

Apprenticeship case study: Adam Teale (Finance)

“I went to Joseph Rowntree School and got 11 GCSE at grade C and above. I carried on into sixth form with the wrong attitude and that was a disaster – my AS results were not good, so I decided to leave with no idea of what I wanted to do.

Then I heard about apprenticeships - getting paid to learn sounded great! I joined the apprenticeship mailing list and regularly checked for vacancies.

After a while I started attending a weekly course that was aimed at helping young people to get an apprenticeship. I was advised to consider an apprenticeship in accountancy. After looking into it, that's exactly what I set myself out to do. I started the 'AAT Level 2 Accountancy' course and had a few interviews along the way. My lack of experience in the workplace, however, appeared to be a hindrance.

A year down the line, I secured a job in the Finance Team at the council. When I started my job, I had completed my Level 2 and so started on the AAT Level 3. Initially I found that some of the work was quite repetitive, however, I understood the importance of building both my skills and knowledge. I successfully completed the Level 3 and have been fortunate enough to have my job extended for a further year, which has enabled me to progress on to the AAT Level 4.

I've recently changed teams and now work 2 days a week in the Schools Team and 2 days in the Adult Social Care Team. My remaining day is spent at college. The best part of my current role is that I get to spend half a day every week in a local Primary School to undertake some of the duties of a School Bursar. This is different from spending my whole week in an office and it gives me an insight into how the finances of a school are dealt with.

In both teams I have been given opportunities to further my knowledge, which is obviously a good thing. This also comes with the added factor of more responsibility which I feel I'm handling well. Also linking in with my progression of my college course, I'm gathering a broader understanding of some of the more senior work that takes place within the office.

By the time my apprenticeship comes to an end I will hopefully have passed my Level 4 course. I'm hoping to secure a permanent position within the council at this time, but realise that opportunities are very limited. I will continue to work hard and keep my fingers crossed.”