survitecgroup

Kurtis Coffey

Systems Application Engineer

What was your education route?

I studied English, Home Economics, and Business Studies for A-level at secondary school, I then decided I wanted to pursue a career in IT. Unfortunately, I hadn't studied IT at GCSE or A-Level and knew that I would need some sort of qualification to pursue this. A friend of mine sent me a link to an IT apprenticeship. I applied for this and was successfully employed by the Northern Ireland Civil Service. This involved an initial 3-month bootcamp at Belfast Metropolitan College. After bootcamp finished, my week consisted of 4 days in the office and 1 day at college. I was able to gain invaluable knowledge of IT support and programming.
After completion of my apprenticeship and gaining my qualification, I saw a job advertised in Survitec. I wanted to develop my programming skills further and decided to apply for it.

What job do you do now?

I first joined Survitec as a Trainee Systems Application Engineer in the Engineering department. I was responsible for the setup, maintenance, and development of all the applications used within the Engineering department. I was promoted to Systems Application Engineer and took over from my senior when he retired. I am also the IT representative for the department.

What does the future look like for you?

The future looks bright. I want to continue gaining as much experience as possible working within the Engineering department team at Survitec. I really enjoy the challenges and projects that I'm involved with.

What advice would you give your 16 year old self?

Not to panic if you find that you want to pursue a career that you didn't necessarily study for in school. I would highly recommend an apprenticeship to anyone as you benefit from real, on the job learning whilst getting paid to gain a qualification.
You have plenty of time to try and figure out what you enjoy, then make a career out of it.

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