021 Construction Learner of the Year decided to follow his passion for construction and make a long-career move into this sector instead. As an adult learner it was important to Joseph that his course allow him to build up practical, relevant experience that would enable him to progress fast in his new career and he felt BTEC was the best way for him to achieve his goal. His passion, ambition and clarity of purpose have been evident throughout his studies at Dudley College of Technology, leading HNC Programme Leader, Ayad Aldeka, to describe him as "the best of the best."

Working as a construction and site management apprentice alongside his HNC in Construction & the Built Environment, Joseph has managed to impress not only his lecturers but also employer and his peers. Ayad says: "Joseph is very friendly with everyone in the class and he is highly thought of by all tutors alike. He has good interpersonal and communication skills

and is very supportive of his peers during class discussions, where his ability to critically evaluate is enriching and helpful for all. Accordingly, He has been elected to be the class representative to represent his peers at the student union meetings.

Joseph's commitment and engagement are also evident in the quality of his assignments. "Joseph works hard to achieve a depth of understanding of topics covered to maximise learning. He is very proactive and will approach individual lecturers with questions when required. This has enabled him to complete assignments to an advanced standard, sometimes going beyond the coursework specifications, to secure the highest possible grade," says Ayad. "For example, Joseph was able to create an innovative sustainable design model for a low-cost domestic housing system using Revit software. He then used Virtual and Augmented Reality software to create a walkthrough model, bringing his design to life visually."

Feedback from Joseph's employer is equally glowing. In his annual performance review, his line manager praised him for his attention to detail, while his mentor, a senior engineer states: "Joseph has proven to be diligent, hard working with a sound technical knowledge, positive attitude and approach to all tasks. He has provided a valuable contribution to the day-to-day operations of the project, willing to take the initiative to take on responsibility within the team and has demonstrated this on several occasions. He is a fine asset to the company and recognises his abilities."

Joseph says: "The HNC in Construction provides a great opportunity to develop knowledge and skills, helping

me to progress with my career plan. Working towards the NVQ enables me to implement theory learned into practice and make optimal use of valuable industry experience. Through the BTEC qualification I will gain competencies and credibility which will put me in a strong position for future job opportunities.

The BTEC course is varied and exciting, covering core topics and subjects associated with my job role. I enjoy learning about structural aspects and am passionate about discovering how buildings take form from an initial idea. The course has also given me a better understanding of the construction industry, including health and safety, legalities and regulations in place."