

Life under lockdown as an apprentice

Bradley shares his experience so far...

Meet Bradley

Hi, my name is Bradley Longford and I work as a Trainee Business & Marketing Assistant for Henry Boot Construction in Dronfield. I am currently in the second year of my degree, studying Professional Practice in Management at Sheffield Hallam University. I am also Chair of the Young Apprenticeship Ambassador Network in Yorkshire and Humber.

I've been working from home since our office closed back in March. I am lucky enough to have a desk in my bedroom already, so the transition to working from home has been relatively smooth. Henry Boot have done everything to make working from home comfortable and easy – I have been provided with a laptop, docking station, and additional monitor and all meetings are taken via Microsoft Teams which is great. I must admit I am enjoying the benefits of not having to travel 40 minutes to work every morning and I'm making use of the additional time at home by doing 30 minute workouts during my lunch breaks.

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Continuing with my degree

Just before lockdown, I was lucky enough to go into university to do the finance module and I completed the assignment during the lockdown. Since then, I completed my first virtual learning module on supply chain management which was delivered through the university's own application, Blackboard. I found the delivery was spot on and worked really well considering the situation. The full days were really heavy though and it doesn't help having to work from my bedroom! However, when it comes to remote learning from home, it can be quite laborious so I'm looking forward to the day we can return to the classroom.

I have been able to focus more of my time on my degree and have set up a plan with my manager to attain my Knowledge Skills and Behaviours (KSBs). The plan means being more involved in management meetings as I learn more about the operations of the business, and I hope to continue fulfilling these KSBs when normality returns.

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Using the time wisely

During the lockdown, I have had to find new ways of organising my workload and have discovered that sometimes I lack confidence and underestimate my own ability to perform new tasks, although I am taking more time for self-reflection to help with my personal development. This period has also given me more time to do training, so I've recently improved my Excel skills and this has helped implement some process improvements to previously more time-consuming tasks.

I feel really lucky to be able to further my education at university, and following discussions with Henry Boot I was able to pick a course that best suits my role and future ambitions. Henry Boot continues to support me throughout my apprenticeship in my aspiration to become a Business Development Manager.

Some good news!

I had some good news last week as I found out I'd been shortlisted at Sheffield Hallam University's Inspirational Student Awards so I spent the weekend celebrating!