



#TeamTalks: Sol Keeney

Sol is an apprentice CNC machinist at Clavis – his role entails programming and coding a machine to do certain jobs to a high level of accuracy. His role also includes taking care of the CNC machine and making sure it is maintained well and working correctly.

Variety is the spice of life

The projects Sol has worked on throughout his time at Clavis include the individual Gusto installations for several automotive plants worldwide and numerous FourierBMS projects for Electronic Power Assisted Steering (EPAS) manufacturers. The wide variety of these core products offers Sol the opportunity to explore and refine a wide range of skills. He enjoys the fact that they are all different, which means that he is using different tools, speeds and feed rates depending on the material – all requiring bespoke setups, bringing variety to every day.

First impressions

Sol originally heard of Clavis through Tyne North Training and was required to research the company before his interview. His research revealed Clavis' numerous awards as well as an insight into the products which really appealed to Sol.

After meeting company directors, Andrew and Mark, he was made to feel very welcome and he liked the friendly atmosphere that was evident from the outset.

Training and development

Sol attends college one day per week and his learning is linked to what he does at work. He learns different techniques at college that he can utilise in the workplace, as well as A-level projects that require him to do some machining, which has also helped Sol in his day-to-day role here at Clavis.

Best bits

Sol's favourite tasks over the past year have involved the manufacturing of FourierBMS cabinets. These involve a lot of setting up on the machine, checking that the tooling is cutting correctly and hasn't snapped. The cabinet also involves drilling and milling cycles.

Using a program called 'Edge cam' enables the machine to read the codes and by doing this it means that Sol is constantly striving for optimum cutting techniques to enhance the finished job or to complete it in the quickest time, maximising efficiencies whilst maintaining a high quality standard.

A bright future

There are a number of things Sol is looking forward to this year and beyond, including new project work and new machines. He is also looking forward to hopefully getting the chance to travel and see some of Clavis' projects in action around the world.

He is also looking forward to his next year at college to further develop his skills and knowledge, effectively learning more information that will make Sol the best CNC machinist he can be.