

Learners' stories

Ryan

Ryan has moderate learning difficulties, communication difficulties and a condition known as dyspraxia, which means he has poor motor control and spatial awareness.

Ryan studied at Derwen College between 2012 and 2015. Ryan developed work skills in the area of retail. Whilst here he worked regularly as part of a team selling goods at farmers' markets. He also worked regularly at a work experience placement at a local Tesco store.

During this time he gained a host of qualifications. With the help of Derwen's Care & Independence support staff and speech therapists he acquired a great deal of self-sufficiency, enabling him to consider moving into independent accommodation when he returned to his home in Solihull.

After Ryan left college he was offered a trial period of work at his local Tesco store in Solihull. This has led to Ryan securing paid employment at this Tesco store.

With your support more learners, like Ryan, will have the opportunity to develop their independence and work skills to enable opportunities to lead a fulfilled life.



Claire



Claire has Down's syndrome and communication difficulties, she completed the Living and Work Programme at Derwen College in July 2015. During this time she developed her hospitality and housekeeping work skills as well as her independence skills. As part of her work in hospitality and catering study area, Claire undertook work experience with Premier Inn.

We have an excellent relationship with Premier Inn. A training room replicating one of their hotel rooms has been created here at college and it has been used to train learners to the hotel group's exacting housekeeping standards. Whilst at college, Claire took part in this programme and then travelled by train once a week to work at a Premier Inn near Chester.

During her last term here, Derwen approached Premier Inn about transferring Claire's placement to Worcester, Claire's home city, for her return home when she left college. The hotel group were enthusiastic in their support for this initiative. Within two weeks of leaving Derwen, Claire had been accepted at Premier Inn, Worcester, for one day a week with the potential for more work once she was familiar with the new environment. In November 2015 Claire was offered a formal contract with Premier Inn, working two paid days a week. Claire has also moved from her parents' house to a wonderful new home where she is putting the independent living skills she has learnt to great use.

With your support more learners, like Claire, would have the opportunity to develop their independence and work skills to enable opportunities to lead a fulfilled life.