

George, Lovewell Blake LLP, AAT Trainee

- **Where did you go to school?** Thorpe St Andrew School and Sixth Form
- **What subjects did you study?** Business Studies, Media Studies, Photography and the Extended Project Qualification
- **Why did you choose an Apprenticeship?** I chose an Apprenticeship for a number of reasons – to gain experience that university students would not be getting, to avoid the debt of a student loan, but mostly because I did not really see myself at University. I just really wanted to get into the world of work and did not see University as any more valuable than an Apprenticeship – especially when I am studying towards industry recognised qualifications from day one. I truly feel that Apprenticeships are a fantastic alternative to University for people who want to get out into the world of work, but also learn more skills and study towards internationally-recognised qualifications.
- **What path did you take to get to your current position?** I started off by participating in work experience placements within this industry – both at Lovewell Blake and other companies. After enjoying these placements, I decided that this was the career that I would like to get into and as a result applied for an apprenticeship position at Lovewell Blake. After applying, I got invited to an assessment day which I was successful in, and started my Apprenticeship in August 2019 – two months after completing my A-Level exams.
- **What does a typical day in your role look like?** I started off by participating in work experience placements within this industry – both at Lovewell Blake and other companies. After enjoying these placements, I decided that this was the career that I would like to get into and as a result applied for an apprenticeship position at Lovewell Blake. After applying, I got invited to an assessment day which I was successful in, and started my Apprenticeship in August 2019 – two months after completing my A-Level exams.
- **What do you think are the most valuable skills have you learnt on your apprenticeship?** I have definitely developed my communication and interpersonal skills since starting my apprenticeship, as I find myself interacting with a variety of different people from all walks of life on a daily basis. I also feel that my problem solving and analysis skills have developed a lot as a result of the work that I am doing. As well as this, I have definitely developed my knowledge of accounting and find myself being able to do things I found very difficult when I first joined. I still have a lot to learn, but the beauty of an apprenticeship is that I am learning and developing many skills at all times.

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- **What is the job prospect/progression when you complete your apprenticeship?** The progression opportunities are fantastic after I complete my apprenticeship, and I hope to progress onto the next level of my apprenticeship once I complete this level. The experience that I have gained since day one will help a lot with my progression as I get further into my career. One of the managers in my department actually joined and studied for the same qualification as me when he was 18, so to me this indicates where I could be a few years down the line if I work hard and keep progressing.
- **Where do you see yourself in 5 years?** In five years, I hope to be studying towards the ICAEW ACA qualification or potentially be a fully qualified Chartered Accountant. I see myself still being at Lovewell Blake, as they are an excellent company to work for, and moving my way up the career ladder. I certainly would find this a lot harder if I was not an apprentice – I feel like being on an apprenticeship has helped me to find a lot of direction in my life which is incredibly valuable in itself.
- **What do you like best about being an apprentice?** The best thing about being an Apprentice is being able to gain experience in a fast moving, ever-evolving industry whilst also studying for internationally recognised professional qualifications. Besides this, the social element of work that our company fosters is a great way to try new things that I would have not tried otherwise! Just a couple of days after I joined I participated in a social foot-golf event with my department which I thoroughly enjoyed!

Why do you love your apprenticeship?

I love being in a professional working environment whilst also being able to better myself and build my knowledge of accountancy and build my career from day one where other people my age are at University, only seeing the education side of things, rather than the hands on experience side of things as well.