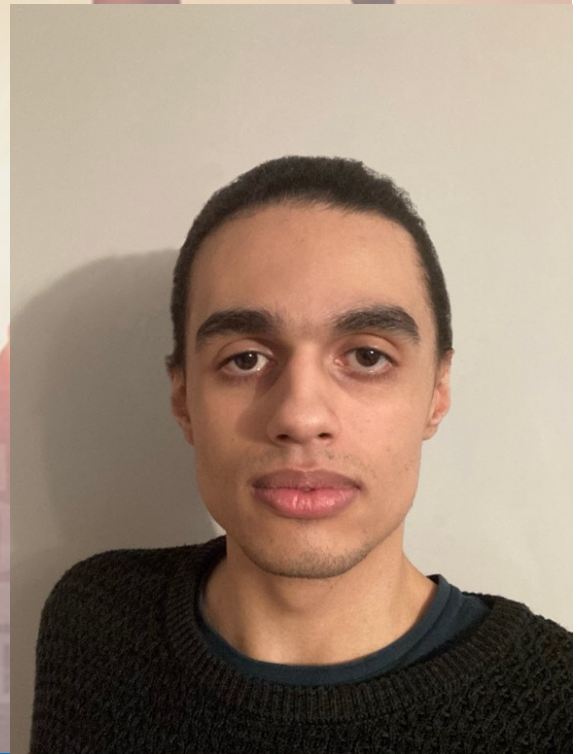


Upskill Shropshire

Case Study meet Kai King



Kai was an Education Management Support assistant with our learning and skills business support team.

What are some of your responsibilities in the role?

I work for the Education Management System project working with schools and involves the Special Educational Needs Team. It records student data that may need to be transferred to different groups to help them with their special educational needs. I currently work on the database side of it and I compile data reports for the different teams, this is basically a summary in an easily accessible way for the teams to access.

What attracted you to the role?

My job coach approached me with this role and initially it was meant to be for a general support assistant, making user guides for the system, but later I was put into a more in-depth role involving handling the database side of the project. I knew the role would involve databases by reading the job description and that is something that really interested me, plus the fact the job was with the council was attractive.

Upskill Shropshire



How has the Kickstart scheme improved your career development?

Before this role I had the problem that I knew quite a lot about how to manage and operate databases but I didn't have the experience to match it up with what I knew. This job has allowed me to get a lot of experience in this area.

I was quite apprehensive of how I would work within the team and how I would perform with the tasks I was set as all of my knowledge of data handling before this came purely through theory. However, since I have been doing the job it has taught me that I am fine and can perform in a work environment and can put what I have learnt during my years of education into practice. It has provided me with many contacts that will help with my career after university.

How have you found it working virtually?

I have enjoyed working virtually quite a lot, as in the role I have, it means I can get my head down focusing on the databases and I don't really need the presence of others to be able to do the task which might be the case in some other roles. Also the team has been really switched on to working virtually and has adapted to the challenges that come with it really well. I thought working virtually would be difficult, adapting to switching the work mode given that you are working in your home, but I have found it a lot easier than I expected.

How have you found the development sessions offered by Shropshire Council?

I have really enjoyed the development sessions, especially the one about what you are going to do after the placement. That really gave me a much clearer idea of what I want to do further down the line and where I want to go with my career as it not something I had given much thought before this role and the development session. The work personality session and problem solving session gave me a new perspective of how I work, but also how other people work and operate. Also, just the job in general has helped me develop having had no work experience before this placement. It has taught me to understand what employers are looking for in a person and this will give me a massive advantage after I finish university and look to apply for another job.

What tips/advice would you give to future Kickstarters?

Don't be afraid to try something new. You will always have the support to try anything in your department that you want to give a go. If it interests you just ask your line manager and they will help you get involved.