

Supported Internship



Oliver's story

“It’s a very good college with nice teachers. It took me about a week to settle in, but once I got to know everyone it was great”

Oliver began his Derwen College journey as a day student at our Walford satellite site, arriving with a clear goal in mind. “I wanted to come to Derwen College because it does gardening and I wanted to learn how to use the machines,” he said.

Oliver quickly built practical skills and impressed staff at his gardening work experience placements. After successfully completing his vocational programme, Oliver progressed to a one-year Supported Internship, allowing him to further progress his skills in real workplaces.

During his internship, Oliver carried out grounds maintenance and horticultural jobs at Alderford Lake in Whitchurch, Emstrey Crematorium in Shrewsbury and several other local workplaces.

At Alderford Lake, he soon became a key part of the team. Sales and Marketing Manager Zoe Watson said: “Oliver has brought a fantastic attitude, real dedication, and a genuine enthusiasm that makes a difference every day.”

Reflecting on his journey, his mum said: “Ollie is turning into a young adult that we are very proud of. He’s changed so much for the better, not just for the education he’s received but the improvement in his social skills, and his outlook for the future.”

