Faaiza Sajad
Web and Marketing Administrator
Xpand Marketing

What apprenticeship are you currently on? Please can you explain your current job role?

I am currently working at Xpand marketing as a web and marketing administrator, my current role included a range of activities including adding features to the website of the clients, also researching on clients' competitors and a range of other activities. I am also currently studying computer science at university but work alongside studying.

Are you enjoying your experience so far?

Yes, I am really enjoying the experience, I actually started off by doing my work experience at Xpand Marketing and then I was contacted by the director and asked whether I would be able to come back and help out as they were quite busy over the lockdown period and it would be a paid job. Which I decided to take the offer. Being in an IT based industry which is usually very male dominated, it was a part which I was very nervous about, however working at Xpand Marketing has really helped me build my confidence. I believe slowly there is a change which is coming around and there are more females which are coming into tech.

Please can you tell us a little about the application process you went through to get this role?

It was a very simple application process, when I needed to find somewhere for my work experience which was most convenient and close to my college, I called them up and the manager got in touch mentioning they continually work with the college and it would be great to have me do my work experience in his company.

Do you feel like there was an enough support/help available to you?

Yes I believe there was a lot of help and support available if needed at college, although I didn't need to take advantage of this support I did know it was available to me if I needed it.

What did you wish you knew before starting your apprenticeship?

I think my journey has been what I expected, nothing has taken be my surprise at the moment I am just enjoying my journey and taking each day as it comes

How relevant do you feel your education was to get where you are now? (Subjects you studied)

I believe my education is very relevant and has had a big impact upon getting me where I am now, it has given me the background knowledge needed to be able to continue pursuing my career in the tech industry.

What made you want to take up an IT career pathway?

Interestingly I always wanted to become a doctor or follow a career pathway in healthcare, however after I did one year in sixth form I realised it wasn't for me and didn't believe I would get the grades to go onto the next step. That's when I decided that going into computer science/ IT were the only other subjects which I enjoyed. I decided to go with my instinct and follow that pathway, and I'm really happy how far I have come and where I am aiming to go

Skills

Based on your experience what key skills to you believe is most important in the world of work?

The key skills based on my experience I would say based from my personal characteristics of being a very quiet and shy I always found this very worrying when people mentioned you need to be very vocal and have good communication skills, based on my experience I would say you need to be focused and know the role you're going into, it's important to concentrate and not lose focus. If you're interested in what your do.

Do you wish you would have done anything differently?

I don't, I think I'm happy with the way things have gone. The only thing I would say would be to work harder during my a levels so I was able to achieve the grades I wanted to get. I'm in a well-paid job and I'm aiming to go higher.

Are you happy with where you are now? Do you wish you would have put more effort in?

I'm happy with the choices I made and where I am and where I am heading. I'm in a well-paid job and I'm aiming to go higher.

Future prospectus

Where do you see yourself in 5 years? Do you have any future aspirations?

Hopefully in the same industry, my aim is to work my way up and gain a higher role.

Do you have any advice for others looking to work in IT apprentice?

My main advice would be to make sure it is what you want to do, the role needs to be what you enjoy as that will have an impact upon how far you will get. There is no point doing role if you are not going to put 100% into it as firstly you won't enjoy it and secondly it will be really hard to progress.

Thank you to Faaiza for taking the time out to share your journey with the Careers and Technical Education Partnership, we will you the most success in the future and look forward to watching you grow.