

Archie Eaton

What are you currently doing and how did you get there?

I am currently a Boccia Coach. I started playing Boccia just before I got to Dene Magna and in 2019, I got my Level One Coaching qualification, firstly to help out at my local Club (Cotswold Crusaders) and secondly because I knew that Boccia has been such a big part of my life growing up and it has immeasurable benefits from raising my self-esteem during times of crisis, to becoming more sociable as a person and much more.

What is your favourite thing about your career?

In my current role at the Chamwell centre, I love the diversity of people that I get at my sessions, young or old as well as a huge range of disabilities.

I am also now studying Sports Coaching Science with Disability Sport at the University of Worcester (in my 3rd Year).

What is your least favourite thing about your career?

I love my job and wouldn't change it for the world but if I had to change anything, it would be to have more communication from coach (me) to the parents so that I can better plan a session around who is there and who cannot make it.

What advice would you give to a student wanting a job in your field?

My advice to anyone that wants to go into a career that works with vulnerable people of any kind is really to try and get as much real world experience as you can. Whilst there are many textbooks/online resources that can assist you in understanding the types of people you may come across, there is nothing like real life to prove that.

How did your experience at Dene Magna help you find your first job?

My experience of the Dene Magna Boccia Club in particular really helped me to understand the different people that I am faced with in my current role. My experience also showed me the diverse ways around problems that other disabled people have that sometimes aren't even thought about.

If you had to do it all over again what would you do differently?

I would decide not to have a double hip replacement in Yr11 (regrettable but necessary choice). Looking back I also think that maybe picking PE could have helped me in my current role.

What do you know now that you wish you knew when you were at school?

I know now that what you pick for GCSEs or even A levels doesn't have to be what you want to do for the rest of your life, for my Optional GCSEs I chose History, Spanish and Drama and my current degree and job are nothing related to any of them.