

*“Ask questions and apply yourself. There are great opportunities out there”*

## Introduction

Motofix first began in 1997, the first branch to open was High Wycombe. Swindon and Northampton branches were then acquired in 2001, Motofix are now one of the UK’s leading Accident Repair Centres with 8 branches in total. I started my Panel apprenticeship in 2009 at the Northampton branch, on completing my apprenticeship I developed an interest in other departments (M.E.T, Prep & Paint). I became an all-rounder quickly and wanted to become a smart repair technician.



Image: **Tom Baxter**, Technical Manager – MOTOFIX

## How did you get started in your career?

I left school unsure of what I really wanted to do. I have always had a great passion for cars and noticed a fantastic opportunity at Motofix ARC with a four year apprenticeship as a Panel Beater. I like to be precise and have good attention to detail so I knew that this was a career opportunity that would really suit me.

## Can you outline a typical work day?

There really is not a typical work day for me now, each day is different. I work in the smart repair side of the business for Motofix. Smartworks is Motofix’s ‘little sister’ and resides in five locations of our Motofix branches; Northampton, Oxford, Swindon, Cirencester and Aldershot. I now provide technical support, training and holiday cover to all technicians. I also set up new site installs and look to improve current facilities to ensure we are using upto-date equipment and tooling. I have recently been offered another great opportunity to move into a sales role within Smartworks where I will be promoting and growing the business.

## What do you enjoy most about your job?

I enjoy the attention to detail aspect and the satisfaction you get with your result. I also like the fact there is plenty of room to grow with opportunities for progression.

## What skills are important for anyone wishing to start in your profession?

At least a C grade is required in both maths and English. Attention to detail is desirable and Motofix Group supports apprenticeships for those wishing to further their career and become specialist in a role.

## What main personal attributes do you think is important for your type of job?

There are three main roles within the workshop, M.E.T (Mechanical, Electrical and Trim), Panel and Prep/Paint. Good attention to detail, aptitude and a keenness to learn are good core skills to enter the industry.

## Do you have any tips or suggestions on how young people and adults can enter your industry?

Do research on the sector you are most interested in. Have the drive and enthusiasm to learn the business as much as you can.

## What career progression opportunities are available in your business/sector?

There are many opportunities within Motofix to progress into more senior roles, however, this does depend on the individuals drive. Motofix are very good at guiding you in the right direction and will invest in their employees.

## Why is it important for your sector to attract and train young people and new entrants?

It is important to attract new starters/trainees to keep the industry strong, this will help businesses grow. With technology constantly improving in vehicle build, equipment and tooling it's good to have fresh minds in the industry.

## What trends do you predict for your industry within the next 10 years? E.g. is it a growing market requiring more young entrants?

I think there will be a high demand for all-rounders like myself. I personally feel that Jig work will be non-existent in the future as its structural damage to the frame of the vehicle and repair costs will be too high. I feel all-rounder's will have a great advantage for the future.

## General words of advice

The main advice I can give to Apprentices & Trainees is to always do the research, ask questions and apply yourself. There are great opportunities out there.

## Further contact/information

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