

Disabled Apprentice Network

The Network brings together Disabled apprentices and those who recently finished their apprenticeship. Here are some of the network members.

Ellie



I have completed level 2 and 3 in Business and Administration.

My choice to become an apprentice was after my discovery of apprenticeships in Year 10 at school. After exploring the opportunities, I made my decision to complete an apprenticeship after considering all my post -16 options.

I knew that the apprenticeship route was the right one for my development and career. It took me 2.5 years to finish my apprenticeships as I completed both Level 2 and 3 in business and

administration.

The best thing about being an apprentice is that you are learning valuable skills and earning a wage at the same time. As an apprentice you gain a qualification as well as industry experience.

Choosing to become an apprentice means you are in charge of the best learning path for your career - you choose which apprenticeship programme, which employer, which training provider and most of all you choose your own success and goals for your future. That's what I like about apprenticeships the most!

Marc



I am doing a Business Administration, level 3 apprenticeship

I chose to do an apprenticeship due to a workplace mentor advising me to. I wasn't too sure at the time, but decided to [do it], and it's the best thing I had ever done.

The best thing about doing an apprenticeship is learning whilst earning

Alexander



I've completed an apprenticeship in Business Administration level 4.

I decided to do an apprenticeship because since I was applying for my first full-time job, the opportunity to do learning as part of this seemed very helpful for easing myself into the world of work.

The chance to learn and apply this to my work was a mutually beneficial attraction to doing an apprenticeship.

The best part of my apprenticeship was the apprentice community. It has proved to be super helpful to be part of some brilliant groups and networks of people in the same position doing apprenticeships in other professions.

This was helpful because I could seek support with course work, widened my social circle and I had a supportive community to celebrate completing my apprenticeship with.

Kelly



I am doing a level 3 Learning and Development apprenticeship.

The best thing about the apprenticeship is the application I make from my learnings.

My apprenticeship has allowed me to be creative and show where my strengths lie.

On completion I am hoping to move further into the Learning and Development field and explore my options.

I feel having the qualification behind me has empowered me to become more confident, and I would encourage and recommend an apprenticeship to anyone.

Scott



I did a part-time level 2 Business Administration apprenticeship.

I decided to do an Apprenticeship because they were popular with people my age at the time and seemed like the best entry into employment for myself and people my age.

The best part of doing an apprenticeship was meeting and greeting different types of customers, feeling productive, meeting new people and being treated as an equal.

The best thing was winning my Apprenticeship award for Business, Creative and Digital Apprentice of the year which came as total shock and surprise to me.

Scott's employer says: *"I worked with Scott throughout his apprenticeship. Scott was hard working and dedicated to his learning and his development within the workplace, always looking to enhance his skills and knowledge. I know that Scott has given back too, working with Disability Rights UK he has been able to share his progress and confidence with others to inspire them on their journeys. Scott was a dedicated and enthusiastic apprentice who brought so much to his team."*

Harry



Hi I am Harry. I have autism and I am doing a level 3 apprenticeship.

I worked as a support worker part-time for East Kent Mencap, they supported me greatly and helped me understand everything I have trouble with.

I love learning all about disabilities and how to better support myself and the people I work with.

I have a degree in commercial music from Canterbury Christchurch University

Luke



Luke started his apprenticeship with Microlink PC in August 2018. Luke found it hard to get work since leaving University in 2015, having graduated with a 2.1 in business information systems.

It has always been Luke's goal to work in the disability technology sector to ensure that he can pass on his personal knowledge and experience of dealing with a disability himself and having technology helping him to develop independence.

After many years of hard work getting nowhere, he decided instead of the conventional CV, he would use a video CV. That's where Microlink PC first heard of Luke.

Luke began working for Microlink PC on an apprenticeship in the role of apprentice technical support. He then moved on to a role within the research and development team. Luke has completed his apprenticeship and continues to work at Microlink PC.

Luke uses the vital support of Access to Work. Without the support, Luke feels that it would be impossible for him to do the job to the best of his ability and having that right support in place. Access to Work allows him to be as independent as possible and allow him to do the best job possible for the company and himself.

Luke's apprenticeship was full-time, and the company did supply reasonable adjustments to allow him to do the job.

Luke says: *"the best part of the apprenticeship was learning about the business side of company and how we can help clients fulfil their potential and learning new skills that I can take into employment in the future and continue to build on the skills to make me a better employee and better at my job."*

Vicki

I am doing a Chartered Management Degree Apprenticeship, level 6.

I decided to do an apprenticeship because I wanted to get a degree with practical experience.

The best thing about doing an apprenticeship is gaining practical experience from knowledgeable staff whilst also completing a degree.

More information about apprenticeships and our report “*Getting it Right for Disabled Apprentices*” is available on our website.

Disabled Apprentice network