



**Joshua Coogan**

**HR Support Apprenticeship (level 3)  
South Cambridgeshire District Council**

## **What made you choose an apprenticeship?**

After evaluating my options, I quickly realised that a sole studying experience did not suit my learning style. After a year's employment as a Trading Assistant at Sainsburys' during lockdown and participating in one of their wellbeing initiatives as a Wellbeing Champion, I decided I wanted to look into a career in Human Resources. I ended up choosing an apprenticeship as I was able to experience and work a role in more aspects than just getting a job, but I also got to spend time exploring the academic side to the profession.

## **What do you think are the benefits of an apprenticeship route?**

The apprenticeship route has a wide range of benefits, some that people do not admit in the interview, like a salary, but also the huge bonus of being able to explore a role both in practice and in theory with the support of a variety of qualified professionals both tutoring on your course and working alongside you.

The progression that an apprenticeship offers is great. It provides plenty of networking opportunities and ultimately rewards you with a qualification that will help you progress to the next stage in your career. I believe experience in a role is a growing demand, that universities sometimes do not offer, that can really give you a head start when it comes to applying for roles.

## **What do you hope to accomplish career-wise over the next five years?**

Considering the knowledge I have learnt so far, I hope to continue on this path of learning whilst working and achieve higher CIPD qualifications. In five years' time I would like to be studying for my CIPD Level 7 and have experienced a variety of different organisation types and the way their HR department operates.