



Sam Bunting

Apprentice Science Technician

During the two years I have been training as a Laboratory Technician through an apprenticeship, I have been overwhelmingly supported. Both technicians and teaching staff have developed my skills and knowledge on a large variety of subjects.

The Holgate Academy has many versatile staff who have contributed to my apprenticeship experience. This has created an environment of teamwork that has helped me to develop my professional and scientific skills, as well as key personal skills such as responsibility, communication and organisation.

This apprenticeship has brought me two qualifications: BTEC Applied Science (Level 3) and Laboratory Technician Qualification. This has enabled me to progress onto further studies, should I intend to. Alongside these qualifications, this apprenticeship has given me opportunities to complete CPD to further my career. These development experiences have diversified my knowledge in a variety of areas including working with students, safeguarding, health and safety standards and best practice to ensure that you can be an effective and safe technician.

My practical training at The Holgate Academy during this apprenticeship has been accompanied by a day at college each week to study Applied Science (Level 3). This qualification has ensured I have the suitable scientific knowledge to underpin my role.

In addition to my day-to-day role, I have been able to support students with extra-curricular clubs and activities. We have started an afterschool science club in which I support. This activity is well received by students and is something that I am passionate about. This is one of the many ways to get involved with inspiring younger people in education at our academy.

The Holgate Academy has a sister site - Hucknall Sixth Form Centre (HSFC) - for its post-16 students. I look forward to working at HSFC as it gives me a challenge to set up complex ideas in practical experiments. Other schools' post 16 students attend HSFC which has given me the opportunity to collaborate with other technicians across schools and different academy trusts.

Following my A-levels, I was unsure about what I wanted to do. I can safely say that this apprenticeship has been the best job I have had, as it is rich with opportunities as well as being a welcoming place to work.