

Case study

Forest Way Special School

Forest Way Special School in Coalville is for students between the ages of 4 to 19 years. This case study is about a year 14 student in our Post 16 department.

The student has a diagnosis of being on the autistic spectrum, can demonstrate obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) and has suffered with anxiety. At times the student has found attending school difficult and has therefore had poor attendance and slowly became isolated from his peers. The student can lack confidence in both numeracy and literacy.

The student is aware of his own difficulties and can be anxious about how his conditions can hinder his future aspirations.

The student volunteered to take part in the Coalville Heroes Community Project, which offered the chance to be involved in practical hands-on activity working with local tradesmen. Together with others, the student helped to create an exhibition themed around the Coalville Famous Fifty World War 1 soldiers. This experience boosted the student's self-esteem and confidence working with unfamiliar people. It also improved their motivation and work ethic and they started to demonstrate a mature and positive attitude.

Following the experience, the student began to realize that they enjoyed practical tasks and work experiences and agreed to take part in a work experience placement. The student suggested he would like to work in a car garage, so the school contacted Leicester Education Business Company (LEBC) who found a potential car garage local to school. The owner of the garage had concerns that the garage environment may not be a suitable environment for a special needs' student. The garage owner offered to have an informal meeting with the student and agreed to a trial day.

The student attended the work experience accompanied by a school member of staff and made a good impression on the garage owner and his employees. After the trial day, the garage owner was happy for the student to return and do one day a week at the garage, eventually being able to attend without the need for the school staff member's support.

The student's duties included supporting with MOT and safety checks, brake services and oil changes. The student is a visual learner and can pick up mechanical specific skills.

The opportunity to gain work experience in a garage has benefited this student. They have been able to demonstrate their capabilities, not only to an employer but also to themselves, becoming less anxious.



**I find this work
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fantastic
opportunity.
Student quote**

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The student was able to identify a career future and pathway and has carried out their own research on how they can pursue their chosen career. They have looked at college courses that could lead to a motor mechanic-based qualification. The garage also agreed that once the student gained a college placement, they would like to support them.

The student's positive work ethic is inspiring other post-16 students, informally talking to them and reassuring them about work placements and about the importance of numeracy and literacy in the workplace.

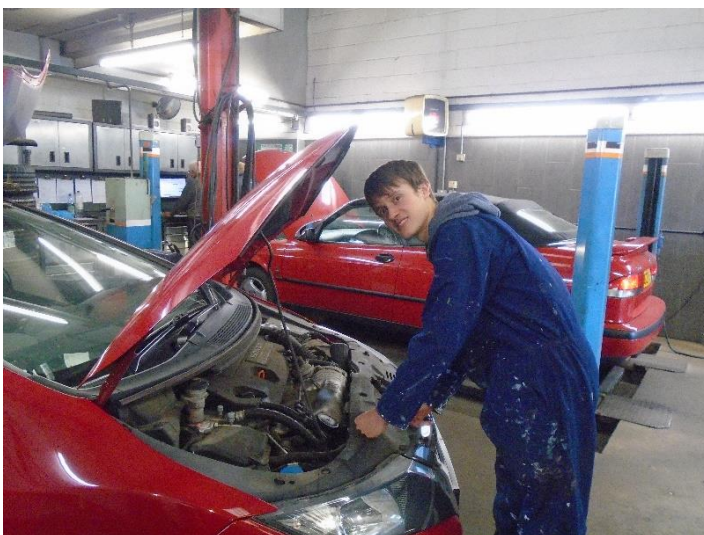
Working with a supportive employer has given this student more than just work experience, it has given them the opportunity to prove themselves, to see their own strengths and to begin to map out their future.

Student quote: "I find this work experience a fantastic opportunity."

Employer quote: "Very pleased with Louis, a good attitude towards work, always happy to help and a pleasant person to have around the workshop."



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