

## Welcoming 2018

This blog marks the start of a new year and allows me to look back on the previous months at MDA Consulting so far. My first few months have flown by, but as the saying goes, 'time flies when you're having fun', and this saying is true in my case.

Since day one, I have encountered new and exciting work opportunities – learning about the many expectations of quantity surveyors within the industry. This is a challenge I relish in my career.

The annual Christmas party at Kensington Roof Gardens provided a great platform to meet more colleagues from the company, including the many fellow undergraduates. As an undergraduate working towards becoming chartered, balancing work, university and APC requirements can prove challenging at times. However, knowing that many others within the company are willing to provide help and guidance is both reassuring and refreshing.

Although my MDA career has only just begun, I have learned a lot and developed many skills, which is something I wish to continue in the forthcoming years. As with any job, there are difficulties - for me personally, this is due to the amount of new experiences - however, I'm passionate about overcoming these hurdles with hard work, determination and the ever-appreciated guidance of my colleagues.

Part of my role at MDA involves attending networking events, which I'm aiming to dedicate more of my time to throughout 2018. As a result, I'm hopeful that I will be able to achieve many new professional relationships with positive outcomes. I firmly believe that meeting new people throughout the construction industry will allow me to develop and educate myself further by drawing upon individuals' experiences and skills. Hopefully I will get to meet many of you — please feel free to drop me a line if you fancy a coffee sometime.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone at MDA for a great Christmas party and an even better start to a great first few months! I wish my colleagues, our clients and contacts a prosperous New Year.

Tom Shannon
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