



SWRAC

Traineeship Plus
Dorchester, DT2 9SL

Tutor: Tony
Learner: DBr

The learner starting point

Before DBr (aged 17) joined SWRAC in September 2020 to do his Traineeship he had dropped out of school and was attending Dorchester Learning Centre (DLC) but hadn't yet achieved any qualifications. When he first joined SWRAC he was often disruptive in the class and would get frustrated with the work, the other learners and the tutor when asked to do something he did not want to do. He would often show his frustration by walking out of class, punching or throwing things at walls, and speaking to the staff and other learners aggressively.

DBr would often lose concentration on tasks set, struggling to stay focused to complete work and often needed constant encouragement from the tutor.

The learner journey

Despite DBr's disruptive behaviour he had an almost 100% attendance and was always on time. Tony (tutor) had to spend a lot of time with him to encourage him to complete his classroom work and as DBr would easily get distracted. It was after the first practical session that Tony noticed DBr seemed to be able to participate more happily and would contribute more to the class. As the class progressed DBr's attitude was becoming more positive.

For Tony, there was one activity, in particular, that DBr seemed to really settle in with the rest of the class with. Working on a Communication Skills Unit, DBr was paired with another learner. The task was, together with their teammate, to create an egg carrier with just newspaper, Sellotape and string that would carry as many fresh eggs as possible but would also protect the eggs if dropped from a height. DBr worked very well on this task showing great communication skills with his teammate and managed to stay focus and determined until the end.

DBr was set an independent task to walk around the farm and complete a Risk Assessment. Again, DBr seemed to enjoy this practical element of the learning and was able to complete this task independently and showed great skill in his Risk Assessment writing.

DBr did seem to lack confidence with his English Reading and Writing and staying focused on this during the class. In December he was paired up with an LSA (Archie) and as soon as this happened there seemed to be a significant change in his approach to his English work. With Archies support he was able to stay focused for longer and would begin gaining more confidence. He was also given use of a laptop which he seemed to enjoy using enabling him to progress further with his English work whilst, becoming more independent with his learning

without needing constant encouragement from Archie. He was also more willing to work on his writing skills when not using the laptop.

Having never previously passed an exam, in November he passed his Level 1 Reading in English Functional Skills. Tony felt that this was another big turning point for DBr. He seemed to be over the moon to have achieved this and this seemed to focus him more on his learning. Since this, DBr has also achieved a First Class Pass in Level 2 Customer Service and a Level 2 in Health & Safety in the Workplace.

What DBr has accomplished, not only in his qualification achievements, but in his general attitude towards learning, the staff and the other learners, is something he should be extremely proud of and is a massive step from where he was when he first came to SWRAC in September 2020.

The outcome for the learner

DBr is due to finish his Traineeship with us at the end of July. Since being with us he has become more settled. He is able to communicate with his fellow learners and staff in a more respectful manner which should hopefully carry him through to the next stage of his education/career. He is also able to stay focused for longer enabling him to learn and achieve more.

DBr had received a conditional offer from Weymouth college but after they reviewed his EHCP they then, unfortunately, removed this offer. SWRAC then worked with Bournemouth & Poole college to get a conditional offer secured, which is dependent on him achieving his functional skills maths and English exams and has not been based on what is written in his EHCP.

SWRAC have supported DBr with his college application and interviews through the IAG Team, and with support from Archie and Tony. In addition to this, he has been successful in obtaining a work placement at a garage at Milbourne St Andrews, which has the potential to lead to future employment.

The learner voice

DBr was kicked out of school and then went to Dorchester Learning Centre (DLC) for about a year. He states that he was 'an arse' at DSL and once got into trouble for bringing a weapon in. He knew he wasn't able to go to mainstream school.

DBr admits that he 'wasn't fussed about coming to SWRAC' but knew he had to go somewhere. When he started with SWRAC he was 'in a bad headspace and 100% angry' with life. He states that he was 'quite active' when he started and wasn't doing what he was told and was 'just being a nightmare'. He was disruptive, 'verbally aggressive' to the staff, including arguing with Tony (tutor) and would thump stuff. He would feel like he was in a 'boxed room' when in class.

Music helped him concentrate and focus whilst in class and Tony (tutor) would, at times, allow him to listen to his music as long as it wasn't too loud.

DBr admits he was quite stressed but a chat with Archie helped. Archie asked him 'where do you see yourself in the future?' and DBr said he 'didn't see himself anywhere'. Archie explained that you can make life as easy or as hard as you want. DBr then realised the opportunities he had and that going on work experience would also be a great opportunity as later on he wanted a job in something to do with engineering or with motors. After DLC he didn't believe he could do anything but now he believes he has opportunities.

DBr thinks the support he has had with Archie has now made him more confident to work by himself but he knows that if he is struggling Archie will help. He understands that he needs to be able to work independently with his work to help in the future.

When DBr passed his Level 2 in Health & Safety in the workplace this was a 'big deal' for him as his dad got 'really excited about it' and was very proud of him. This made him realise he didn't want to go back to being angry and stressed again.

English is also getting easier for DBr and he is beginning to feel more confident in it.

DBr is really looking forward to starting work experience and felt like he has been given the '100 %' support from Archie and Tony in preparing for the interview by talking about what it will be like, the environment he will be working in and how to show he is ready to work.

DBr stated that he is 'happy to be here'.