

## Yvonne Baiden – National Apprenticeship Week



*Click on the images to download*

As a full time mum to three children, as well as being a grandparent, Yvonne Baiden has a lot on her plate – and she decided to add to it even more in September by starting an apprenticeship. She's sharing her story for #NationalApprenticeshipWeek.

"I'm a qualified electrician but finding a job was getting extremely difficult", says 51-year-old Yvonne.

"I became a foster carer, which was very demanding but rewarding too. I did this for a few years but knew I was destined for something different. Whilst I was job hunting and looking at ways to improve my skills, I came across GTR and the mechanical engineering apprenticeship.

"As a mature student, parent and grandparent, I will say that doing an apprenticeship at my age isn't without its challenges! But I'm pleased to say I'm on track. Although we can't have practical lessons at college right now, we're focusing on the theory side of the course and I'm managing to do a lot of independent study."

Learning at home is a challenge in itself for Yvonne, as she's also juggling home-schooling too.

"My youngest daughter has just started secondary school but of course she can't go in at the moment either so we're both stuck at home trying our best to study! It's certainly an interesting situation.

"I've loved electricals since I was a child and I've always been interested in engineering, but my lifestyle didn't allow me to pursue it in earlier life. It's something I really wanted to do so I never gave up. One thing I loved about training to become an electrician was even though I was in my late thirties, there were people older than me on the course too. Some were doing a refresher and others were having a complete career change and that helped me believe that you really are never too old to try something new.

"That's why I didn't worry about starting an apprenticeship now, even though I'm over 50. I think if you get an opportunity to do an apprenticeship later in life, you should grab it by both hands!"