



CASE STUDY

McCorquodale & Son, founded in 1911, are a family run business based in Glasgow. Aiden is a first year apprentice but already feels like he has a career for life.



OVERVIEW

To celebrate Scottish Apprenticeship Week 2025, NFRC invited some of 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

Apprenticeships are important for businesses as they allow skills to be kept alive, particularly valuable in diminishing traditional skills, and passed down to the next generation.

This is vitally important both to encourage new entrants into our industry and also to ensure that we are fully staffed as a business with a wide range of experience across our workforce.

APPRENTICE SPOTLIGHT: AIDEN

HOW HAS AN APPRENTICESHIP BENEFITTED YOUR CAREER?

It's put me on track to having a career for life.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR APPRENTICESHIP?

I like the fact that it has got me into a good routine.



WOULD YOU RECOMMEND AN APPRENTICESHIP?

Yes, it's a good way to earn while you learn.

HOW HAS YOUR EMPLOYER HELPED YOU IN YOUR APPRENTICESHIP?

At the start they bought me tools to get me going. Whenever I have a problem they help me out with it

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACHIEVE AFTER YOUR APPRENTICESHIP?

I hope to achieve a long career in slating and get to a very good level of work.

BENEFITS OF AN APPRENTICESHIP

OUR INDUSTRY OFFERS LITERALLY LIMITLESS OPPORTUNITIES FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF AN APPRENTICESHIP.

Why are apprenticeships important for individuals and businesses?

- What do apprenticeships offer to the wider economy, industry, and society?
- Why should an individual consider an apprenticeship over other forms of training or education?
- What value does an apprenticeship add to an individual's career?

An apprenticeship teaches a young person a valuable trade skill, recognized globally, and which will remain in demand for their whole working life. An apprenticeship also allows personal growth and development by building on confidence and allowing young people to mature within the working environment.

While undertaking an apprenticeship, the young person is earning while learning and is not subject to student debt as their university peers maybe. It can clearly be demonstrated by many industry personalities who have built successful businesses that there are opportunities aplenty within our industry.

BENEFITS OF AN APPRENTICESHIP

An apprenticeship is important to a young person as they are learning a skill which will stay with them for their working life. During their apprenticeship they will grow in confidence and maturity as well as developing pride in their work. Further education is not suitable for everyone, and an apprenticeship allows a young person to develop an excellent career without incurring student debt.

In addition apprenticeships are available for more mature entrants allowing people of all ages to develop a skill either as a result of upskilling or transferring to a new industry. Our company has through the years employed a number of adult apprentices and we currently have a final year adult apprentice.

This aspect of apprenticeships is often overlooked.

Employing apprentices allows us to develop our workforce by training people to the standard that we require. The industry is currently experiencing a skills shortage and we consider part of addressing this for the future is to encourage young people into the industry by offering trades apprenticeships.

WHAT DO YOU OFFER?

Tell us a little bit more about what you offer your apprentices at McCorquodale & Son offers, and how you support their career.

We have a dedicated member of staff to liaise with all our apprentices and hold regular reviews with them. We also have contact as required with the college that apprentices attend.

As a company we ensure that all apprentices receive a suitable variety of work to allow successful completion of their apprenticeship.

We are proud that throughout our long history we have always valued and employed apprentices.

We currently employ apprentices in Roof Slating and Tiling and Joinery.

Currently we employ seven apprentices in total at varying stages of their apprenticeships.