

ALUMNI STORIES

Gemma Stevens

Kickstart District Account Manager, Department for Work and Pensions

Gemma Stevens was a student at Worthing College between 2015 and 2017. Here she tells us a bit about what she is doing now and her time at Worthing College.

What are you doing now?

I am currently working in Employer Relationship Management at Worthing Jobcentre, Department for Work and Pensions. My day to day role involves speaking to training providers and local and national employers, to find opportunities for our customers to help them move towards work. My career started with a Level 4 Business Administration apprenticeship with the Civil Service which lasted 18 months, I am now full time employed, in a permanent position.

What's most exciting about your work?

I love seeing people progress into work or onwards from a training course. It's amazing to see how much people can change with the help and support from our Team in the Jobcentre. I also love getting out and about (pre-covid) and meeting different employers, finding out about their recruitment and supporting them with it going forwards, that's one of the things I'm looking forwards to getting back to after the pandemic!

Which local school did you go to?

Davison High School

What subjects did you study at Worthing?

I started studying Biology, Geography, Psychology and Statistics (AS/A Levels)

However in my 2nd year I decided to take Social Sciences BTEC in one year and drop Biology and Statistics.

What was your best experience about college?

College gave me the opportunity to figure out a little more what I wanted to do. I made the big decision not to go to University despite many of my friends choosing to do so because at that time it wasn't the right decision for me. The Careers team helped me look at alternatives for after college which got me looking into Higher/Degree apprenticeships.

I also developed a lot at Worthing College, learnt a lot about myself and what I wanted to do. I was supported every step of the way by various tutors and staff members and am very grateful that it has led to where I am now. Despite changing courses after the first year I still achieved everything I wanted to and wouldn't change it! (Maybe work/revise a bit harder though!!)

What's the one piece of advice you would give to your 16-year-old self?

Don't focus on what everyone else is doing, focus on you and your goals. Don't choose subjects just because it's what your school friends are doing, pick what you're interested in! (You'll make new friends too!)

You will find yourself with a lot more freedom and responsibility at college, use it wisely and to your advantage!

“I had amazing support from my tutors (even after I had left the college) to make decisions about what was best for me.”

