

## Carl – Ground Care Apprentice

I work as a Ground Care Apprentice at Brandhall Golf Course and my main responsibility is to keep the golf course in good condition. My role is horticultural and involves mowing and repairing the greens, fairway and bunkers. The main thing I enjoy about the job is working outdoors – the weather doesn't bother me at all.

I am dyslexic and was on a course to help with my reading and writing. My tutor suggested doing some voluntary work with the council. Whilst doing the voluntary work, someone I was working with suggested I apply for one of the apprenticeships. I feel that the voluntary work helped build up my confidence to apply. I initially applied for a litter picking apprenticeship, but this was taken. I was then asked if I would consider the ground care apprenticeship.

When applying, I prepared by researching the council, my original job choice of litter picking, asking my voluntary work manager about the kind of questions I would be asked and by doing a practice interview. I feel very lucky; I only applied for two jobs before I got my apprenticeship.

The fact I did not do very well in my GCSEs did not stop me getting this apprenticeship. My real route in was voluntary work. After school I did a course with loads of practical activities such as gardening.

I would like a full-time gardening job and longer term I may become self employed. To get there I realise I will need to work hard; putting in the time and effort!

In addition to my NVQ, which is part of my daily routine, I will have also gained a health and safety, first aid and manual handling certificates, and a fork lift truck qualification. I believe all these new qualifications will help me in my future career.