

**BT Group**



# Tom Culley BEM

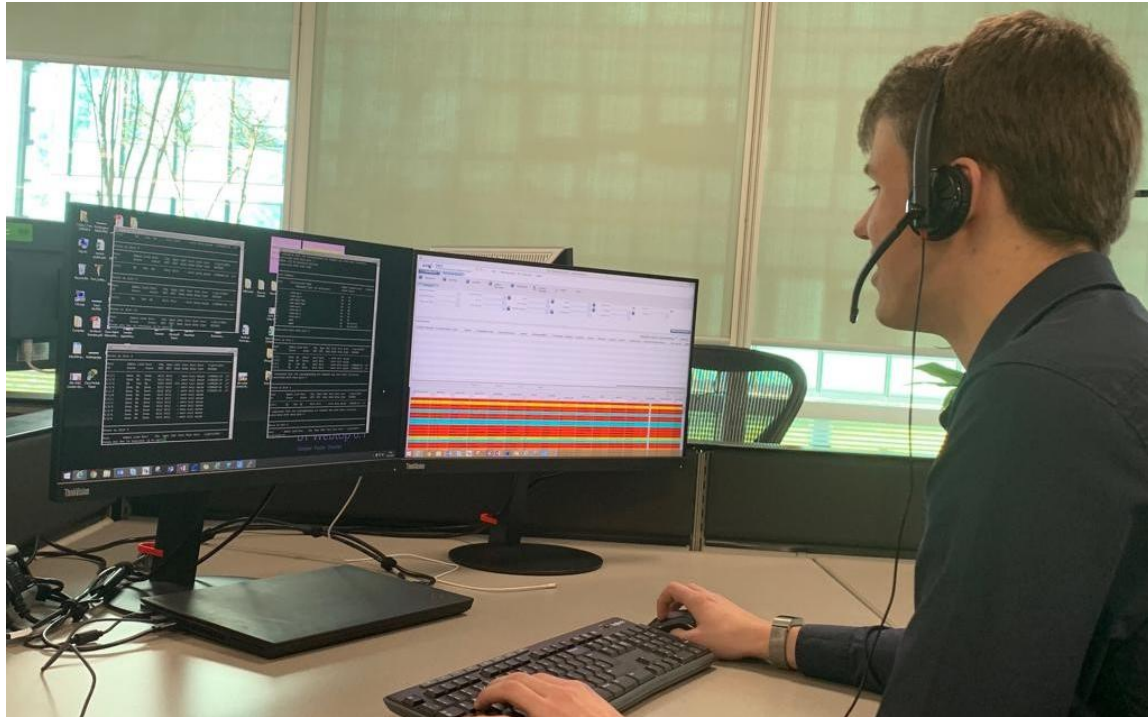
## My Apprenticeship Journey & Life at BT!



Network Engineering Manager | Networks | BT Group

Former Networks Degree Apprentice  
AAN National Co-Vice Chair

29.01.25  
Presented by  
Tom Culley  
Network Engineering  
Manager



## Day to day as an Engineer

My day-to-day role is fairly technical – maintaining, upgrading, designing and decommissioning infrastructure critical to our Media & Broadcast and BT TV network – including Switches, Routers, Firewalls and more!



## Day to day as an Apprentice

From Networking to Volunteering and the occasional Awards Ceremony – life as an Apprentice is super rewarding, and full of many enriching opportunities!

# My Career Journey... so far...



## 2016

**Robert Barclay  
Academy**

Studied 11 GCSE's, 2 A  
Levels in Maths and  
Geography & 1 BTEC in  
Music finishing with:

- 4 A's - 1 D
- 4 B's - 1 E
- 3 C's - 1 D\*



## 2018

**Joined BT & began  
Uni studies**

Began the 4 year  
"Networks Degree  
Apprenticeship" at BT!



## 2022

**Finished the  
Apprenticeship**

Became a full-time  
Network Engineer in BT  
Media & Broadcast!



## 2023

**Became a Network  
Engineering Manager**

Took on my own team,  
managing data centres  
nationally.

# My options after school

## 11

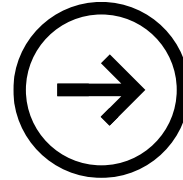
### GCSE's

- Maths
- English Lit & Lang
- Double Science
- Geography
- Spanish
- IT
- Music
- PE
- RE

## 3

### A Levels

- Maths (E)
- Geography (D)
- BTEC Music (D\*)



## 5

### Universities

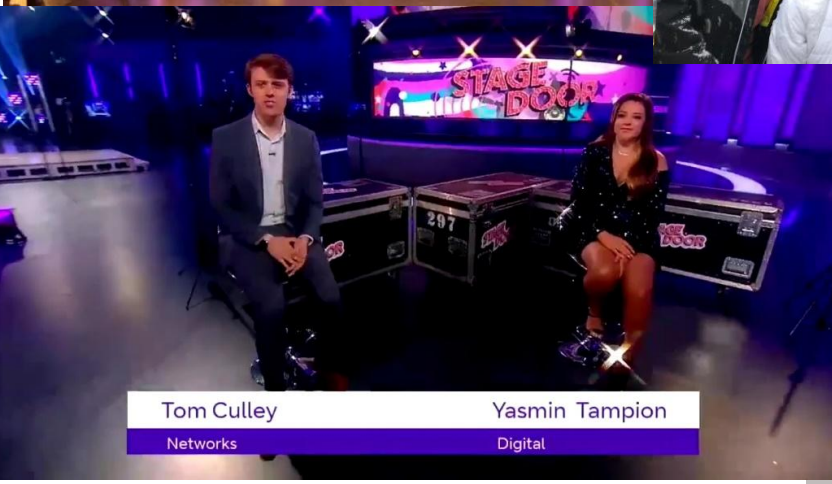
- Leeds (C)
- Kent (C)
- Royal Holloway (C)
- Glasgow (C)
- Hertfordshire (UC)

## 8

### Apprenticeship Applications

- BT (L6)
- Accenture (L6)
- IBM (L6)
- EY (L6)
- PwC (L6)
- UBS (L4)
- Civil Service (L4)
- Google (L3)





Tom Culley

Networks

Yasmin Tampion

Digital



**Great app!**  
I use it for tracking my work and to-do list. It's really handy for scheduling my next video call via Zoom. I use it for scheduling my next video call via Zoom. I use it for scheduling my next video call via Zoom.

**Current circumstances**  
I've been working from home but, as I write this, I'm due to start a new field-based job in June.

**Meeting**  
We are using a combination of Skype and Teams meetings and both are working well. Teams is being utilised for larger groups.

**Great app!**  
I use it for tracking my work and to-do list. It's really handy for scheduling my next video call via Zoom. I use it for scheduling my next video call via Zoom.

**Industry insights**  
I've also stepped away from a lot of technology and I'm enjoying the countryside. It's a bit of a culture change but I've been a 10-minute walk away from it for 10 years!

**Meeting**  
The pressure has been on in telecoms to keep up the flow and make sure customers are connected during these unprecedented times. The challenge has been keeping customers in service and installing new services while maintaining social distancing. In some cases engineers have used video calls to help to install. It's the most agile we've ever been - seeing problems and coming up with innovative new ways of working, implementing them quickly and rolling them out across the UK.

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# New skills & experiences





# Apprentice Application Journey

Apply

Online

Skills assessment

Online

Discovery interview

Chat

Assessment Event

Hub



# Application Tips

- Research the company and the role you are applying for
- Identify your skills that would benefit you in the role
- There are many providers of psychometric tests in the UK. They offer free practice tests for verbal, numerical, and inductive reasoning.
- Competency-based interviews are common in the UK. Prepare answers using the STAR method (Situation, Task, Action, Result) and tailor examples to the job role
- Prepare examples of past experiences that demonstrate key skills
- UK assessment events often include case study exercises where you'll need to analyse business situations. Practice structuring and presenting solutions logically
- Be ready to collaborate and communicate clearly in group tasks.





# Interview Tips

- Get plenty of rest the night before your assessment day to ensure you're mentally alert.
- Stay calm and focused on the task while showcasing leadership and teamwork skills
- Practice relaxation techniques to stay calm during the exercises.
- Be Yourself.
- Ask if you need the question repeated /Rephrased.



# Apprenticeship Vacancies at BT

Our roles are live NOW!

Head to [bt.com/apprentices](https://bt.com/apprentices)

*Locations include London, Ipswich, Birmingham, Bristol, Belfast, Manchester, Chippenham, Cambridge, Guildford, Leeds, Newcastle, Norwich, Reading, Reigate, Sheffield & Slough*

## Software Engineering

Learn how we develop exciting new software solutions that push the boundaries of technology.

Explore our roles

## Security

Learn how we keep our data and assets safe from cyber threats with the latest security tools and techniques.

Explore our roles

## Engineering

Learn how we design and improve the technology that keeps us one step ahead of our competitors.

Explore our roles

## Transformation & Delivery

Drive change and innovation by delivering impactful projects that shape the future of technology and connectivity.

Explore our roles

## Service

Learn how we maintain our networks and fix any issues, so our customers enjoy the best experience.

Explore our roles