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# FURTHER FORCES:

In its first year, the Further Forces programme has helped people from all roles within the Armed Forces to find a new career as a teacher in the Further Education sector.

The Further Forces Programme has been created by the MoD and Department of Education. The programme trains anyone leaving the Forces and helps find them employment so they can bring their technical knowledge and skills into teaching, and help meet the demand for technical skills across FE.

All Service Leavers are enrolled onto a career transition programme that will prepare them for the transition between the Armed Forces and a teaching role in FE. Part of this programme will help develop their job application and interview skills. You will be able to interview the suitable Service Leaver and select the candidate most appropriate for your vacancy. If the interview is successful, you can recruit the Service Leaver into a salaried post (usually full-time or possibly part-time- 0.8 FTE). Alongside this employment, the Service Leaver will also be enrolled on a teacher training programme that, upon completion, will result in a University-awarded teaching qualification.

So, if you are looking to fill any technical vacancies, think about Further Forces. There is no charge to any FE provider and the recruit's training is fully covered by the programme.

## JONNY BROWN

After six years as a technical support specialist in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, including two tours in Afghanistan, Jonny is now an electrical installations tutor at York College.

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## LIFE IN THE ARMY: A LEARNING EXPERIENCE

For Jonny, joining the Army when he was 16 was the right move. As well as building up specialist skills and experience in providing logistical support, he learnt to work effectively as part of a team, to adapt to often challenging circumstances, to communicate well and to accept responsibility confidently. These skills serve him well in his post-army life.

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## MAKING THE TRANSITION

The transition was not easy at first. "The hardest job to leave is your first one. All I knew was the Army. I've been lucky – but it's been hard work!" Teaching was not his first choice. His initial goal was to train as an electrician. He was clear that, rather than the army's resettlement option, he wanted a mainstream course. On his way to becoming a fully qualified electrician, with a Level 3 NVQ Electrical qualification, he volunteered for basic tasks and learnt from watching experienced practitioners. "Observe, reflect, learn from others," was – and still is – his guiding principle. After his initial training at Darlington College, he became a workshop tutor at the college for three years, working on practical elements which engaged students. "It was a good step into education."

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## THE NEXT STEP

Now at York College, Jonny is continuing to extend his qualifications and develop his career as an FE tutor. Well supported by the college and Further Forces, he has followed the 'Lifelong Learning'

programme, to the Certificate in Education (Teacher Training). So has been able to gain his qualification while working at York College.

Further Forces offers a good structure that provides a security while transitioning to civilian life and work. “I really value the approach of Further Forces to my personal and professional development. I have one of the college’s Assistant Principals as my mentor, and so feel I have a well-supported career route mapped out.”

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### **A GOOD MOVE?**

Jonny is emphatic. “I love my job. It’s not an instant thing – when you see people finally ‘get it’ and do well after you’ve spent time helping them, you think: I did part of that!”