

# EQUIPPING THE YOUNG FOR LIFE IN WORK

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Machine Shop and Printing



A lot is being said, and done, in Great Britain at this time to encourage the young to take greater interest in forging their career in our manufacturing/engineering/science industries. Indeed those very industries are crying out for technically trained staff at all levels. Technicians, engineers, scientists are in great demand and it is fair to say that many of the UK's major businesses are stepping up to

suggests that if the student is enthused and this is maintained then success will be the result.

This short article is not intended to exercise the many philosophies and theories which abound regarding apprenticeships and training, but to show how technical training is achieved in two schools in Northern Italy. The pictures were taken in Bologna and Verona at

as the JCB are still very much in the minority, although one could reflect that the technical schools which we used to have were based on a similar ethos. One day maybe learning from the past will become acceptable.

The pictures were taken mainly in the mechanical engineering section of both schools, but they show the scale of commitment not just from the education system but from the industries which actively support the process. Many industrial processes were evident from Building, Electrical, Mechanical Engineering, Printing, Computing, Control Systems and much more.

Some outstanding examples were the machines which had been donated by companies giving the students the

opportunity to experience a packaging machine first hand, or see a litho press working. Indeed the metrology equipment seen in one school would leave many companies green with envy and all of it was being used, not just gathering dust. To increase the utilisation many companies send their staff to these schools in the evenings for additional training; this brings income to both the school and those members of staff that wish to take up the opportunity.

Creating such an atmosphere in education is undoubtedly special and has been shown to be so in some areas of the UK. The many benefits of exposure to industrial processes at an age when the working world is to a large extent a mystery cannot be overestimated. The JCB Academy and others have started to redress the situation in the UK and must be applauded for their work. It was clear that other countries are very much further down a long road.

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the plate and training in ever increasing numbers. However, success is surely the best base from which to build further success thus this piece is not intended to criticise but to add something to the good work already in place.

Recently the P&SC held a discussion on skills in the STEM area and relating the effects across science and engineering, although there is no one best way the common agreement

two unrelated schools. These are schools not colleges of further education, but both have a long history of exposing their students to the industrial world.

This is not exclusive to Italian education and equally good examples of such teaching may be seen at UK establishments, such as the JCB Academy in Rocester which has demonstrated the benefits of preparing the young for work. However, establishments such

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Controls room and Metrology

