



# DFN Project | SEARCH



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2019

## Rotation 2

In January our interns moved on to their new departments where they have continued building both personal and work skills. They have shown what they are really capable of and what they can achieve. We have seen an improvement in confidence and self belief as they have worked alongside their Marriott co-workers, who have mentored and supported them. A new department also came on board and we were able to offer a role with a different skill set, as for the first time we had an intern working alongside the hotel's chefs. As part of their learning, interns have also taken part in off-site visits to the council's Getting Ready For Work Event, Heathrow Employment & Skills Academy and Heathrow Jobs & Careers Fair. Three interns have already moved on into paid employment and in rotation 3, we will be stepping up the job searching process with our remaining interns. A big thank you to everyone who has been involved, as we could not succeed without this partnership approach and you are what makes Project SEARCH at the London Heathrow Marriott a continued success.

### Important Dates:

**Friday 5th April**  
**Finish for Easter**

**Tuesday**  
**23rd April**  
**Return to work**  
**Begin Rotation 3**

**Friday**  
**26th April**  
**Marriott Oscars**  
**Awards Dinner**



# Getting Ready For Work Event

Rotation 2 Departments:



Alice - Conference & Banqueting



Brook - Chef's Assistant

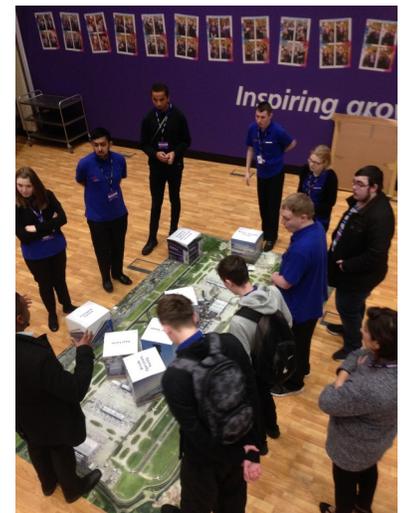


Eilidh - M Club Lounge



Interns Nathan and Joshua with Stuart, event organiser

In January, the Project SEARCH group attended London Borough of Hillingdon's Getting Ready for Work Event at the Civic Centre. Interns helped the event organisers by meeting, greeting and directing visitors, helping with the refreshments and helping to clear the main hall at the end of the session. Some also practised their communication skills by giving information to people who visited our display. Two interns, Nathan and Joshua, did a great job when they joined Maxine to speak to the audience about their own Project SEARCH experience. Our photograph display of interns working at the Marriott drew positive attention and enquiries from people interested in joining us for Year 4.



On 4th February, interns visited Heathrow Jobs and Skills Academy, who work closely with airport employers. They were given a presentation about Heathrow Airport and the employment opportunities that exist there. This was followed by a practical team activity that our interns enjoyed. Heathrow Academy have shown interest in helping to link some of our interns with their current business partners.

# Job Searching

A busy period for our interns as we have now begun to increase our Job searching sessions. Our Job Developer (Saimmah) has been working alongside the interns in a variety of job searching activities which includes taking interns out to engage with relevant employers.

We aim to job match the employer with the individual and seek opportunities relevant to the skills the Intern has learnt whilst on our program, as well as considering that location of paid employment is within a reasonable travelling distance for the interns. So far employer engagement has taken place in areas such as Uxbridge, West Drayton, Heathrow and Wembley. Our Job developer has been busy visiting different sites and organising interviews for our young people with potential employers.

Recently a catering company was invited to Marriott hotel to see the interns at work, during their visit the employer engaged very well with our group and displayed great interest in the tasks they were performing. Our interns sent a thank you email to the company for visiting and praising them on their work. The job developer is now in a position where she is pursuing possible employment opportunities with the Catering company.

It's already become a fruitful term with three young people into paid employment of their choices ranging from warehouse to passenger service agent position at Heathrow (see Adam and Devon's pictures below). The three young people who were 'work ready' have settled into their new positions with their employers, our job developer has been organising to go and see how the new paid employees are getting on and agreeing for ongoing job coaching support for some of them provided by 'Prospect Services'.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> Feb, our group were accompanied by Project SEARCH staff to the Heathrow Job Fair where they had the valuable opening to speak to potential employers and find out more about the different types of jobs available. The event was followed up with an activity session the next day in the Project SEARCH room.

On return from the holiday, our Job developer will be providing a one to one careers session to our interns, an action plan will be accompanied to enable parents /carers to read what has been discussed and the next steps.

*Saimmah*

Adam

Heathrow  
Passenger  
Service Agent



Devon

Warehouse  
Assistant



Rotation 2 Departments:



Nathan - House Keeping Porter



Tilak - Engineering



Nathan L - Leisure Club

## Employment Planning Meetings



Rotation 2 progress and planning meetings were held on 26th March and this time, interns were asked to take the lead and run their meetings. They all gave a presentation about their placement and talked about skills they have learnt and skills they feel they need to work on and improve. Self awareness and self-evaluation is not only an important life skill but also part of the programme's Self Advocacy unit of work. Interns were also responsible for inviting department staff to attend their meetings so that they could see their presentation and give brief performance feedback. It was good to see the improved confidence in our interns as they took part in their meetings. Thank you to all staff and family members who attended.

## Intern Of The Month Awards

January - Joshua

February - Nathan L

March - Brook



We are now at the end of a busy second rotation and look forward to seeing our interns further expand their skills in rotation 3. The Project SEARCH team would like to wish everybody a happy Easter.