

From Dream to Job: Paul's journey to employment



"I have been working at Heritage Motorsport since May 2021. I first went to the garage as part of my work experience when I was finishing my traineeship at Yellow Submarine. It's very fun, I'm loving it because it's my dream job!"

Paul came to Yellow Submarine in 2019 to join the traineeship, after negative work experiences resulted in him feeling low in confidence and wondering if he would be able to find work that was enjoyable and fulfilling. Yellow Submarine's traineeship offers dynamic and ambitious training through real life work-experience in our social enterprise cafes alongside classroom based learning with peers. The programme is also designed to support trainees to learn life skills such as traveling and budgeting, as well as communication so that they are ready to enter the world of work.

Paul says that the traineeship helped prepare him for work by building his confidence. *"I was very quiet, shy and I didn't talk to people. It helped build my confidence and it was great being in a group of like-minded and positive people. The best thing about Yellow Submarine was learning to be part of a team and everyone being so encouraging and open-minded"*.

While he was at Yellow Submarine Paul also achieved a qualification in Employability and gained the confidence to take his driving test! Alongside all of this Paul worked with the Work Experience Manager, Rachael, to explore what he would like to do for a job; Paul talked about his dream job being anything to do with cars!

Rachael set up some work experience at Heritage Motorsports for Paul: *"I wanted Paul to have a realistic idea of what it would be like to work with cars, whilst also being conscious that only 6% of adults with a learning disability have a paid job and these are predominantly in service and low skilled occupations. At Yellow Submarine we believe that everyone can make a valuable contribution to the work force and use the time spent with trainees to identify what skills they have and how these can be matched*

different roles. Paul is very conscientious and takes time to do a task well, whilst this may be considered slow in a fast paced retail environment it is crucial to being able to do a good and accurate job in a garage; I wanted Paul to see that this can be used to his advantage to do a job he loves."

Paul's Work Experience was a success and after 2 weeks Paul was offered a permanent job as a garage assistant! *"The best thing about working here is the variety, not just the cars we have in but the jobs we do too. I can be sandblasting one day and taking apart an engine the next. It's lots of different things, not just one job every day! The team are also great, we have a great laugh and I am part of the WhatsApp group. We all get on!"*

Paul's parents were delighted at this news and with Paul's experience at Yellow Submarine: *"The traineeship has helped to restore Paul's confidence in his abilities, and he has gained good friends there. The staff work so patiently and positively with young people who have a tough time getting into the workplace, tailoring the training to the individual's needs. The fact that Paul now has secured his dream job working with classic cars in an amazingly supportive environment is nothing short of a miracle!"*

The experience has also been a positive one for Lee the Manager at Heritage Motorsports: *"Paul brings a lot of energy to the team, we all look forward to him coming in and helping us with the work he does. There are lots of things that Paul is good at! He is currently working on his fine motor skills, working with nuts, bolts and small tools. It is really impressive to see him pulling apart carburettors and cleaning them as it's a very tricky job! In a role like this it is important that a job is done right, rather than quickly and Paul always makes sure he does this.*

It is great to see how much effort Paul puts in, it makes me appreciate that we can all do things, some people just do them differently".

For more information on training at Yellow Submarine visit:

www.yellowsubmarineshop.org.uk/training

If you would like to discuss work experience opportunities contact:

rachael.blakey@yellowsubmarine.org.uk

Charity no. 1136735 | Company no. 6619694