

Wye School Apprentices: Case Studies

Lee Marsh, Administration Apprentice



Lee joined the staff at Wye in 2018 as part of our Administration Team. We asked Lee some questions about apprenticeships, here is what he had to say:

Why did you undertake an apprenticeship?

I decided to undertake an apprenticeship as I was struggling to find an admin-based position, constantly being told that I did not have enough experience to be given the job as I only had retail experience at the time. I spent some time looking at my options and decided that an apprenticeship would be the best way for me to get the job that I was looking for. The apprenticeship allowed me to start from the very bottom, learning all of the key skills that I would need whilst in position. An apprenticeship also gave me access to a tutor with regular catchups to keep on top of the coursework that I needed to complete during the apprenticeship.

What are the pros of apprenticeships?

The pro of my apprenticeship was that I was given the time to learn about the position. I was also given the opportunity to shadow different departments of the school, helping to further increase my knowledge of how a school is run behind the scenes. Another pro of completing my apprenticeship is that I earned a Level 2 Qualification in Business Administration for doing so. Having this qualification proves to employers that I have successfully completed my apprenticeship and highlights that I have key skills and experiences when looking for jobs.

What are you doing now?

I am currently working as the Admin & Exams Officer at Heath Farm School, a special needs school in Charing Heath. The skills I learnt whilst undertaking my apprenticeship were key in securing me this position as I was able to provide a greater level of depth in my answers to the questions asked and was able to provide specific scenarios to further highlight this. This showed the interview panel that I had the required experiences that they were looking for.

Do you have any tips for students thinking about undertaking an apprenticeship?

I would suggest to anyone looking at apprenticeships to research the company before applying. If you are lucky enough to get an interview, researching the company could be the difference between you getting the job or not.

I would also suggest planning out the apprenticeship with your tutor, setting deadlines for when you need to complete certain pieces of work. Doing this allows you to focus yourself on completing the right work at the right time, reducing the levels of stress should you leave it to the last days to complete.

The final thing I would suggest is to constantly update your CV with all the new skills you have learnt as you learn them. This is a lot easier than trying to remember all of the new skills at the end of your apprenticeship, or when the time comes to apply for another position.

Suha Cakir, IT Technician Apprentice



Suha joined the staff at Wye in 2018 as our IT Technician. We asked Suha some questions about apprenticeships, here is what he had to say:

Why did you undertake an apprenticeship?

It was a good gateway to set up as an IT tech. It's hard to get your foot onto the ladder without having any experience. I did BTEC Media, Business Studies, IT in Sixth Form. After Y13, tried to find a job, but the feedback from the interview was that I didn't have enough experience. When I saw the apprenticeship at Wye I thought that this would be a good opportunity to gain experience.

What are the pros of apprenticeships?

Having GCSEs and A Levels isn't always enough. Experience is the most important thing for securing a job. You get to learn on the job, gain all of the experience and receive a qualification in that field. If you wanted to go to university, or complete a Level 6 apprenticeship, then completing a Level 3/4 apprenticeship can be a good way to get your foot into a higher degree-level apprenticeship which can be hard to come by.

What you are doing now?

Working as one of two IT Techs for a multi-academy trust of six schools.

Do you have any tips for students thinking about undertaking an apprenticeship?

Look at the company to see if they have any other apprentices, how experienced they are in apprenticeship delivery and what support they will offer you.

Make sure you research the sector you want to look into to be sure you want to pursue a career in that sector