



NEWS RELEASE

15.10.19

Keeping it in the family

When Jack Irvine was accepted for an apprenticeship with ExxonMobil at Fife Ethylene Plant he knew his future was in safe hands.

For his dad Graham had already been working at the plant for 26 years!

"I had grown up with my dad working here and I knew that it was a great place to work," said Jack (28).

"He was always telling us how much he enjoyed his work."

Jack, a former Balwearie High School pupil who grew up in Kirkcaldy and now lives in Dunfermline, began his three-year apprenticeship in 2014, before being taken on as a process technician.

And he hopes that his future at FEP will be as good as his dad's.

"I knew how much my dad loves working here and how it provided a good life for us as a family, so I was delighted when I was taken on full-time after three years," he said.

"I also knew that my dad would never let me go to work somewhere it wasn't safe to be, because he is very safety conscious." At the moment I am on assignment as a process co-ordinator, working with the maintenance teams to ensure everything is in place to get the processes done correctly."

Graham (52), who lives in Kirkcaldy, is a shift manager at FEP.

"I started here on March 5, 1990, working as a plant technician," he said,

"I had worked with British Steel at Mossend in Lanarkshire and as soon as I came here I immediately noticed the improvement in working standards – everything is centred around safety for employees.

"It was a very multi-skilled environment here and on a shift you had a full range of people with the ability to tackle most issues.

"In March I will celebrate my 30th year working here and I have loved every minute. It has been a lifetime commitment by me to ExxonMobil and from them to me.

"For the first 20 odd years I worked with the same people and most people were here for many years like me because it is such a good place to work.

"When Jack got his apprenticeship I was very happy because I knew it could set him up for a great future.

"We are handing over to my son's generation and the processes we have in place are stronger and better now because of the technical and technological developments over the years."

And Jack added: "If my career here is anywhere as good as what my dad's has been then I will be very happy.

"My goal is to build up my experience and have as good a future as him."

Fife Ethylene Plant has a long tradition of family ties and there are currently five sets of fathers and sons working at the plant as well as four sets of brothers and several husband and wife employees.

