Life under lockdown as an apprentice

Lia shares her experience so far...

What is your job at Siemens?

My role is a Digital and Technology solutions apprentice. I was working on the Customer Satisfaction project, but it has now been put on hold due to the coronavirus. I am working on the cyber security team helping move all of our applications to the cloud. I am also working on the waste management project.

How has the lockdown affected you?

When the lockdown was announced, I felt shocked it had come to this and disappointed knowing I wouldn't be able to come back into the office for a long time.

I am now working from home and decided to move back in with my parents, as I didn't want to be in lockdown alone because my flatmates in my shared house in Nottingham had all moved out.

Many projects have been put on hold at work. For example, we were planning a diversity and inclusion day in the office where people were going to bring in food and have stalls and presentations. Siemens' World Earth Day, which was planned for the 22nd of April, was also going to be an event in the office and a mass volunteering day. Instead, we adapted and had a virtual Earth Day by giving presentations in a large conference and sending out leaflets, quizzes and ideas on how to be more environmentally friendly at home.

Since the lockdown, I have actually been busier than before, coming up with many activities to keep people entertained like quizzes, a baking competition and pet sharing.

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Siemens' Nottingham office has also set a challenge for us to all virtually walk to Land's End, so people who signed up have agreed to do 20 miles a week. I signed myself up to do this as it motivates me to get out of the house, but I have worn out one pair of boots!

How are you staying in touch with others?

My work colleagues and I have many catch ups, one to ones and group catch ups. We also have a group where someone randomly selects smaller groups of 4 so we end up talking to people we wouldn't usually speak to.

My managers have regular check-ups with everyone and have a group on social media for everyone to share something fun.

I also have face time calls with my friends and online pub quizzes.

What have you been doing while you are not working?

In my free time, I have been baking, gaming and walking. I have also been doing a large amount of training for cybersecurity, but my project management training has been cancelled due to the coronavirus.

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