

JOSHUA SCOTHORN

Before joining Learning for Living and Work (LflW), Josh had mixed experiences of his time in school.

Joshua said: *“School was alright. I kept myself to myself. The classes were big and I needed a bit of extra help sometimes. I wasn’t very sad to leave but I was nervous about my next steps.”*

Josh remembers coming to College for the first time and feeling a little overwhelmed.

“It was strange coming to a new place after being at school for so long and I used to find change a little difficult to deal with. It was great though. I began to feel like an adult straight away and the staff made me feel much less nervous.”

Josh has a moderate learning difficulty, a history of epilepsy and a severe lack of confidence, particularly in new situations.

Supporting the student journey

Josh’s development during his time in LflW has been notable, especially in terms of his confidence and social skills. This is something that has been noticed by his mum:

She said: *“Josh has grown in confidence so much in his time at College. He is so much better at talking to people and his self-esteem has improved loads. There is no doubt College has helped him become a fine young man.”*

Not only has Josh developed his personal skills, he has achieved numerous qualifications that have helped him to progress. He managed to work through the Functional Skills levels to achieve Entry Level 3 qualifications in maths and English as well as complete a Level 1 certificate in Employability.

Next steps

Arguably Josh’s greatest achievement was completing two years on a Supported Internship as part of the LflW department. This has involved him being placed in a real working environment for the majority of the week whilst receiving support and some taught sessions in College. Josh’s work skills developed quickly and as a result of his success, Josh was offered employment at the end of his second year working with Quality Save.

“At the minute I’m working 12 hours a week which is great. I want to keep getting better at my job though and hopefully I’ll be given more hours soon.”