

Case Study:

Teaching Assistant Caldew School



Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools

Rebecca Alderson works at her old school supporting pupils with special educational needs. She is a member of the Autistic Spectrum Disorder Department, where she gives pupils the support they need to be able to participate in all areas of the curriculum in the mainstream school.



Benefits

Rebecca believes that her Apprenticeship helped her bridge the gap between being a pupil and an employee, as she explains:

"I was concerned about my transition from pupil to employee, but this was overcome quickly and I now feel like a valued member of the staff team. I love my job and I also get a great feeling of satisfaction from supporting pupils with special needs.

"I feel that I am now achieving in my personal life and work life, and the balance that an Apprenticeship offers really suits my style of learning."

Why an Apprenticeship?

Rebecca joined the department as a volunteer on the last day of her GCSEs. When an apprentice told her about Apprenticeships, she realised that this is what she wanted to do.

She says "I chose to do my Apprenticeship because I did not feel that sitting in a classroom was going to be the best way for me to learn. No other courses that I was offered interested me, but I realised that an Apprenticeship was the right thing for me."

What Next?

Since starting her Apprenticeship Rebecca has undertaken additional training including studying Makaton Sign Language and learning Polish to be able to support two Polish students. She also plans to undertake an Advanced Apprenticeship with the support of her employer.