

“Give it your best shot and be yourself”.

Bryony

19 years old

Work experience
placement and part time
job @ Cornerstones Café
Lancaster

Student @ Lancaster and
Morecambe College.



When Bryony was still at the Loyne FE Centre she began a work experience placement at Cornerstones café in Lancaster City Centre. She really enjoyed every aspect of the job, working in the kitchen, waiting on customers and spending time in the local community. Following on from this she was offered a part time job, working one day per week which fits in with her college course and the needs of the café.

The underpinning ethos, evident through the FE curriculum, is based upon the principle that work and purpose is central to individual identity. During the three years in FE, the aim is to equip students with the resources, confidence and skills to contribute to society either through gaining meaningful employment or being supported to participate in their local community.

Bryony's Key Messages

"I like it when people come into the café, I like helping customers making sure they feel happy and safe".

"I clean tables, I make hot drinks, I serve food, I clean cutlery, I flatten cardboard".

"I like helping with money, it's one of my targets. If I need help I ask for it".

"I would like to be more independent and in the future have less help".

"Give it your best shot and be yourself".

Work Experience

Students who are able to access work experience are appropriately supported for sessions depending on their individual needs by school staff. In order to do this the school works with employers to provide personalised work experience placements based upon interests and future goals. In some cases, students may also undertake extended or additional work placements where appropriate.

Independent Travel

In close liaison with parents, identified students may take part in an independent travel training programme. This programme is supervised by a designated independent travel trainer and aims to train students with the skills required in order to travel to school and around their local area independently using public transport.

Teresa's Key Messages (Bryony's Mum)

"I'm enormously proud of what Bryony has done at Cornerstone's"

"Working at Cornerstone's one day per week is really supporting her interest in Catering, a course she attends at college".

"It's helped her independence, it's helped her relate to people in the community independently as support has been gradually withdrawn".

"It's really helped her confidence".

"Bryony gets the bus and walks the short distance to the café independently making sure she is on time".

"Bryony is part of the team, she has great organisational skills and she likes things to be tidy".

"Bryony is great with people, enjoys chatting to people and customers come back saying 'where is that young lady with the lovely smile?'".

"I think she is a great asset".

Many people with a learning disability face a range of barriers to accessing employment, including a lack of high quality support. This makes it very difficult to not only gain employment, but to make it last. This shortage of support also means individuals are denied the opportunity to develop the skills and confidence needed to break into the world of work. Another barrier is employers' attitudes and lack of understanding about what people with a learning disability can achieve with the right support.

A comparison to the wider disability community and the general population, where 49% and 79% work respectively, shows the extent of the barriers faced by people with a learning disability.

At the Loyne School we have an ambition to reduce the disability employment gap, as we know that most people with a learning disability can and want to work, if they are given the right support. We also know that doing so has a positive impact on their health and wellbeing. Being employed is not just about earning money, it is a sign of social inclusion and being seen as an equal member of society.

Briony's Key Messages (employer)

"Bryony was shy and had a lot to take on board, things she does now without missing a beat".

"She is now part of the community".

"Bryony is a valuable member of our team, her attitude to work and her improving confidence, serving teas and coffees, interacting with the customers, taking orders, taking money, is amazing".

"She has come a long way and it'll be exciting to see where she will be this time next year".

"You will have to put a little bit of effort in, but that little bit of effort will come back to you tenfold, through loyalty and hard work. People who might have a different outlook to what you do but who will become a valuable member of your work place".