**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**

Nikita Morris

**Nominee title**

Production technician

**Nominees Email**

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**Nomination Category**

Rising Star Award

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

**What have you enjoyed the most about your journey with BAE?**

One of the first things that made me happy to be here, was getting to see all the people I met throughout my placement with MtW. Seeing some of the people who put in a good word for me and acknowledged my potential. This made my first day very precious to me.

I was very blessed, because I got to meet so many people on my placement. When I started my first day, I was really looking forward to seeing all the friendly faces I met and supported me throughout my placement. This made my first day very pleasant.

I really enjoy the team I work with, we all work together to get the job done and moral within the team is high and that always makes the day easier.

**What skills have you developed since being on the programme?**

I think my people skills have improved since working at BAE. Getting to interact with people from all different departments, or dealing with new people. Also my skills as a technician, because I have never worked in this kind of environment before. This meant I had a lot to learn on the job, so learning quickly and taking note of different techniques.

Working in a professional environment means sometimes sending emails to management or other work colleagues. This has also encouraged me to improve my communication skills as well.

**How did you manage during the pandemic?**

When the pandemic first hit, I spent the whole of April shielding. So my progress had been put on hold temporarily as I had only been an employee for a month and a half. By the end of April I was itching to get back to work.

When I returned to work, I didn’t feel comfortable getting the bus anymore. So I adjusted my lifestyle and started riding my bike to work. This improved my mental and physical health dramatically. Also I saved quite a lot of money on a monthly bus ticket and my purse was defiantly grateful for that.

**How have you adjusted to working from home?**

I have been lucky enough to still come onto site throughout the pandemic. And I’m happy about that because I enjoy having a work and home life balance. I come to work to get away from home and I go home to get a break from work, so it worked out pretty well for me to be honest.

But most of all working within a team because nothing works unless we all work together. And I really enjoy feeling like I’m a part of something significant.

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

One of the biggest challenges I have faced was the canteen closing. And I know this might be a small change to some but, I used to really enjoy sitting down to eat breakfast with the F35 team every Friday. Since the pandemic we have found different ways for bonding like going out for meals outside of work.

**What would you say to anyone thinking of joining the MtW programme?**

The movement to work scheme was a brilliant confidence booster for me not only professionally but also personally, it helped me realise that I am fully capable of doing anything I want, with the right mind set and ambition.

It was lovely meeting people with a similar interest to me. I also really enjoyed taking part in teambuilding activities like creating a bridge out of K-nex with a full set of instructions. Or just sitting down with everyone getting to know each other.

I would recommend anyone to join because it’s so worth it and you have nothing to lose. When I signed up to the course I thought “that would look great on my C.V. little did I know I would end up with a career out of it.

One thing I would say is to ask lots of questions, and show enthusiasm especially if it’s something you feel passionately about.

You will gain skills in applying for a job and how to present yourself to a potential employer-interviewer.

And finally meeting people onsite gives you a head start if you are successful with getting a job at BAE Systems. It will also make your first day so pleasant and memorable rather that feeling overwhelmed or nervous.