

Gabe Ross

Learning Support Assistant | School for Inspiring Talents

Gabe wanted to do something unique and rewarding before taking up his deferred university placement. He joined School for Inspiring Talents as a Learning Support Assistant and has been learning valuable skills and experience.

How I got into the role

I decided to take some time out before heading to University. I wanted to do something rewarding and challenging, that would have a positive impact on others. I saw that School for Inspiring Talents was recruiting for an LSA role and thought it would be great opportunity!

What I do

A typical day at work consists of making sure the children are enjoying themselves safely, as well as keeping a healthy balance between work and play.

It is important that the children are constantly stimulated through appropriate work, as well as plenty of fun activities inside and outside the classroom.

Therapeutic activities are essential in forming strong relationships with the children; these range from simple activities like conversations with the students about how they are feeling, as well as using sensory items like Lego and kinetic sand. The facilities and space at the school offer great opportunities for therapeutic activities and games outside too.

The best bits and challenges

It can be a challenging environment to work in. Children can often display a heightened state of mind which means they are verbally and physically aggressive. It's our job to use the methods we are trained in to help de-escalate the students and have restorative conversations to help both staff and students feel more positive about the situation.

The best part of the job is undoubtedly forming a trusting and constructive relationship with the students who I work with. Going home knowing that I have helped the children to enjoy their day and made a positive impact on individuals is especially rewarding.



“I’ve learned so much in this role and I massively look forward to coming in to work every day.”

My tips for others...

It has been an exceptional and unique opportunity that I cannot recommend enough. If I had not decided to apply for the position of an LSA, I would never have met such fantastic children and exceptionally supportive and welcoming staff.

It has also been an incredibly eye-opening experience; I've learned how life-changing childhood trauma can be, and how many children suffer very difficult circumstances, especially when compared to my own childhood.

If you have lots of patience, a positive mindset and plenty of energy then that is a great start! I've learned so much in this role and I massively look forward to coming in to work every day.