

Celebrating Learning Stories



Jay

British Sign Language (BSL)

I have been around deaf people from a young age, so it seemed natural to gain a BSL qualification. I wanted to set a firm foundation for my learning of BSL so going from level 1-3 seemed a natural progression for me and I can say with confidence that Wolverhampton Adult Education has fully supported and nurtured me to successfully achieving a life goal.

One of my life goals is to help others; whether they are deaf, blind, physically disabled, have additional needs or just need a listening ear I believe helping others is imperative for happy society and for positive mental wellbeing.

My ethos in life is to always be the best person possible, so putting time, effort and concentration into my BSL studies was of great importance to me.

When I think about how this course has affected me, a lot of things spring to mind; when I was younger, I had problems with self-esteem which still exists, but my BSL studies have, without doubt, increased my self-esteem massively. The course has also given me the confidence to set up a Facebook page to both reinforce my own learning of sign language but also pass on my skills to others to teach and raise awareness and its importance to the community.

My BSL study has gone a long way in breaking down barriers personally and showcases positivity for other disabled people demonstrating that nothing is impossible regardless of the adversity faced. As well as gaining self-awareness, I have also gained more insight of problems faced by the D/deaf community such as mental health, new social communities and cultural and linguistic idiosyncrasies.