

## **Lia Morgan – Company Assistant Wyldwood Arts**

### **What were your favourite subjects/best memories from school?**

My favourite subject whilst at school was Art. My teacher, Miss Capetta was a great teacher and really made the lessons enjoyable for everyone. One of the great memories I do have was the Leavers video that the staff put together for us to the song "Call Me Maybe".

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

I am a Company Assistant for Wyldwood Arts. Wyldwood Arts main mission is to create meaningful creative encounters that promote connection within and between communities across the South West and beyond. I managed to get my current job through something called the Kickstart scheme, aimed for people aged 16-24. Initially, this was a 6 month contract which has now ended, but I have stayed with Wyldwood Arts on a new contract.

### **What is your favourite thing about your career?**

My favourite thing about my career is a difficult question as there are a lot of things I enjoy. Personally, being able to make connections with new people and expand my knowledge further has been great. But I also have loved putting myself back into creating art after having my daughter, who has now just turned 3 years old!

### **What is your least favourite thing about your career?**

There isn't really anything that I don't enjoy about my job. The only thing I wish I could have changed is that I started sooner.

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

My advice would be to just believe in yourself and do it. I had a lot of apprehension about joining a job in the Arts sector, not only because I hadn't worked since I had my daughter in 2019 but also because it was a completely new career path compared to the retail, hospitality and managerial work I was used to before maternity leave. I have met so many people after only working with Wyldwood Arts since November 2021 and everybody has been so supportive, helpful and welcoming - I wouldn't want to work in any other sector now that I pushed myself to make the jump.

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

A big thing that helped me get my first job was the work experience that I did whilst I was a student at Dene Magna. Although my first job was in retail and my work experience was as a teaching assistant, it really helped me go out of my comfort zone and speak to new people. It helped me gain the confidence to do things like sit for an interview face-to-face, or even approach customers.

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

There are a few things I would probably do differently if I had the chance. After I left Dene Magna, I studied Level 3 Art & Design at Gloucestershire College. Back then, I never had the confidence to pursue a career in art and I actually ended up leaving after the first year to go into full-time retail work. Looking back, I wish I carried on with it and went on to a university so that I could have worked on my skills and learnt more about the subject.

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

A big thing that I know now that I didn't when I was a student at Dene Magna was the payroll side of things. I look back now and I wish the process of self-employment and tax/payroll was something we could have learnt as it is a big thing when it comes to working, or even sometimes when you get your first job. I feel that having the knowledge of how that all works could really help people to understand the working world better.