

Starting my apprenticeship at IBC

Name: Stephen Taylor
Job title: Apprentice Grounds Maintenance
Apprenticeship start date: 9th August 2021
Why did you choose an apprenticeship? For example, were you considering going to college/uni, or did you want to earn-while-you-learn? Did you want to change career? What appealed to you about doing an apprenticeship? <ul style="list-style-type: none">I wanted to do an apprenticeship for not just to earn-while-you-learn, but to try out and developed new skills, in terms of job and communication skills, to advance my education and understanding more of life to help others in need.
Why did you choose to apply for an apprenticeship with IBC? <ul style="list-style-type: none">I have chosen an apprenticeship with IBC as I have lived in Ipswich all of my life, given me that familiarity in the environment that makes me more confident to apply, and for their variety of job roles that caught my eye and help spread my opinions in what role I wanted to go for.
How did you find out about the vacancy for your apprenticeship? <ul style="list-style-type: none">I have discovered the vacancy for my apprenticeship through a relative of mine that has worked for IBC, and he encourage me to apply for an apprentice job that would help developed more of my education.
What was the interview process like? Nerve-wracking? Fun? <ul style="list-style-type: none">My interview on my first day started off as nerve-wracking with being in a new environment with new work colleagues, but once my supervisor went through what I needed to do, the process turned out to be intriguing and helpful in the end.
How did you feel about starting work with IBC, and what was it <i>actually</i> like? Were you excited/nervous? What happened on your first day? Any surprises? <ul style="list-style-type: none">When I first started working with IBC, I was both excited and nervous at the same time, being ready to start a new job, and that I was nervous about messing it up, but my first day was welcoming and got me on my feet and focused, which that was the surprising part for me, that they got me fully prepared and ready to go at 07:00am.
Describe your typical day at work and what you like most about your role? <ul style="list-style-type: none">In my daily workdays, my first tasks are to do litter picking and emptying the bins, keeping the public parks clean and tidy, and then I tackled on various tasks including weeding, lawnmowing and hedge trimming. What I like most about my role is each day offers different tasks, keeping the job from getting repetitive, and it gives me a whole variety of new skills and understandings to discover.
How are you finding studying for the qualification? How are you combining work with study time? What's it like working with your assessor? What key things have you learned so far? <ul style="list-style-type: none">My studying for the qualification is going positively well, keeping me multi-tasking of balancing my work and my studies, often carry my objectives over in my spare time if needed. My assessor keeps me busy by looking out for me and to be sure I carry my tasks correctly, as working with him is helpful and improves my job experience. The key things I have learned so far is learning to use tools and understanding the health and safety risk assessments and helps me becoming more confident and not holding myself back.

What support do you receive as an apprentice?

What support do you receive from your manager, work colleagues, college, etc.

- I receive the best support I could ask for as an apprentice, my supervisor keeps me focus and showing me new skills that I need to learn for the job, my work colleagues offer me advices that helps me learn and understanding more, and my college helps with my education with its useful documents and presentations.

What tips would you give to someone who's thinking of applying for an apprenticeship at Ipswich Borough Council?

- I would say the tips I can give to someone who is thinking of applying for an apprenticeship at IBC, is to be fully prepared and sell yourself as they will want to know your strengths and know if you are right for the jobs, or to be realistic and concentrate on the application to see if the job matches your description of what you wanted to do before applying.

What is one thing you didn't know about Ipswich Borough Council before you joined?

- The one thing I've learn that I didn't know about Ipswich Borough Council before joining as an apprentice is how much fields they cover in their services and supports that includes financial, travel, education, opportunities in a whole variety of job roles, and helps support your health and wellbeing.