**Nomination for Movement to Work Youth Employability Awards: Rising Star Award**

**Rising Star Award** – an individual who graduated 12+ months from a Movement to Work placement that has made a real difference within your organisation or gone on to make a positive impact elsewhere

**Nominee’s name**

Gabrielle (Gaby) Day

**Nominee title**

Advanced Engineering Apprentice

**Nominees Email**

gabrielle.day@baesystems.com

**Nomination Category**

Rising Star Award

**Questions and Answers: Gaby’s own words**

**What have you enjoyed most about your journey with BAE Systems?**I have enjoyed developing and expanding my knowledge within the engineering sector, but also having the opportunity to work on the Naval vessels as most people are not able to do this.

**What skills have you developed since being on the programme?**Since being on the programme and starting the apprenticeship I have developed personally and professionally. I have learnt a vast amount of information and knowledge surrounding engineering, in many different sectors, and also the Navy. I have developed my academic knowledge and also my hands-on skills. I have attended a number of different courses required for the job, such as WISE, Fire Sentry and Hilti. I have also helped out with STEM activities, such as helping with events focused on Women in Engineering.

**Have you been on outward bound, and if so, what was your experience like?**
During the first year of the apprenticeship I went on outward bound. As I have a child, I was given the option to go and it was not mandatory for me. I found some of the activities challenging, and being with those who you work with for a full week 24/7 was challenging at times too. The actual trip and concept is brilliant. I enjoyed myself and I believe it helped everyone develop collectively.

**How did you manage during the pandemic?**
During the pandemic I had a mixed experience. In the first lockdown there was a lot of unknown. As an apprentice I wasn’t classed as key workers so for a few months I had to work from home which also impacted my on-the-job training. Although it allowed time for some coursework. This was also difficult at times as my son was not at school and therefore I had the responsibility of teaching him, which was challenging when the school expected 6hours of learning a day. Following on from the first lockdown it was a lot better. I was then classed as a key worker and was able to apply for a place within school so my son could continue to go and I could continue to go to work. Although over the year there was multiple times where I was sent home.

**How have you adjusted to working at home**?
Working at home was difficult as originally I didn’t have a work laptop. This was sorted and I was allocated one but I do not have the room for a work area. This makes it difficult to work, as I don’t have a desk set-up but I was able to make do. It is difficult working from home when my son is there but thankfully now I am classed as a key worker, he would be able to continue attending even if I have to work from home if there is another lockdown.

**What have been some of the biggest challenges?**

Some of the biggest challenges have been surrounding childcare and home life. It’s been difficult to find the balance and to have continuous childcare. Since moving out of Portsmouth, due to childcare, we haven’t had any full time and consistent childcare available. Other challenges include settling into the working life within the dockyard whilst still learning, but although challenging this has also been enjoyable.

**What would you say to anyone thinking of joining a Movement to Work programme?**I would recommend the Movement to Work Programme to anyone who is out of work and looking for their own path. I had no engineering  background when I signed up to the programme, I was curious of the industry if anything. Give the course a go and go into it with an open mind. As you may think you want to do something particular, like office work, and when undertaking the programme you may realise that you enjoy something completely different, like fabrication. Make the most of it and you’ll get out what you put in.