York Students in Schools Case Study

Bartek Wytrzyszczewski – Language and Linguistic Science

Describe your placement in your own words:

- My tasks varied from supporting arts, French, sciences, literacy, and staffing a school trip. I also spent time with pupils with English with an Additional Language, as well as conducting a Polish workshop.

Why did you decide to get involved?

- To improve my oral communication skills in English
- Curiosity: what does a teacher’s life look like?
- I have an interest in education and I like working with young people

What have you gained from your experience?

- I have gained confidence working with young people, and how to identify different pupils’ needs. I have learnt how to adapt to unexpected situations and work both collectively and individually with pupils. Also, work at that school calms down and relaxes me, allows me to forget about my problems.

What were the highlights of your placement?

- After 9 weeks I was much more independent and confident, so I decided to ask my teacher to give me more opportunities. She asked me to plan and

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deliver a Polish lesson with Gifted and Talented students. It definitely was the best memory, as I delivered it without help. My teacher’s trust and willingness to help me was very reassuring.

Were there any surprises?

- I didn’t expect to be given the full responsibility when delivering my own Polish lesson. It was a surprise for me that they trusted my skills so much.

What advice would you give students considering taking part?

- Try to participate in different tasks. Be proactive – ask teachers to give you tasks that suit you. Contribute to school’s life because you want to, not because you have to.

You can also find Bartek’s profile on York Profiles and Mentors

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