



CASE STUDY

Harry is completing an apprenticeship in roof slating and tiling with Aldridge and Sons Roofing Ltd. Having left school feeling lost and lacking purpose, he decided to explore opportunities in roofing and hasn't looked back since.



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

After leaving school, I didn't really know what I wanted to do with my life and felt like I lacked direction and purpose. I was offered a labouring job in roofing, and although I was nervous at first, I decided to give it a go. Starting on site was intimidating, but over time my confidence began to grow as I learned new skills and became part of a team.

APPRENTICE SPOTLIGHT: HARRY

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED IN ROOFING?

I was initially offered the opportunity to start an apprenticeship, but I was unsure and delayed committing to it. The idea of formal training felt daunting at first. However, when another apprentice joined the company and shared his positive experience of the apprenticeship scheme, it gave me the confidence to take that next step.

By the time I committed to the apprenticeship, I knew I enjoyed the work and wanted to build a future in the roofing industry. I was motivated by the chance to gain recognised qualifications while continuing to learn on the job.

Being able to earn a wage while training has been extremely important to me. It has allowed me to become financially independent while developing skills and qualifications that will support my long-term career.

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

Aldridge and Sons Roofing Ltd has provided strong support throughout my apprenticeship. The team takes the time to explain tasks properly, gives regular feedback, and encourages me to improve rather than rush work. I am supported on site by experienced tradesmen who are willing to share their knowledge and help me build confidence day by day.

APPRENTICE SPOTLIGHT: HARRY

WHAT DO YOU LEARN AT COLLEGE?

Simian All Risk Group has also played an important role in my development.

The college provides structured training that links directly to the work I carry out on site, helping me understand not just how to do the job, but why things are done in certain ways.

Having block release training allows me to focus fully on learning and then apply those skills back at work.

The combined support from both my employer and training provider has given me stability, clear goals, and the confidence to keep progressing within the industry.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE GOALS?

Looking ahead, I want to continue developing my skills as a roofer and slater, complete my qualifications, and progress further within the industry.

This apprenticeship has given me direction and motivation, and I am committed to building a stable and successful career in roofing.

BENEFITS OF AN APPRENTICESHIP

BY INVESTING IN APPRENTICES, WE ARE NOT ONLY SUPPORTING INDIVIDUAL CAREERS BUT HELPING TO SECURE THE FUTURE OF THE ROOFING INDUSTRY AS A WHOLE.

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 play a vital role in helping individuals find direction, confidence, and a clear sense of purpose within the roofing industry.

For many young people, the transition from school into work can feel uncertain, and apprenticeships provide a structured, supportive route into a skilled trade.

By combining hands-on site experience with formal training, we help apprentices build confidence, develop practical skills, and understand the value of high standards and safe working practices.

EMPLOYER SUPPORT

What is your role as an employer, and how do you support your apprentices?

As an employer, we are committed to creating an environment where apprentices feel supported and encouraged to progress.

We offer consistent guidance from experienced tradespeople, exposure to a wide range of roofing work, and the opportunity to earn while learning.

We offer real on-site experience, support from experienced tradespeople, and a clear pathway for progression within the business.

Through this approach, apprentices gain stability, motivation, and a clear pathway to long-term employment, while we develop skilled, reliable team members who grow with the business and the industry.