

## APPRENTICE INSPIRES OVER 50 YOUNG PEOPLE TO GAIN MEANINGFUL INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE IN HIS FIRST MONTH!



Jackson Knowles joined the FIRST Face to Face team as a Project Assistant Apprentice just under a month ago. His unique role is allowing him to use develop his business admin and organisational skills, whilst putting into practice his youth work experience to support young people in the North East to gain experience, confidence and work placements. When asked to sum up his first month as an apprentice at FIRST, he said "It's been an opportunity to grow my skill base in areas such as administration and enterprise, that before were lacking in comparison to my practical skills as a joiner and youth worker. FIRST has made my vision of one day becoming self-employed more attainable!"

In his first month Jackson has delivered enterprise workshops to over 30 young people and has spoken at numerous youth events to encourage students and graduates to take on work placements. So far, he's managed to match 7 young people to placements at FIRST and has built up a relationship with an additional 70 young people that he is working with to ensure their needs are met and that they are matched with roles and projects to allow them to develop the skills they need. Matt, one of the young people Jackson has matched to a work placement, said "Joining FIRST and working with Jackson has helped provide excellent opportunity for me due to learning new skills for the workplace but also the abilities to gain new knowledge and contacts, not only this but it's a very friendly environment which helps encourage your personal growth."



INFORMATION ABOUT FIRST ([www.firstfacetoface.co.uk](http://www.firstfacetoface.co.uk))

FIRST Face to Face is committed to offering enterprise experiences to young people and startups. Established in 2014, our aim is to fulfil the following four purposes:

- **YOUNG PEOPLE:** support in gaining professional experience and developing entrepreneurial skills
- **BUSINESSES:** connecting them to young people and startups to increase their profile
- **EDUCATION AND TRAINING:** developing staff, young people and students by providing them with resources, workshops and connecting them to businesses
- **STARTUPS:** support in connecting new businesses with networks, enterprise agencies and opportunities through the If We Can You Can Challenge