

Work and Independence



Jamie's story

“Being at Derwen College helped me to make friends and spend time in different work environments”

Jamie, who is autistic, joined Derwen College Telford's Work and Independence pathway after previously attending a local mainstream secondary school.

At College, Jamie developed an interest for working in customer-facing environments, where he learnt about visual merchandising, stock checks, pricing, stock rotation and serving customers on the till.

Jamie initially attended work experience placements at Derwen College's commercial print shop, charity shop, Garden Centre and at Much Wenlock Market, where he demonstrated good money handling skills.

As well as developing his customer service skills, Jamie also enjoyed employability and Independence

sessions. He was also voted to be the Derwen College Telford student rep, representing his peers at Student Council meetings.

Talking about his time on the Work and Independence pathway, Jamie said: “I was supported to get the skills and work experience to compile a really good CV.”

Along with achieving his BTEC Level 1 qualification in Vocational Studies, being at Derwen College also taught him to become more independent, which he says his mum is particularly pleased about.

“I've learnt to wash up, Hoover, clean up and take care of myself,” he says. “I'd like to live in my own house, with a partner or friends, and a pet, probably a cat!” he says.”