

# Vocational education



## Have your say!

Employers all over South Yorkshire are benefiting from vocational education. Here's what just a few of them have got to say about it.

“Vocational education is a good idea because it helps to broaden young people's horizons. It gives them responsibility, choice, and increases their confidence whilst preparing them for work.”

**Kamran Malik, Assistant Manager of Iceland, Barnsley**

“I would employ somebody with a vocational qualification because that person is going to have more 'hands-on' experience as opposed to just usual schooling. They will be more used to the workplace and more prepared for work.”

**Liz Reid, HR Manager for Ice Sheffield**


“Vocational education is a good idea as it helps keep skills up to date. Employing people who have a vocational qualification helps us as a company, we can get quality assurance and become an 'Investor in People'. It helps us to develop our own status as a company.”

**Malcolm Gibson, Idigicon, Doncaster**

“Vocational education is a good idea because it allows people to get an insight into an industry. They can get an all-round feeling for the kind of jobs they want to get into. Studying for a vocational qualification was the best thing for me and really helped me in my career.

Employing young people means that you can mould them and develop them. You can enable them to work their way up and see them progress through their career.”

**Lindsay Walker, HR Officer for Ponds Forge Sports Centre, Sheffield**



“When you first start working it can be a shock to the system. Studying for a vocational qualification eases your way into work and gives young people a valuable experience of the workplace.

Vocational education is a good idea because it will help young people to get a start on a career path and they can get experience of the job while studying.”

**Sonia Brookes, financial director of AKM Steels, Rotherham**

“Young men and women with the knowledge, drive and skills to create aerospace components are invaluable to the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) with Boeing. Sometimes finding engineers with the correct vocational skills can be difficult. We hope that our new partnership with Sheffield College will allow us to grow our own local engineers with the vocational skills we need.”

**Sam Turner, Head of Dynamics at the AMRC**

“Vocational education is a good idea because it prepares young people for work. Through their work experience they learn the importance of being professional, punctual, and they understand what work is about.”

**Lisa Pennington, Chief Executive of South Yorkshire Bioscience Enterprise Network (SYBEN)**

“Working with the 14–19 age group is vital to our organisation's continued success as they contribute to the business from the first day they start working. A lot of their training is ‘on the job’ and this, combined with the knowledge they gain from the vocational courses they study at school or college means their skills are ‘up to date’. Students studying vocational qualifications benefit from on-site training and workshops carried out by skilled tradespeople, therefore the practical skills and knowledge gained are relevant and appropriate to the industry.”

**Christine Wilson, Training Manager, Kier Sheffield**

