

## My Week in the Life of Work:

It's fair, and quite obvious, to say that the work life is very different to school life. From being able to finish at 3 after school, to only being able to finish at 5 on a good day. Nevertheless, it was undoubtedly one of the greatest experiences of my life, so far: a new environment, amazing colleagues, variety of cases (some less interesting than others) and most of all the time off school, joking, but definitely the change in day-to-day routines. Everyday was a change and I would never know what I was going in for or what to expect but to me that was the best part: the lack of routine. I am so happy to have been able to have this opportunity as it had just confirmed to me my passion for law and why I would like to work in the legal system: since everyday was always different. Would I recommend this experience to others? ABSOLUTELY!! Without a doubt I would for anyone who has ambitions to go into the life of work, I would definitely recommend this to them to really get a true insight into what working within a court is like. In addition to this, I was able to speak in person to a judge and magistrates myself to question what their paths to their success was to help me to plan my life out more and find out what would be the best path for me to take. Alongside this, I was also able to gain some details of a barrister who is currently in the position that I am aiming to achieve in my life and so being able to get into contact with her I was able to understand what she did to achieve this goal and listen to the advice I was given.

Arriving without knowing what to expect, I was immediately searched which was a formal procedure that was required to be done every morning to ensure safety. Monday I was sat listening to DV Trials which in my opinion was definitely a great way to start the week as it was a way to ease into this new environment but of course with the support of my colleagues, it allowed me to fit in and feel happy to be there. Tuesday was without a doubt a big step up from the day before as I was now sat in remand, which trials were heard from those sent to the cells within the past few days or even hours, with a judge deciding the fate of all these convicts. And one thing for certain, do not drink and drive as the judge will show no sympathy to you and you will most definitely be judged by the judge. Wednesday, however, was a change as I was now listening to the non-Policing cases (Cases that are taken to court by different parties such as the council, RSPCA etc instead of the police) which in all honesty is something that would definitely resent having to do due to the lack of 'action'. Alongside this, Thursday I was sat listening to GAP and NGAP cases (Guilty Anticipated Pleas and Not Guilty Anticipated Pleas) which again was also lacking action but was definitely more interesting than the non-Policing cases from the day before but still not something I would enjoy having to do as part of my job but definitely had ended the day interestingly as we had a defendant come in for drink driving, DRUNK. Despite this, I was still determined to go back in on Friday with my head up high and ready (as ready as I could be) listening to more trials which brought back that spark and interest and was a great way to end the week. All throughout the week I was able to meet a range of people already working within the Legal System which allowed me to speak to a range of people to gain advice and insight into what it really is like working for the Law but also being able to get an insight into the less fun and 'boring' side of the job.

Why Law? I had always believed that justice must be served especially in this modern society with the increase of crime rates, as well as us living in a multicultural society, everyone within the community are still equal and so they all deserve to be protected from all the hate and evil on the outside. In 1848, women had been fighting for the right to vote which shows how women had to fight even for the basic equalities and now through my work experience, I had noticed how even women were treated equally to others which portrays the somewhat fairness of the legal system.

Plus, enhances my desire to help others by creating a safer environment for all to live in in particular the new growing generation as if they are growing up being more educated about the Law and what they are allowed to and not allowed to do, then as they grow up, they will grow with the right morals which should in the future be able to decrease the number of crime going on.

Overall points that I had learnt from my work experience:

- Do not Drink and Drive as you will be judged by the judge (No sympathy will be shown).
- If you are given a court date, attend your trial and be prepared.
- The judge/magistrates already know what your verdict will be beforehand, so a decision is made in advance to ensure a smooth trial.
- Solicitors always try their best despite what the outcome is and so there is no need to hate them if you do not get the result, you was hoping for.
- Do not make up any false stories about your trial as the truth will always come through in the end.
- Don't make up sob stories just to gain sympathy as the probation team will already know and have assessed your life so if you do need help then just tell them.
- Pleading guilty at your first given opportunity is always your best option and you will benefit from this.