



What it's like to do an apprenticeship – Paige and Adam

Lorna: "Erm, I'm talking to Paige at the Textile Centre of Excellence, and she works in the offices and on reception. Hi Paige. What apprenticeship are you currently doing at the moment?"

Paige: "I'm doing erm, Business and Admin Level 2."

Lorna: "Brilliant. And what made you chose the apprenticeship route?"

Paige: "Erm, well I did go to college. Erm, about three months and it just wasn't for me. I didn't enjoy it, it were costing a fortune to get there, so..."

Lorna: "Right. Ok, brilliant. And what qualifications will you get through doing your apprenticeship?"

Paige: "Erm, a Level 2 NVQ."

Lorna: "Right."

Paige: "So, I'm also doing an ECDL."

Lorna: "Right."

Paige: "Which is sort of like a business admin sort of course."

Lorna: "Yeah."

Paige: "Which I've just passed, so..."

Lorna: "Fantastic. Ok, brill. How many opportunities have you looked into before going into your business admin apprenticeship?"

Paige: "Erm, well I were really interested in doing childcare."

Lorna: "Ok."

Paige: "Erm, and I tried to get a lot of apprentices in that and it just really didn't work and I had a previous experience in business and admin and I quite enjoyed it when I did it then, so... This was a school experience when you do your two weeks placement. Erm, so I tried applying for them and..."

Lorna: "And here you are?"

Paige: "Yeah."

Lorna: "Ok. What do you think about the apprenticeship wage?"

Paige: "Erm, well. I get paid a bit more, so... I mean people when they get an apprenticeship they think it's just gonna be that wage, but other companies do offer a bit more, so... It's workable yeah."

Lorna: "So it motivates you?"

Paige: "Yeah. Yeah it does."

Lorna: "Ok. What was your apprenticeship wage and how did you find living on it?"

Adam: "Erm, when I started, I think it were about £200 but I had the discussion with my dad and that, and they said like they weren't going to offer to pay me a fortune and that but they weren't going to put me on the minimum they could because... with it being quite hard, starting early and it's like 10 hour days. Erm, so they said that as I progressed I mean I got a bit more, so... Once I'd learned how to do the card and stuff I got a bit of extra every week and then, and as it's progressed it's got more, and a bit more, and a bit more. So you've always got a bit of an incentive to work for."

Lorna: "What advice would you give to other young people looking for an apprenticeship?"

Paige: "Just go for it. Erm, I mean, if you don't want to stay in education. Like, cos for college, for me were pretty much like doing school all over again. You can't wait to leave when you're at school so, yeah. It's definitely something different. I know you're still learning but you're also earning money, so it's definitely worth it."

Lorna: "Yeah. Ok, right. Thank you very much."

Paige: "No problem."

Lorna: "What other, erm, advice would you give to young people that are wanting to go into an apprenticeship?" **Adam:**

"Erm, if you're going to do it, got to go at it. You can't go at it half-heartedly because with them, like, most of them you have to go to college so you've got the work from college as well as having to go to work. So, it's not something you can do and just sort of saunter through. You've got to, like, (...), that is hard graft."

Lorna: "What is the difference between being at college and doing an apprenticeship?"

Paige: "Well, when you're at college you're constantly working. You're doing all day in a classroom and going home and you've got homework to do. Whereas, when you're doing an apprenticeship you complete a unit in a four-week space so it kind of gives you a break. And you're working in between those, so..."