

Horticulture



Ben's story

“I like having my own money. I like to spend money on going on holiday somewhere sunny like Portugal. I also like to spoil our cat, Scruffy.”

As a Horticulture student, Ben worked in and around the Garden Centre, organising stock and developing his plant knowledge. As Ben's confidence grew, Horticulture staff were on hand to show Ben how to safely operate gardening tools and machinery.

Ben, who is autistic, was a dedicated and hard-working student who, along with his Horticulture knowledge, learnt independence skills, including travel training at Derwen College.



He progressed to living in one of the College's student bungalows, where students have less direct support, and have their own key to come and go as they please.

Ben says: “I loved my time at Derwen. I liked working in the Garden Centre and spending time with friends in the Student Union.”

Ben now works in the construction industry at a tarmacking depot and is really enjoying it. His typical day involves getting up at 5:30am in the morning to be at work for 7am.

Ben lives at home with his parents, where he enjoys having a job and making new friends. He travels to work alone by bus to site, working full-time (40 hours per week). The best thing about his job, he says, is the wages!