



Name: **Reiss Virhia**

Role: **Civil Engineering
Foundation Apprentice**

What does your role involve?

My role involves shadowing and helping with civil engineering on-site. Examples of tasks I have been involved in are inductions, setting out, quality management, and design meetings.

What do you like about your job?

Learning how each stage of a project is put together, and the build-up before the processes take place. I enjoy the variety of tasks on-site, as they are never the same. This gives me an insight on how to tackle different situations within the industry.

What's your working day like?

Throughout the day I am tasked with a variety of jobs by the site management team. Each day will start with an induction, which I sit in on in order to understand the steps taken by site management to ensure that each operative is aware of site expectations regarding rules and health and safety standards. Following the site induction, I shadow the site management team on tasks such as setting out grid lines for the joiners and brick layers, managing the health and safety of all operatives on-site and supervising the daily work activity. The tasks which I am involved in have increased my understanding of a Civil Engineer's role within a project.

What skills do you need for your job?

An interest and a passion for the trade. Other skills needed are excellent communication, as well as confidence. You must be able to start something and see it out till the end.

What was your background before starting this role?

I am currently completing a 1 year Civil Engineering course. I have also finished 6 years at school, as well as a part time job and previous work experience.

What are you most proud of in your career?

I am still new in my career, but I am proud that I am able to work with people with a range of experience, and that I have been successful in obtaining a position that allows me to work and gain experience on projects which are complex and interesting.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

In 10 years, I see myself being employed as a Civil Engineer having worked on a variety of construction projects with the aim of moving into senior management, as I enjoy the challenge of managing multiple contractors on-site.

A bit of advice for anyone thinking about a career in construction?

Gain as much working experience as possible; employers like to see that you have had previous experience, as it shows that you are keen and want to get involved as soon as possible. Engaging yourself by completing tasks given, as well as asking lots of questions.