



## Case Study – Supporting Students on a Prepare to Work Course

Shrewsbury College approached Fowler & Gilbert Ltd regarding a work placement opportunity for A2, a student seeking to enhance his educational pathway and gain valuable workplace experience.

Before any placement begins, we invite students and their families to visit our facility, typically on a quieter Saturday, to introduce them to our working environment, discuss expectations, and understand their future aspirations.

A2 came to us with a strong foundation in welding but faced challenges with social interaction and communication. From the outset, he impressed our team with his welding ability, enthusiasm, and willingness to learn. During his placement, he developed both his technical skills and confidence, making excellent progress throughout the programme.

Recognising the positive impact that the placement was having on his development, we worked closely with Shrewsbury College to extend his placement beyond its original duration. A2 demonstrated a genuine passion for the industry and was eager to continue learning. During academic holidays, he requested opportunities for part-time work, which we were pleased to accommodate.

Despite his growing responsibilities within the business, A2 remained committed to his studies and was often seen revising techniques and coursework during breaks. Understanding his long-term ambition to secure full-time employment with Fowler & Gilbert Ltd, we encouraged him to complete his college programme and achieve his qualifications before pursuing a permanent role.

Following the successful completion of his studies and examinations, A2 joined Fowler & Gilbert Ltd as a full-time employee.

Three years later, A2 has become a highly valued member of our team and now manages one of our fabrication units with professionalism and care. He consistently meets our quality standards and has developed the confidence to work independently, address issues proactively, and take ownership of key responsibilities.

His communication skills have improved significantly, enabling him to work effectively with colleagues and contribute positively to the wider team. He is now responsible for monitoring stock levels, requesting additional materials when required, and ensuring production runs smoothly while maintaining the high levels of detail and quality expected by the company.

A2's journey demonstrates the value of meaningful work placements and highlights the positive outcomes that can be achieved when education providers and employers work together. His success has strengthened our relationship with Shrewsbury College and



reinforced our commitment to supporting young people in developing both essential workplace skills and the soft skills needed to thrive in employment.

At Fowler & Gilbert Ltd, we remain dedicated to nurturing talent, providing opportunities for growth, and helping individuals reach their full potential within a supportive working environment.

### **Conclusion**

A2's success story demonstrates how providing young people with the right opportunities, support, and encouragement can have a lasting impact on both their personal and professional development. Through a combination of practical workplace experience, continued education, and structured guidance, he has progressed from a student on work placement to a trusted and skilled member of our workforce.

This case study highlights the importance of collaboration between employers and educational institutions in creating meaningful pathways into employment. By investing time in developing young talent and supporting individuals to build confidence, communication skills, and workplace competencies, businesses can help bridge the gap between education and industry while creating a stronger, more capable workforce for the future.

Fowler & Gilbert Ltd is proud of A2's achievements and remains committed to supporting future students through work placements, helping them develop the skills, experience, and confidence needed to succeed in their chosen careers.

