

Good News - Joe



Joe had been enrolled to do an apprenticeship in animal Care with another educational establishment however there was an admin error which meant he was subsequently withdrawn after the start of term. Joe contacted the Advice and Guidance centre at Petroc and was referred internally to the Skills for young people team.

Joe came to Petroc having completed work experience at a Pig Farm when he was at school. He had also helped his parents cleaning holiday chalets occasionally. He had achieved GCSEs: English Language 2, Literature 1, Science 1,1. Joe has several mental health issues which have affected him being able to engage: OCD for cleanliness, an eating disorder as well as low self-esteem and Dyslexia. He has moderate learning difficulties.

Joe had a plan in place to do an apprenticeship and was thoroughly let down by his previous experience which impacted his self-esteem and motivation to engage at all. However, after talking to the Skills support for young people team who help young adults who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET aged 15-24 he decided he wanted to re-engage with education and learn about finding work and how he could get a job.

Petroc started Joe on one to one mentoring and asked him to attend several workshops looking at different aspects of himself in order to help develop him: resilience, self-confidence, emotional intelligence, character traits, personal presentation, team working, expectations of the workplace and managing personal finances. He also took part in 2 community projects which looked at the environmental impact of plastics and then did a volunteer litter pick along a local cycle path. In addition, Joe completed an EL3 qualification in Character Education.

These activities helped give Joe a better understanding of herself and what he wanted to achieve in the future. Joe decided that he wanted to apply for the Princes Trust programme and therefore Petroc supported him through the project to apply for this new programme.

Joe learnt on the Skills for young people contract how to be more resilient, how to improve his self-confidence and stop engaging in activities which diminishes self-esteem (social media, self-deprecating jokes etc). He also learnt how to present himself for job interviews (acting confident, clothing) and in applications (character traits). This helped him to progress further with education and achieve his goals. From this project Joe managed to secure a position with the Prince's Trust programme, he has undertaken residential and is about to start work experience. During the residential he managed his eating disorder and took part in the activities even though he was worried about the cleanliness of them.

Joe felt that the biggest benefit of the support was having somewhere to go and discuss how to improve his life. He ultimately was then able to look at his future and what he wants to achieve. Joe has decided he would like to work for the RSPCA (or with animals) and has been looking at routes into this career has really helped him.

