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WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF DOING AN APPRENTICESHIP?

I applied for several Teaching Assistant Apprenticeships, in both primary and secondary settings as I was open to working anywhere within education. I currently work in a Secondary School, which at first was out of my comfort zone due to leaving such a similar setting as a student myself. However, the role included working with SEN students which interested me. At the time I was already working part-time, I realised I enjoyed the professionalism of a workplace, however, I also wanted to continue studying as I felt I was too young to go into a job full time. I have always enjoyed education and learning new things, so an apprenticeship appealed as I could continue to gain new knowledge and apply it to my job.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE AN APPRENTICESHIP?

I applied for the Apprenticeship after I finished Sixth Form, after deciding University was not the path I wanted to take at the time. I was unsure of what career path I wanted to go down however I knew that I wanted to work with young people. Due to the wide variety of roles, I decided to explore what options were available before I decided on any specific career path to take. An Apprenticeship as a Teaching Assistant was the perfect way to get insight into the different roles in education and being able to work with external agencies as well.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT THE APPRENTICESHIP?

What I enjoy about the Apprenticeship is that I learn new things on the job giving me more experience which I can apply to my studies. I do believe that experience is one of the best ways to learn, I personally thrive by learning on the job, as I pick up new skills quickly and I am able to seek help from colleagues with great expertise.

HOW HAS AN APPRENTICESHIP HELPED YOU IN YOUR WORK?

Completing the apprenticeship has led me into working with students specifically with Autism. I now currently work in the newly set up Autism hub within my School setting and enjoy gaining more knowledge and understanding on supporting those with Autism. This has guided and shown me that this is an area I would like to continue pursuing my career in.