

Russell joined Menzies in 2007. His present role and broad experience brings him into contact with different operations across the business. In 2018, Russell began a three year course to achieve Level 5 in Operational Management.



developing a
talented workforce

Russell Bennett

TRANSPORT MANAGER



For many people the word ‘Apprenticeship’ is still thought of as being a course for school leavers. However, in our industry, and in many others now, there are at least as many senior staff taking advantage of these formal training programmes as there are younger people.



Completing an apprenticeship well into my second career shows how it's never too late to stretch yourself, boost your skill-set and, ultimately, become a better manager.



After completing my A levels, the first eight years of my working life were spent in the hospitality and fine dining business. During that time I trained and qualified as a sommelier and worked in Michelin starred restaurants. It was hard work, but exciting and rewarding.

Eventually, however, the long and unusual hours were no longer compatible with my other life commitments.

I had always been interested in transport and vehicles of all sorts, so logistics seemed a natural option to start a new career.



My present role as Transport Manager is extremely varied. I'm based in Coventry, which is a very central location, and much of my day-to-day responsibility is acting as a conduit between our planning, transport, finance, traffic and warehousing activities.

The project management skills I've sharpened by undertaking the Level 5 course have been invaluable and are being used in all aspects of my job.



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I started my Level 5 Apprenticeship while in my previous role at Menzies and completed it in my current job. I was able to draw on experiences from both to support my studies and apply my learnings to each role.

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Monday is possibly the busiest day for me in terms of project management: reviewing time cut-off points for deliveries coming up that week and addressing problems that might have arisen over the weekend. Logistics involves keeping a lot of balls in the air and I'm helping to make sure none get dropped along the way, so best-practice training in processes, goal-setting and documenting our steps is vital.

The logistics industry is much more complex than most people outside it realise – that's one of the reasons why training for all levels of staff is so important and is growing.

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Change in logistics isn't just about adding new technology to our part of the supply chain, it's also about understanding the limitations of available transport, optimising and reviewing costs, and understanding the changing needs of customers in different industries.

I've enjoyed applying different learnings gained over the years at Menzies to problem-solving in my present role. My understanding of news publishing gained in my first role is a good example.

My management course offered great flexibility for studying. It slotted alongside my busy day-to-day role extremely well. It's a great way to progress and develop new skills.

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