

Learner Case Study

Culture, Media, Sports and the Arts; Leisure, Hospitality and Tourism

Keely's Story

Keely began her studies at Wakefield College on the Level 1 programme and then progressed through Level 2 to the Level 3 programme, which she achieved with flying colours resulting in her now working towards her Level 4 qualification (HND) in dance.

Keely recognised that by continuing into higher education, she would gain the best route forward into working in the community to achieve her goal of supporting young people in similar situations to herself and also develop opportunities for employment.

The reason Keely stands out from the 'norm' is that during this time Keely became homeless and had no family to support her through her education. This often saw Keely sleeping on peoples' sofas for a night here and there, but throughout this time Keely never missed a day of her studies and continued to meet deadlines and performance dates. Her experience of school was negative, but as she wanted to stay in education, college was the best way forward to get the necessary support. Keely also hopes to continue to a top-up degree, once her HND course is completed.

Keely is a determined student who has already begun to give her experiences back into the community through teaching dance and working with children in the community. As part of her coursework, Keely has written her own business plan and now understands how to initiate projects, approaching clients, submit tenders, funding etc – and is putting it all into practice! Routes into employment in this type of work are usually through freelance contracts and self-initiated projects; Keely has already demonstrated her drive and success and is currently working as a Youth Dance Worker in the Wakefield area.

Keely recognises that the courses and progression she was able to access at Wakefield College has given her the starting point to current and future possibilities, not only as a career path but also to empower and support other young people like her.

In June 2009 Keely won a Learner Award at the West Yorkshire Adult Work-Based Learning Awards.