

“Young people offer new and interesting ideas, whilst also learning the skills required”

### Introduction

Ollie joined Kendall Kingscott in 2014 as a school leaver aged 16. Kendall Kingscott Ltd is primarily a practice of Architects and Building Surveyors that have been established for over 55 years.

### How did you get started in your career?



Image: **Ollie Jay**, Trainee Building Surveyor – Kendall Kingscott Ltd

I have always been interested in the construction industry and design from a young age. I undertook 2 days of work experience with Kendall Kingscott in 2013 and enjoyed my time so much, that I decided to do another week work experience in the February 2014 half term. At the end of my work experience week I was offered an apprenticeship with Kendall Kingscott Ltd providing I received 5 A\*-C GCSE grades including Maths, English and Science. After achieving these grades, I began my apprenticeship and have been at Kendall Kingscott Ltd since.

### Can you outline a typical work day?

A typical work day consists of a variety of tasks. I am at the early stage of my career, so I find myself undertaking a wide variety of tasks to get a feel for all the different aspects of the business. I could spend a day out surveying a building, shadowing colleagues in meetings, drawing details for a building and doing contract administration.

### What do you enjoy most about your job?

What I most enjoy about my job is the variety of tasks that I get involved in. Because of the nature of the business, all tasks are a bit different from each other meaning that there is not a feeling of repetitiveness in the workplace. Even if the job in hand has the same scope as a previous job (e.g. a roof replacement scheme) it is always a bit different because it will be in a different location, with a different client and different contractors meaning that I experience different problems that need to be resolved.

### What skills are important for anyone wishing to start in your profession?

Good communication and interaction skills are key for my profession. It is often the case that a phone call or a meeting on site will be the most effective way of resolving issues. You also need good IT skills and the ability to use computer-aided design (CAD) software. Organisation is also a skill that will help you in my profession because it allows you to effectively complete tasks in the most strategic ways, whilst keeping on top of your work.

### What main personal attributes do you think is important for your type of job?

Enthusiasm is a key personal attribute for my job. If you are enthusiastic about what you do, you will enjoy it and will produce a higher quality of work. You also need to be well presented and respectful to other professionals.

## Do you have any tips or suggestions on how young people and adults can enter your industry?

My first tip would be to do some work experience. My career path started when I chose my school's work experience week to be spent at Kendall Kingscott Ltd, because they worked in a sector that interested me. I chose to do work experience at another workplace in the sports sector as this was also an interest of mine. From this I made a choice of which career path I wanted to take. It's amazing how much of a feel you can get in just a week, so I would strongly recommend work experience. If you want to study A-Levels and potentially university, but know you have an interest for this type of work, then I would suggest picking subjects that could link to the industry in the long run.

## What career progression opportunities are available in your business/sector?

Career opportunities all depend how qualified you want to be and how much you want to push yourself. For example, in a building surveying route, there are many qualifications you can obtain through various routes. My overall aim is to become a Chartered Building Surveyor and become a member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS). In order to do this I need to reach other milestones first. I am currently studying my HNC in construction, but prior to this I had to achieve my BTEC level 3 in construction. Once I have qualified from my HNC I will be able to move onto the Associate RICS qualification. I will then study for a distance university course. Once this has been completed I can finally study for my APC (Assessment of professional competence) assessment. By completing this I will then become a Chartered Building Surveyor. The beauty of this route is that you can stop at any milestone you like, and you are not forced to reach any certain level.

## Why is it important for your sector to attract and train young people and new entrants?

Young people offer new and interesting ideas, whilst also learning the skills required in the industry from the older / more experienced professionals. In order for the sector to keep progressing and exploring different techniques, there needs to be fresh minds and this can be brought by young people.

## What trends do you predict for your industry within the next 10 years? E.g. is it a growing market requiring more young entrants

A trend that I am seeing and predicting is modern technology being used more and more throughout the sector. We can already see surveying techniques such as point cloud surveys being used. Virtual reality is also being used and being presented to clients to show them a "real life" view of what their vision will look like once it is complete. I can see this developing even further.

## General words of advice

My general words of advice would be, if you think you might be interested in the sector then have a go!! Workplaces will be happy to give work experience to young aspiring professionals so ask if you can come in for a week and see how you find it. This way, if you realise it's a route you want to pursue, then you can base your future studies around it, but also if you realise you aren't so keen, then you know it's an area to steer away from.

## Further contact/information

For more information visit the Kendall Kingscott Ltd website <http://www.kendallkingscott.co.uk>.