

Learner Experience

Name: Thomas Martin
Qualification: Supporting Teaching & Learning Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3)
Placement Churnet View Middle School, Leek
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I wanted to do the level 2 Supporting Teaching and Learning apprenticeship because it was a work based way to get into education. I had always been interested in becoming a TA/teacher so this apprenticeship helped me greatly in getting towards my goal. The school my apprenticeship was based at was Churnet View middle school. Being an ex-pupil, I already knew some members of staff so I settled in well. If I hadn't, I feel my Entrust Skills Coach would have helped me. My Entrust Skills Coach delivered work to me on a 1-1 basis by coming to my setting at Churnet View, saving me the hassle of having to drive to Stafford. I felt the work suited me as it often required work based examples which I find easy to understand. I was also given physical copies to keep for my records and help me when necessary.

When I first started I thought it would be very overwhelming and difficult. When my Entrust Skills Coach first introduced me to OneFile; the e-portfolio I would be uploading my work to, I was surprised that it was all online. It looked a little complicated at first but my Entrust Skills Coach went through everything with me. Through my level 2 I felt supported and could ask my Entrust Skills Coach for help at any point. The reviews that took place every so often made sure I was fitting in at Churnet View, and gave me a good idea of what my mentor thought of my work and how I could improve.

Before my apprenticeship in school I didn't manage to achieve a recognised ICT qualification, but this didn't reflect my knowledge of technology. I just didn't have the certificate. Clare trusted me with this and booked me into an ICT level 1 assessment straight away, and I passed it first time.

Level 2 however was a lot harder, and knowing this my Entrust Skills Coach suggested that I attend the classes put on by Entrust at the Kingston Centre to help further my IT knowledge. I soon realised without these sessions I wouldn't pass my assessment without the class.

I learnt new skills on excel that are useful and I now use them in my work today. With the support from the sessions I passed this test first time as well.

While working through both my level 2 and 3 the feedback I received off my Entrust Skills Coach was extremely helpful. Work would be sent with feedback quickly allowing me to finish my assignments before their due date. This efficiency from her also helped me finish my level 3 with 2 months left before my deadline, leaving me with time to spend with friends and family instead of working. Fortunately there were no problems at all during my level 2 and 3.

The level 2 and 3 qualification has helped me secure a full time place at Churnet View, and has also gained me a place on a foundation degree course. I am planning to top up this degree afterwards, and then move onto qualified teacher status. My job at Churnet View is Curriculum Area Learning Supervisor; I was given this towards the end of my level 3 as the SLT at Churnet were very keen for me to start teaching early. I am very close to where I want to be in my career and that is down to the apprenticeship and teaching from my Entrust Skills Coach and Entrust.

