

# Life under lockdown as an apprentice

Morgan shares his experience so far...

## Meet Morgan

Hi, I'm Morgan a Chartered Management Degree Apprentice at Flagship Group. As a Housing Association, we have many departments which I have been able to work with. These include, Housing, HR, Legal and Governance. Currently, I work within the Data Protection Team, ensuring the Group are compliant with GDPR legislation and our customers data is secure. I am also heavily involved in apprenticeships at Flagship. I often attend careers fairs/events, helping students understand the benefits of an apprenticeship as a future career.

## Going into lockdown

At first, I was nervous, not only for my own health and wellbeing but also my apprenticeship. These worries were soon calmed when Flagship reassured me my job role was secure and I could continue my Degree as normal. The offices were closed promptly; all staff were provided with equipment to work from home safely and effectively.

Adapting to lockdown life has been tricky. Living with parents and a sibling, whose offices have also closed has meant finding peace and quiet difficult! Sometimes I am interrupted on calls but that has become the norm for many working at home and we often have family members appearing in our video calls.

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## Has your job changed due to COVID-19?

My job role specifically has changed, rather than focusing on the Governance side of the organisation, I am much more involved with Data Protection. With many staff now working from home it has become imperative we continue to ensure we are compliant with GDPR legislation. For me, this has meant learning a whole new area of the business and developing new skills and knowledge.



One of the hardest adjustments has been, being away from work colleagues and the office. We are still able to keep in contact over Skype/Teams, but this does not compare to meeting for lunch or playing pool after work. However, Flagship have introduced lots of activities to keep staff close such as, coffee break meetings, lunch & learn sessions, and quizzes. These have all been fantastic at making sure staff are still communicating and interacting without focusing on work.

**“In lockdown it has become harder to solely focus on my apprenticeship work, I am often switching between writing a Uni essay and dealing with work calls.”**

## How are you keeping up with your apprenticeship?

I always ensure to take some time out to complete any assignments/work associated with my apprenticeship. Fortunately, I work for an organisation who are very supportive and are willing to give me plenty of time to focus on my degree. In lockdown it has become harder to solely focus on my apprenticeship work, I am often switching between writing a Uni essay and dealing with work calls. It is manageable and still very much enjoy all the work I am doing.

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## Keeping busy during lockdown

During lockdown, I felt it was important to learn new skills and keep busy. I have been able to challenge myself with new online learning courses and training. I have signed up to the British Sign Language course, attended online webinars and completed e-learning such as iDEA. These are all great at developing my knowledge and something I would not have attempted without lockdown.

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With some of the extra time I have had at home, I have started to read a lot more. Currently, I am reading ‘essentialism’ by Greg McKeown, it’s great and I recommend it for anyone who feels like they always have so much to do but little time.

I make sure I stay in contact with as many people as possible to look after my mental health. I am always calling colleagues at work just to check in and have a catch up. This is great at bringing a sense of normalisation as I am missing those who I see 5 days a week at work! Within my family we often host game nights over video calls, with quizzes getting very competitive!



My main hobby has always been running. I was training for a marathon in May. Although this was cancelled, I have taken this opportunity to continue training and am looking forward to running a marathon on my own in a few weeks!