

Ellie Carson – 2020 Alumni

During my time in sixth form at Spalding High School I chose to do the following subjects: Business Studies, Sociology and English Language. Sixth form was by far not the easiest but through the support of all the staff it really helped me to be where I am today and, in the company, I am in now. I chose to go down the apprenticeship route because I knew that doing university full time was not for me, yet I still wanted to gain a degree in Business. I liked the idea of gaining work experience as this is highly viewed upon by employers. As a person I also learn best while on the job, so the opportunity of an apprenticeship was perfect for me.

I am currently studying a level 6 Supply Chain Leadership degree through Clipper Logistics. I study at Sheffield Hallam University every 7 weeks for 4 days straight. Clipper Logistics specialises in multichannel retail. I work at two sites in Peterborough. One of the sites which is over 100 million square feet works for multi companies with their main brand being a well-known high street name. While the other site works for a well-known sports retailer and all buyers go through them (such as Calvin Klein, Adidas, Nike, Michael Kors, Armani and many more). Currently I am working as a warehouse colleague, this is because Clipper wants all their apprentices to work their way up from the bottom of the company and get a good understanding of how each site works. I am currently working on the Covid-19 department which makes antibody kits where I have made and also quality checked these kits. I am also going over to the Northampton site which works for a clothing retailer. Being able to work at different sites is a great opportunity as you are able to see how they all function and operate differently.

Within the next year I am hoping to become a champion which is the first level of management and the end goal of my apprenticeship is to become a team leader. A team leader runs a specific department whereas a champion is there to help and support the team leader with the running of the department. My future plans are to gain my degree and hopefully gain more qualifications. Before I started my apprenticeship, I thought I wanted to work in HR but by doing this apprenticeship I get experience in all departments such as Finance, HR, Health and Safety and many more. This allows me to gain a good understanding of each department and I can then decide where the next step in my career will be.

I would 100% recommend an apprenticeship because it is such an amazing opportunity. They are extremely competitive but worth it! Experience is recognised much more now in employment than ever before so by taking this route you are not just gaining a qualification, but it also gives you an advantage against other candidates when applying for jobs. The opportunities on an apprenticeship are endless. However, working full time and doing a degree is not easy. You have to keep on top of all work and be organised with your time. This is because you do not just have modules to complete you also have a project called an action plan, journey blogs and 20% off the job training to keep up to date with. Sometimes it is not easy and you may want to give up but being resilient is the best thing. I could not be happier with this opportunity I have been given and I know all the hard work will pay off! The support system on an apprenticeship is incredible. I have monthly reviews with both my university and my HR department. On these, we discuss progress and achievements I have made and areas to improve (feedback is crucial when wanting to progress in a company). I am also assigned a work mentor and a university mentor; through this I have multiple people there to help and support me. All the hard work during my 7 years at Spalding High School has certainly paid off and has enabled me to be in such a great company with endless opportunities around the corner! If you are thinking of applying for an apprenticeship, I could not recommend it enough!

