

Life under lockdown as an apprentice

Emma shares her experience so far...

Meet Emma

Hello! My name is Emma Beauchamp and I am the North East YAAN Chair. I'm currently enrolled on a degree apprenticeship, and work for Gestamp as a Trainee Account Engineer. I first began working from home in March, which I actually really enjoyed, so I'm looking forward to that potentially becoming more of the norm in the future. I felt like I had much more of a work-life balance and even felt a little more productive!

Becoming furloughed

I worked from home for about a week before becoming furloughed around the beginning of lockdown. I feel fortunate enough to still have my health, as do my family, so I've been able to really appreciate the break it's given me. I'm sure my brothers also appreciate the fact I've now become the family hairdresser...

I submitted my dissertation pretty much just before we went into lockdown, so I've been able to take this time to relax and do all the things I rarely had time for before. Which has been great for me, but maybe not so great for my bank account (although Jeff Bezos, the boss of Amazon, could argue it's helped his...).

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Sometimes I've found it difficult talking about being furloughed to those who aren't, as I feel a little guilty I'm at home not working whilst they're working through a pandemic... However this has allowed me to properly see and understand how others involved in the Young Apprentice Ambassador Network (YAAN) have dealt with working through the pandemic, and some of their stories have been amazing! Something that I may have not been able to appreciate and listen to as much, had I also been working.



Apprenticeship

I'm now beginning to wrap everything up and finish the elements required for the EPA of my apprenticeship, which has become a little more complicated as I'm furloughed. However, with the current guidance available and the support from the University, I'm now just looking forward to finishing it off as it's been a tough few years!

Looking forward

Despite some of these worries, the fact everyone is in the same boat and all working out how to move forward together in the best way encourages me to try see the positives, wherever possible. I've been able to spend some of this spare time working on YAAN projects, getting to grips with my new role and looking at how we can best move forward as a network despite the challenges we are ultimately now going to face.