



Norbar Torque Tools Ltd
Beaumont Road
Banbury
Oxfordshire
OX16 1XJ
United Kingdom

Tel: + 44 (0) 1295 270333
Fax: + 44 (0) 1295 753643
E-mail: enquiry@norbar.com

Registered in England No.380480
VAT No. GB 119 1060 05

NORBAR ENGINEERS SUCCESSFUL APPRENTICE EVENT



Norbar's Sam Gunn explains torque wrench assembly to a visitor at the company's Engineering Open Evening at Banbury on 16th March 2011

Norbar Torque Tools held a lively and instructive Engineering Open Evening on Wednesday 16th March at its head office and factory in Banbury, Oxfordshire. This annual event regularly attracts school students interested in becoming engineering apprentices, together with accompanying adults including parents and teachers. With over 80 participants, this year broke all attendance records, demonstrating the attraction of engineering apprenticeship as a path to a rewarding career and the growing interest in the resurgent UK manufacturing sector.

Norbar is the world's leading specialist in the design, development and production of torque tightening and measuring equipment, both manufacturing its own products and the tools to test them. The company is a long-established family-run concern employing approx 220 people, with strong ties to the Banbury community. With offices worldwide and exporting a wide range of products and customised engineering solutions to many countries, including India and China, Norbar testifies to the continuing success of UK precision engineering.

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Managing Director Neill Brodey in his welcome explained that Norbar is expanding its production and how the apprenticeship programme is an exceptionally important element for the company's future development. He also emphasised the many different career paths available in engineering, which the Open Evening was designed to demonstrate. Staff then took small groups around both office and factory floor, showing how engineering expertise was required throughout company operations, from 3D CAD design to production and from quality control to sales and marketing.

After the tours came the opportunity for aspiring apprentices to meet Norbar personnel across its range of operations for person-to-person discussion and advice. Representatives from Norbar's training partners Warwickshire College (Leamington Spa) and Oxford Brookes University were also on hand to provide information on both apprenticeship and graduate training programmes.