

Plan 500 Case Study: Richard Miller & Swindon College

When two attempts at College trying a variety of subjects no longer became an option for Richard Miller, he briefly considered applying for an Apprenticeship. However, due to a lack of understanding about them including the different types of Apprenticeships on offer he didn't pursue this pathway.

Although reluctant to sign on to benefits – as he thought he would easily find a job, Richard (aged 19) realised that he needed an income and so began signing on at the Job Centre. This resulted in him being put onto a government funded 'Routes into Work' course at Swindon College. Richard describes the course as hugely enjoyable, especially as he got on so well with his tutor who supported him to develop work related skills that led to a certificate.

Following on from the Swindon College course Richard's job centre adviser told him he could apply for Future Job Fund opportunities – real paid jobs available for 6 months. Incredibly, the job that Richard applied for, and was successful in getting was with Swindon College, supporting the very tutor who had supported him weeks beforehand on his routes into work course!

During his 6 month Future Jobs Fund appointment Richard was supported to continue developing his skills, gaining a City & Guilds qualification in Customer Service, and made himself an indispensable member of the team. So much so that a week before he was due to leave, Evelyn Little, Director of Business Development for Swindon College approached him to see if he would consider continuing to work with them as an Apprentice in Business Administration.

Richard is now a month into an Apprenticeship he never thought he'd enjoy so much, let alone actually do! As Richard says 'It's a great feeling providing a service to young people and it gives me a sense of doing something for the community. The Apprenticeship is very multi layered, I didn't think I'd enjoy it so much. My parents are also impressed at how well it's motivated me, as well as providing me with an income – I enjoy getting up in the morning to come into work, in fact, during the Christmas holidays I felt myself becoming lazy again so I actually was really happy to get back to work!'

