

SNA Alumni

Elliot – 2019 Leaver

I am now 21 years old and my journey began at South Nottinghamshire Academy, where I did my GCSEs, but at that time, I didn't consider myself to be that smart; I was distinctly average and paired with my behaviour, I really didn't ever get good results in any assessments and was issued with a fair few detentions! Fortunately, in year 11 I gave myself a good talking to, knuckled down and did well in my GCSEs getting a few Bs and Cs.

I chose to do A Levels at SNA because I liked the subject teachers and the sixth form is great, but in Year 13, I did refuse to do a personal statement because I was adamant I wasn't going to university! I realise now, I was a stubborn teenager and probably didn't see the bigger picture of the support from the sixth form team, and I was so focused on apprenticeships. I found searching vacancies a real commitment and getting a job was challenging, so I never received an offer. Last minute, I changed direction, re-focused on university and the teachers were so amazingly supportive and certainly influenced my decision making. *This was a life changing moment for me!*

I completed A Levels with a Distinction in ICT, B in Sociology and C in English Language. I was worried I wouldn't be able to afford University, so stayed at home and went to Nottingham Trent to study Business Management and Entrepreneurship. This was something completely new, but I considered it to be an interesting and transferrable degree. I really enjoyed the learning and the course is certainly one that I would fully recommend to others. After 3 hard years, disrupted by COVID I finally got an academic result that wasn't average!! I graduated with a first-class honours. Proud is not the word!

I moved into employment quickly, but I really disliked the role and felt that I could do more than sitting at a desk. I was also aspired to working for a reputable company. I left that business after a very short time and worked hard, using my career management skills – utilising different approaches to looking for work. I am pleased to say that I have now secured a Field Sales Representative role with KELLOGGS, which is a better paid than the job I left and a role which requires me to get out and about, meet store managers and promote the brand. I cannot wait to get started!

My advice to all students at SNA would be this – don't mess around class! Getting detentions is not cool! Not knowing what you want to do career wise, is fine. You can work it out as you go along your journey and sometimes, you have to pause and reflect! Just enjoy your school experience, because even if you don't admit it now (like I didn't) school is great and you'll miss it in the end!

Good luck and I hope to visit very soon.