



CASE STUDY

Louie is completing an apprenticeship in roof slating and tiling with Aldridge & Sons Roofing Ltd. With ambitions to take on a lead role, Louie is taking full advantage of his learning at college and on-site, and plans to run his own business in future.



OVERVIEW

To celebrate National Apprenticeship Week 2026, NFRC invited our members to spotlight their apprentices, share their story, and tell us more about the importance of apprenticeships and what they have to offer.



BACKGROUND

I chose roofing because I wanted a hands-on job where I could learn a proper trade and build a long-term career. I didn't want to sit in a classroom full time, and I liked the idea of learning on the job while earning. Roofing stood out to me because it offers real progression, with the opportunity to eventually run your own business if you put the work in.

APPRENTICE SPOTLIGHT: LOUIE

TELL US ABOUT YOUR JOURNEY SO FAR.

I am currently an apprentice in tiling and slating. I spent my first six months working on site before committing to the training, which helped me understand the job properly and make sure it was the right path for me. I have now been with the company for two years and attend college in one-week block releases in London.

When I finish my apprenticeship, my goal is to progress to a lead roofer role and, in the long term, run my own roofing company.

My employer and training provider have supported me throughout by giving me proper training, guidance, and opportunities to learn from experienced tradespeople.

TELL US WHAT IT'S LIKE TO EARN WHILE YOU LERN.

Aldridge & Sons Roofing Ltd is a family-run roofing company based in Surrey. The company carries out all types of roofing work, which means I get a wide range of hands-on experience across different jobs.

Quality is a big focus, and the team would rather take extra time and redo something properly than accept a job that is just okay.

My training is delivered through Simian All Risk Group in London, where I attend college in one-week block releases. This allows me to fully focus on learning the theory and practical skills, then bring that knowledge back onto site.

APPRENTICE SPOTLIGHT: LOUIE

WHAT DO YOU LIKE MOST ABOUT YOUR APPRENTICESHIP?

Being an apprentice has been challenging but very rewarding.

Every day is different because the jobs we work on vary so much, which has helped me learn quickly and build confidence.

I've learned that attention to detail and doing things properly really matters in roofing, especially when it comes to quality and safety.

One of the hardest parts of the job is working in all weather conditions, especially during winter.

However, being part of a strong team makes a big difference.

I enjoy working alongside experienced tradesmen who have a lot of knowledge, as well as younger roofers who bring new skills and ideas into the industry.

The company provides full uniform, training, team-building days, private healthcare, and constant feedback. This support makes me feel valued and helps me continue improving every day.

My apprenticeship has given me real skills, confidence, and a clear career path. I plan to complete my apprenticeship, progress to becoming a lead roofer, and eventually run my own roofing company using everything I've learned along the way

BENEFITS OF AN APPRENTICESHIP

WE OFFER REAL ON-SITE EXPERIENCE, SUPPORT FROM EXPERIENCED TRADESPEOPLE, AND A CLEAR PATHWAY FOR PROGRESSION WITHIN THE BUSINESS.

Why are apprenticeships important for individuals and businesses?

- What do apprenticeships offer to the wider economy, industry, and society?**
- What value do apprenticeships add to your business?**

At Aldridge & Sons, apprenticeships are central to how we build a skilled, reliable workforce and maintain high standards across our projects.

Roofing is a trade that can only be learned properly through hands-on experience, supported by structured training and strong site supervision.

Apprenticeships allow us to pass on knowledge, embed safe working practices, and develop people who take pride in doing the job properly.

In return, apprentices bring commitment, enthusiasm, and fresh thinking to the team.