



**Name:** Aidan Jones

**Employment duration:** 8.5 years

**Apprenticeship:** Business Administration

**Current Department:** Purchasing

**Current Position:** Buyer



## Describe how you have progressed at Fort Vale

I completed a 2 year Business Administration Apprenticeship rotating around a number of different office departments. At the end of my Apprenticeship, I was offered a permanent role with Fort Vale, as a Material Expeditor, in the Purchasing department. I was then offered the chance to undertake a Business Degree and after 3 years, I graduated with 1<sup>st</sup> class honours. During my degree, I progressed to a Buyer position. In March 2018, I began a CIPS qualification and my role grew again; I am now responsible for an approximate £10million spend.

## What do you enjoy the most about working at Fort Vale?

- Training and development opportunities
- Pleasant working conditions
- Additional employee benefits such as the gym

## How was your training delivered?

The Apprenticeship was a combination of on-the-job training with my employer and monthly visits from my Training 2000 Tutor. My tutor would review course work and conduct workplace evidencing e.g. witnessing phone calls made to suppliers or looking at emails sent to internal colleagues.

## What do you think are the advantages of completing an Apprenticeship?

- Work experience that you otherwise wouldn't get if going to college / university
- No student debt
- Apprenticeships make you mature very quickly and enlighten young people to the real world of work
- A good income



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# MAKING PROGRESS



**Name:** Andi Paterson

**Employment duration:** 25 years

**Apprenticeship:** Mechanical Engineering

**Current Department:** Sales

**Current Position:** Key Account Manager



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## Tell us about your journey at Fort Vale

When I left school I enrolled at College undertaking a BTEC OND in Electrical Engineering. After completing a year I felt that it wasn't the right career path for me, so I opted for an Apprenticeship. This was the best career decision I ever made, as the hands on learning process suited my learning style - I was able to put theory in to practice and learn whilst working. Being paid a weekly wage was a bonus too.

A real benefit of an Apprenticeship is that it offers support throughout the early stages of your career, not just from the Management team but also from your colleagues. A great thing about Fort Vale is that there is the security of a job at the end of your Apprenticeship - as long as you are dedicated and work hard throughout your training.

For the first year I was based at Pendle Training, attending a day release BTEC ONC course in Mechanical Engineering at Nelson and Colne College. Upon completion of the first year I moved to Fort Vale continuing my Apprenticeship and then completing the ONC in my second year. This was followed by the HNC, as part of my last two years. Alongside completing these qualifications I was able to complete an NVQ Level 2 and 3 in Engineering Machining.

In 2000 / 2001 an opportunity arose in the Sales Office and I found myself fortunate enough to be offered a position. My first role was working as an Office Junior. Since then I have progressed in to being a key member of the team. Over the years I've held a few different roles but currently hold the role of Key Account Manager. A typical week includes

completing quotations, orders and general account management issues. I also assist in an array of customer queries of a technical matter, relating to Fort Vale equipment supplied for use on ISO and Road tanks.

In 2006 I decided to take on further education and enrolled on to a two year course for a BTEC HNC in Business Studies.

I've been lucky to have worked with some really great people over the years and attribute this to the inherent friendly nature of people from around the local area as well as the working environment (friendly, supportive etc) we've been allowed to work in.



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**WE SUPPORT  
APPRENTICESHIPS**





**Name:** Katie Wrest

**Employment duration:** 2.5 years

**Apprenticeship:** AAT Accounting

**Current Department:** Accounts

**Current Position:** Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable

## Which Apprenticeship did you complete?

I have completed my Level 2 and 3 AAT and I am now studying for my Level 4 AAT.

## How is your training delivered?

My course is exam based. I attend college one day a week where I study the content of the course to prepare for each exam. The other four days a week, I am at work.

## Describe the benefits of the Apprenticeship scheme

I am finding the Apprenticeship scheme beneficial because I am able to put what I have learnt on my course into practise. I am also able to set myself objectives in my Apprentice Review, which link to my course; this ensures that I am always on track to develop my skills at



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work alongside my qualifications. I feel that being able to learn both on and off the job at the same time is very beneficial. It enables the individual to mature and adapt to working life much earlier on, meaning that once they have gained all of their qualifications, they will have lots of experience behind them. There is no need to try to juggle a part time job and a full time course because you earn whilst you learn. I feel confident now to take responsibility of my own workload within accounts receivable and accounts payable.

## What do you enjoy the most about working at Fort Vale?

- Friendly working environment
- Supportive colleagues who encourage me through work and support me through my exams
- Very good Apprenticeship schemes/ training programmes
- Lots of work place benefits



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# WE'RE FIRED UP



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**Name:** Adrianna Antolak

**Employment duration:** 1.5 years

**Apprenticeship:** Toolmaking

**Current Department:** Toolroom

**Current Position:** Apprentice Toolmaker



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### Describe your current role:

At present I complete many tasks within my role including; producing components for press/mould and other tools, maintaining and fixing press tools and regrinds and parts changeovers. I recreate worn/damaged components across the business. I operate CNC and conventional machines including milling machines, lathes and surface grinders.

### Which Apprenticeship did you complete and how have you progressed?

I completed the first year of my BTEC prior to starting at Fort Vale. I then completed the second year with Fort Vale and I am currently working towards a HNC.

### How is your training delivered?

The first 12 months were completed at Training 2000, learning the basics. Years 2-4 were undertaken back in company, with a day release to college.

### Describe the benefits of the Apprenticeship scheme

The Apprenticeship scheme has given me the ability to gain hands on experience at the same time as learning. Earning a wage has given opportunity to move out and become independent. I am more mature and responsible and I have learnt how to become a valued member of a dedicated team.

### What do you enjoy the most about working at Fort Vale?

- Friendly atmosphere
- Good income
- Employee benefits, including gym
- I enjoy my job role and responsibilities
- Organisation and high standard of work and quality



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# MAKING WAVES



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