

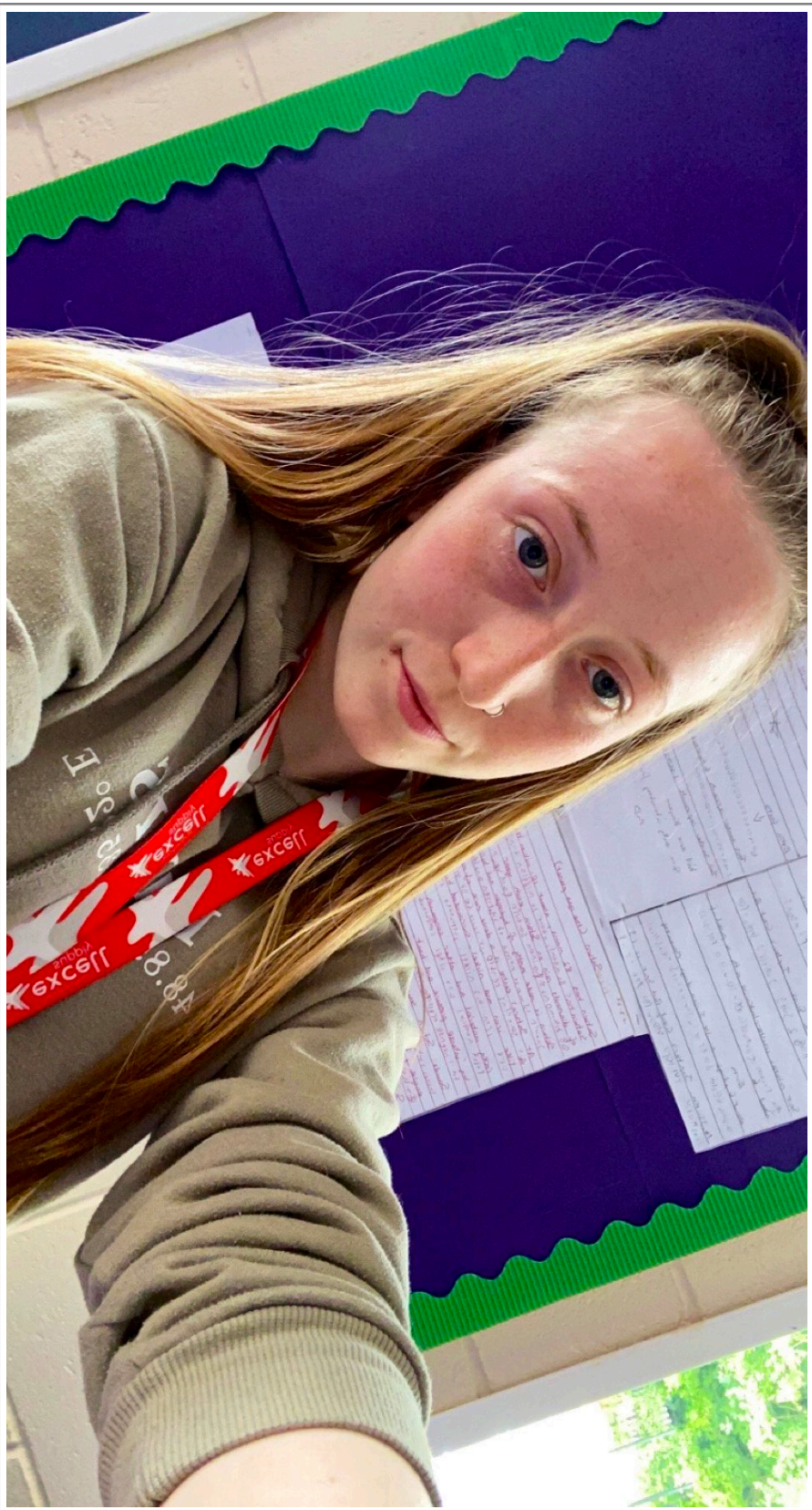
ONE OF OUR OWN

introduces

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Teaching Assistant with **Excell.**
supply



EXPERIENCE TO DATE

I am at a very early stage of my career. I'm currently working as a Teaching Assistant in a local Wrexham school having successfully passed my Level 2 Health & Social Care qualification in March 2020. I really enjoyed the course overall but I was particularly interested in the qualification's focus on mental health and understanding how the mind works and the reasons behind why people behave differently.

SPECIALISM

I don't need a specialism in my current role but when I do it will either be Science, PE and/or Dance!

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

I think it's important to give young people as much control over their learning as possible. In my opinion, giving pupils options is important as it makes learning more relevant and engaging.

GREATEST EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT TO DATE

I was an anxious child in school but things started to change after my dyslexia diagnosis. I realised I wasn't alone and it wasn't just me who struggled. So, my greatest achievement to date has been to get qualified and put myself into a position I can build on and become a real inspiration to young people. In my current role, it was so rewarding being able to help a young child who could not write to form letters and numbers. She literally couldn't read or write. She couldn't do anything before I started working with her and now she can. That gives me an enormous amount of satisfaction.

My next goal is to gain a Level 4 Teaching Assistant qualification as this will allow me to broaden my experience in the classroom. Following that, my ambition is become a fully qualified teacher. I also want to learn much more about autism and mood disorders, many of which go undiagnosed. I really want to be inspiration for more troubled young people. I would embrace that challenge and work so hard to crack things with them.

FAVOURITE TEACHER FROM SCHOOL

Definitely Mr Lockheart. He never got cross, he was always calm - a real role model to me. In school, I was labelled a trouble-maker because of the anger and frustration caused by my dyslexia which was only diagnosed when I was 17. I never wanted to be disruptive but so much of the work I was set felt impossible to me and I just couldn't access it and get it to make sense. I would get really angry with myself. I would get frustrated and I'd refuse to work and I'd end up arguing back. I was scared of failing all of the time. Mr Lockheart understood this and he helped me so much. He was so positive and reassuring and he'd make me a cup of tea if I needed calming down. I'm still in touch with him today.

IF I COULD CHANGE ONE THING ABOUT THE PROFESSION

Schools do amazing work but I would change a few things. Firstly, I think teaching assistants should be even more involved in lessons. Pretty much all of us enjoy getting stuck in and we want to be busy. We also love responsibility.

I sometimes wonder if it would be possible for learning to be more personalised to individual needs. A one-size-fits-all approach leaves too many behind. No child is the same and their learning should reflect this.

I would also love to see more after school activities being made available to young people, more creative lessons and more learning which links to the real world.

FUNNIEST CLASSROOM MOMENT

I really enjoy those moments when pupils get caught red-handed when they're up to no good! Nothing serious, perhaps a daft joke and a giggle but that moment they know they've been clocked is always amusing! Their reactions are always funny.

I also find the honesty of young pupils funny. Sometimes they have no filter and say things older students wouldn't dream of saying. Only the other day, a pupil, very earnestly, stated to me: "you smell funny!" Charming!

PASTIMES

A lot of my spare time is taken up with my current studies. I'm working hard on a Level 2 NVQ in 'Supporting Teaching in the Classroom' and working through my coursework assignments.

I'm happy to be focusing so much on my career as I really want to advance myself. I really don't want to be living from hand to mouth and being so vulnerable to things such as the cost of living crisis so many of us are having to contend with.

As I'm working hard, it's only fair that I switch off every now and then and go partying. I do love a good party and a chance to go dancing!

THE BEST THING ABOUT WORKING FOR EXCELL

I can't believe how many hours of work I get. There are always hours available and I am always keen to get them under my belt. They seem to have a lot of demand for their services which is great for me and Excell.

