

MEET THE APPRENTICE - KAI

Kai completed his studies in July 2020 and started an AAT accountancy apprenticeship in the Finance Department at Thomas Telford. We asked him to share his story.

What did you study at Sixth Form?

I left Madeley Academy in July 2020 and I studied A Level Psychology - C, BTEC Sport – D* and BTEC Double Business – D*D*

Why did you want to go for an apprenticeship rather than uni?

I decided to go through the apprenticeship scheme over university mainly due to the experience you are able to gain within a workplace. After speaking to people in various companies I found that a lot of places rate experience as well as and sometimes even more than qualifications - within an apprenticeship you gain both. In the sector I wanted to go into (accounting), experience is vital due to the hands on knowledge you need to become successful. Additionally there are no tuition fees or loans needed to complete an apprenticeship scheme, so you can complete it debt free. Plus you earn a wage alongside working and studying towards your qualifications.

How are you finding it so far? What are the best bits, what are the worst bits?

So far I am currently 3 months in and I am loving the job, due to the way I am not sat writing essays and coursework, but rather doing physical work. I've settled in very quickly with help from wonderful colleagues and I have been able to make a lot of new friends and relationships. I wouldn't say I have many bad things to say about my apprenticeship maybe just the fact that it takes a lot of focus and determination to work through it but if you're a hard worker and like the graft it is perfect.

What are the main differences between school and work?

The main differences with work and school from my experience is the calmness as I find I am not rushed to complete high amounts of work where as in school I've had that experience with deadlines for coursework assignments and exams. Also I find that I learn a lot more valuable information within work due to the experience I gain using different software and seeing how the business runs, which personally I find a lot more interesting.

Ambitions for the future

My main ambition for the future is continue to gain higher qualifications in accountancy. This is going to allow me to work up the ranks and get into positions where I take on more and more responsibility within a business.

Any advice you would give current students?

My main advice for students is to find a career that you want to go into through voluntary work experience, speaking to the School's Careers Team and even reaching out to businesses yourself. Independent research is required to see which is the best route for you to take. Universities are seen as the only way for a majority of students, but from my experiences I highly recommend looking for apprenticeships within your preferred sectors and keep your options open. Apprenticeships are a fantastic opportunity to gain a qualification, experience and earn a salary at the same time!



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