

# MEET THE APPRENTICE - LUKE

Luke completed his studies in July 2020 and started a digital technology degree apprenticeship at Capgemini. We asked him to share his story.

## **What did you study at Sixth Form?**

At Sixth Form, I studied Maths, Business and Computer Science.

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

I wanted to go for an apprenticeship because I liked the idea of having a full-time job and getting paid, while studying for a degree, as well as gathering real-life experience of the workplace.

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

So far, I am really enjoying the apprenticeship. In early November, I completed the compulsory eight weeks of intense uni studies, and have been working full time since then, running up until March where I begin my next module of uni work. I would say the best bits are being able to work with systems that are relevant every day, for example I have been working on systems such as New Tax Credits (NTC) and the Student Loan Service (SLS). I wouldn't say there have been any particularly 'bad bits' but the hardest part I've found so far is trying to balance a full-time job as well as studying towards a degree at the same time – so I've found it really important to manage my time effectively.

**What are the main differences between school and work?** I would say the main difference between work and school would be that I have been working from home, whereas I never experienced the 'virtual' school environment that has been put into place now. Other than that, I think the biggest difference is that you're given more responsibilities and you're expected to ask for help and try to soak up as much information as possible from your colleagues.

## **Ambitions for the future**

In terms of ambitions for the future, as an apprentice I have the opportunity to be promoted once per year for the next 4 years, so I would like to make sure I am the highest grade possible by the end of my apprenticeship, as well as ensuring I complete the degree! In the long term I would like to explore different roles within Capgemini, such as becoming a Software Architect or a Test Analyst.

## **Any advice you would give current students?**

I would advise current students to not overlook apprenticeships. Even if university is their preferred route, there are so many opportunities within apprenticeships that are worth considering before focusing solely on university! When applying for apprenticeships, don't just focus on skills you already have... companies are more interested in how you approach learning new skills, and try to demonstrate an 'open-minded' attitude towards learning more and developing yourself! Most importantly of all, ensure to do as much research on the company as possible before applying for the apprentices or going for an interview. It is just as important that the company is right for you, not just that you are right for the company.

Digital  
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