



Doncaster
Enterprise for
Learning

Business Placement Case Study and Evaluation 24

Jane from North Doncaster Technology College visited John Smedley on a business placement in August 2008.

John Smedley is a knitwear manufacturer.

Job Study - Factory Manager

What does your job role involve?

I ensure the site maintains the required level of output and that the quality of product is also maintained. I need to ensure that specific labour is in place to meet targets and expectations. I am also the key holder for the alarm and have responsibility for site security, health and safety, personnel, machinery and engineering. I liaise with customers and directors.

What key skills are required for your role?

Skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT are important.

For example:

Numeracy

I use numeracy in my involvement with wages and wage values.

Literacy

I use literacy in the letters that I write to customers and suppliers.

ICT

I use a database and software for tracking production and wages

Working with others

I need good interpersonal skills for working with customers, suppliers and management.

Problem solving

I need to solve problems for customers and sort problems that arise in the production process.

Developing own performance

I have been with the company for 25 years. I am NVQ qualified in knitwear and manufacturing. I have been given the opportunity to attend courses on site and have exams in management. I have to be the expert in knowing the garments. I am a hands-on manager and build workers' confidence to keep good morale amongst the staff.

What qualifications, training and/or experience did you need to enter your job?

I worked my way up internally then I left to run my own business for a while. I was contacted by the management for a managerial role. I need eye to hand coordination, it's essential for success. It is an all female production workforce and formal qualifications are necessary.

What extra qualifications/training have you gained in your current role?

I gained an NVQ in management which was taken in-house at Doncaster College.

What are the working conditions of your job?

I work 39 hours per week ,officially in the factory.

Health and safety risk assessments are reviewed every 18 months. Risk assessments are created for every job in the factory. Health and safety ensure risk assessments are maintained. Health and safety is integral due to the nature of the factory with the machinery etc.

What advice would you give to young people interested in entering this field?

I would say that it is a career which is worthy of consideration, it is a skill for life. A number of senior staff within this company have started their career on a placement.

Evaluation of the Business Placement

What did you do on the placement?

I gained an insight into the company and how the work is produced.

What knowledge about the organisation, its sector and its market place did you gain?

I gained lot of information through this placement. I now know how work there can be used to inform and enhance applied Art back at NDTC. John Smedley is unique in producing clothing in Britain which goes back 200 years. The company also employs its own designers.

Do you feel that the placement was a success? Please give reasons

Yes, I have gained valuable information that can be used to create good projects for the Applied Art exam courses at both

GCSE and A level. This case study can be relayed to students and used to further develop their skills and knowledge. Students must study contemporary work as well as historical within A2 Applied Art (double award) units and John Smedley provides both.

Could you suggest any improvements to the management of the business placement?

No, it was a great opportunity to be able to experience this work first hand, taking invaluable knowledge back to students. Applied Art embraces current practice. This is the second placement I have attended and I am sure that it will contribute to the successful exam results of Applied Art at NDTC this year.

Be whatever you want to be