

# ASHLEY ELLIS

**Ashley began studying with the Learning for Living and Work (LflW) department in September 2013. Previously Ashley found school difficult.**

**Ashley said:** *“School was hard. It wasn’t easy to talk to people there.”*

Understandably, Ashley was nervous about beginning his time at Barnsley College but was able to settle into his new surroundings really quickly and soon felt at home.

**“The staff are great. They’re really funny. I felt safe here.”**

Ashley has a significant speech and language difficulty in the form of a stammer and diplegic cerebral palsy. He also has an acquired brain injury and a general learning difficulty.

## **Supporting the student journey**

Ashley completed many qualifications as a student in the LflW department, including Functional Skills in maths and English up to Entry Level 3 and a Level 1 qualification in Employability.

This is particularly impressive as this involved the giving of presentations; something Ashley found challenging due to his stammer. Rather than this becoming an overwhelming barrier, Ashley met the challenge head on and with great results. Towards the end of his time with LflW, Ashley expressed an interest in progressing to Catering.

**“I like cooking and got to try it out a lot when I was in Learning for Living and Work.”**

A series of successful taster sessions led to Ashley being offered a place on a full-time Catering Level 1 course.

## **Next steps**

Ashley is now a student in the Catering department and working hard to develop his skills.

**“I want to get better at cooking. It’s good that I know people on the course from when they were in Learning for Living and Work too.”**

There is no doubt that Ashley has grown in confidence and is in a position to begin considering career options.