

Starting my apprenticeship I was conscious that, at 22 years old, I was somewhat late to taking the apprenticeship route. However, I can honestly say it is one of the best decisions I have ever made and has been an enriching experience throughout. What I have taken the most joy out of, from working at Yep schools, is being able to be completely myself whilst at the same time being treated as a professional. Everyone at Yep is a pleasure to work with and have each in their own way made a positive influence on me. My CV was beginning to get cluttered with jobs that I couldn't see a future in, this apprenticeship has broadened my horizons and has proved to me that people who feel lost like myself, who are not sure of where they are heading, can find somewhere they belong in a career they never thought possible.

#### **Summer - April 2017**

I have recently started an apprenticeship working for a school photography company called Yep Schools Direct. I am currently studying Level 3 Creative and Digital Media at Colchester Institute and working as a Photo Editor. I am enjoying learning whilst gaining experience in the workplace. I chose to do an apprenticeship instead of going to University as I still wasn't sure what I exactly wanted to do. I am happy with the decision I made as I'm enjoying my job within the creative industry. My job role includes editing in Photoshop and Lightroom, selecting images, colour-correcting, and making sure the images are ready for printing. I love working at Yep, everyone is very friendly and they have made me feel comfortable and part of the team.

#### **Beth – March 2017**

I recently started an apprenticeship for level 3 Business Administration. I'm studying at the Colchester Institute, whilst at the same time working for a school photography company called Yep Schools Direct. I am thoroughly enjoying my time at Yep, and am learning so much. I have learnt how to use Microsoft access for my database as well as all the behind the scene processes i.e.: speaking to parents, schools, companies and even the newspaper, taking orders over the phone, finding school photos on the system, dealing with questions & queries and processing online orders for school photos. There are many things that I enjoy about the working day at Yep. All the other employees are wonderful and they all made me feel welcome, also everyone here is friendly and sociable as well as offering me help with anything I'm not sure about. I hope to stay at Yep as I like where the company is heading, they have exciting plans – and they have made me feel a part of that. I'm excited to work for Yep I have very high hopes for the future of the company and my position here.

#### **Craig – January 2017**

I started my journey at Yep Schools Direct in September 2017 in the Packing Department. This involved packing images to send out to parents and sending out the proof cards out to the schools. There were constant deadlines to meet which made my time keeping skills improve. Since coming back after the new year I am now training in photo-editing and photography. By working in these two departments I will be able to understand the whole process that goes on within the company. So far I have liked the opportunities I have been offered within the company from starting in the packing department to photo-editing as well as going out on the road to actually take the photos. While learning as a Youth-Trainee I am able to be hands on and learn within the company. By being at YEP and starting as a Youth-Trainee I am learning different aspects of the job and I am able to push myself and broaden my opportunities outside the company. Everyone here at YEP have been so welcoming and have made me feel a part of the team since day one. Within the next year I am hoping to learn more about Photo-shop and Lightroom in the photo-editing department. With the photography aspect I am hoping that I will be able to set up my own lighting and background and be able to take the schools photos unaided. I am looking forward to see what else YEP Schools Direct has to offer me and am excited about my future.

#### **Charlotte – February 2018**