

Jamie Quinn

Jamie Quinn (22) from Nottingham completed a maths functional skills course with CT Skills in July 2017.

After leaving school with what he describes as "very disappointing" GCSE grades - particularly in English and maths - Jamie became convinced that his grades defined him and his expectations in life. He followed his friends to college and signed onto courses he wasn't interested in. He says that was a major mistake.

Working in a number of different jobs over the last six years, Jamie had "lost his way" and didn't enjoy any of them. After leaving his job at a well-known fast food restaurant, Jamie was advised by a work coach to look into starting an apprenticeship.

He came to CT Skills when he was told he could not do his ideal apprenticeship without first achieving a level 2 qualification in maths.

"I've never been very good at maths and I've never had a teacher who would teach me properly in a way I'd understand. When I came to CT Skills, my tutor calmed me down and went through everything with me and she made sure she didn't move on until I'd got it. I never had anyone like that before."

Jamie passed his exam at the first time of asking within around three weeks.

"I really want to thank everything my tutor Marie and the rest of the CT Skills team did for me to help me overcome a massive obstacle. My classmates were so supportive of each other too," he said. "I'm now doing an apprenticeship in IT that I've always wanted to do. And I've passed a maths qualification that I never thought I'd do."

Two weeks into his apprenticeship, Jamie is "loving it". He's already programmed his first mobile phone and he's enjoying being able to show his passion and ambition in a job he loves.

Jamie's advice to people who have maybe lost their way is: "If I can do it, you can too. It might take you a long time to find your way and get to where you want to be but never give up - and go to CT Skills!"



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