Supported Internships; more than just work experience.
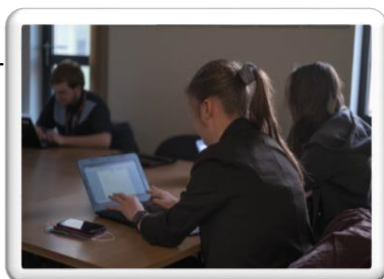
AT A GLANCE

When Abbie started at Project SEARCH Derby she had a local café job where she worked 5 hours a week serving customers and preparing drinks. Abbie is keen to stay in the Catering industry but remains open minded of alternative career paths.

Community engagement:

As advocates of Supported Internships, the interns actively participate in various community events throughout the year. For example, Abbie participated in Job Fairs held at the Derbyshire Cricket Ground, Pride Park Stadium, and the Council Houses, where she not only promoted the programme to prospective interns but also highlighted her skills, achievements, and experiences through an employability board created during the classroom element of the programme. Abbie particularly enjoyed a visit to Nottingham's Queens Medical Centre where they all saw another pro-gramme in action, this gave the interns opportunities to develop their communication skills aswell as encouraging

connectivity, collaboration and teamwork.

In her words:

"Since being on the programme my independence and confidence has grown. I am now able to get the bus on my own, something I didn't do before. I also arrange to meet my friends at the weekends and school holidays, we might go shopping or go for lunch"

As well as our work placements, the Tutor delivers an employability curriculum focused on enhancing employability, during which the interns spend two hours daily in the classroom together. This period offers a great opportunity for them to connect, exchange work-related experiences, hone their employability skills, and engage in reflective discussions. The Internship environment is highly supportive, with the Tutor making sure everyone has weekly one-on-one conversations to discuss any matter so they can go into placements with full confidence. The Supported Internship is truly wonderful; it is supportive from the Job Coach, Tutor and workplace mentors and is far more than just work experience!