



Hayden Gray

SKILLS FOR WORK

Sport and Recreation

Hayden Gray completed his Skills for Work in Sport and Recreation at Intermediate 2 level during his sixth year at Grantown Grammar School, in 2009. From there he went straight into employment with the Craig MacLean Leisure Centre.



Why Skills for Work?

The Craig MacLean Leisure Centre, located next to Grantown Grammar School, is an integrated facility used mainly by the school during school hours, and by the public at other times. It is the partner employer for the Skills for Work course in Sport and Recreation which is offered by the school as a timetabled option in S5/S6. Hayden was therefore well aware of the course:

"I had seen people in the year before me having a good time in the gym and working out in the sports centre, so it seemed like a good opportunity for me."

Jonathan Croall, PT in PE, manages the course:

"Hayden had a challenging few years in secondary school, with some discipline issues, so a lot of people wouldn't have been surprised if he'd not finished his secondary education. He's a bright young guy and charismatic, but he was over-confident before he did Skills for Work. He needed time to self-evaluate and develop his skills."

Fraser Tulloch, Duty Manager at the Leisure Centre, was Hayden's supervisor during the course, and is now his line manager. He felt Hayden was a good candidate for the course because he was sports minded and competitive and wanted to do well, but he needed to develop and mature.

What did it entail?

The Sport and Recreation course was timetabled for 5 periods a week, plus further practical work at the Leisure Centre after the school day.

At school Hayden prepared session plans ready to implement with his pupil partner in the Leisure Centre. (Pupils work with a partner on the same course, coaching each other, as they learn coaching skills) He kept a log of work done, what he had learned from the work, and hours worked.

At the Leisure Centre Hayden did many of the day to day tasks of the Centre including cleaning, setting up and dismantling equipment, coaching and gym instruction, as well as training courses, for example to be a lifeguard. Carrying out these tasks also involved understanding and applying H&S and COSHH regulations.

"It was fun getting out there, trying different things, and it broke up the school day a bit from English and Maths."

Hayden got lots of help from his teacher; because the Leisure Centre is next to the school he could easily pop back to ask for help.

Skills for Work offers secondary school pupils from S3 and above opportunities to prepare themselves for the world of work by developing generic employability skills related to a particular vocational area, such as 'Sport and Recreation' or 'Rural Skills'. These skills are gained through experiential learning, which in Highland Region is offered through real work with partner employers.



He used SQA's Deskspace online portfolio facility to record his course and to see how others on the course were getting on.

Achievement of course outcomes was assessed by his teacher and his supervisor at the Centre through observation, and in some cases through DVD recording, for example of Hayden taking a football session.

What difference did it make?

"My last year of school was a good opportunity to see how the workplace works – I couldn't be a typical school kid up for fun all the time, I was thinking about my future. I learned how to get on in a job, and how the Centre is run. It was good for my health as well!"

The coaching hours Hayden completed for the course contributed to his achieving a Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award.

Skills for Work equipped Hayden with a range of transferable employability skills, including communicating with the public, giving presentations, coaching, following instructions, working with others, keeping records, and as Fraser Tulloch notes:

"His leadership skills started to shine through, I could delegate tasks for the team to do and he'd make sure people did the right thing."

Jonathon Croall saw a real level of maturity develop in Hayden during the year:

"By the end of the course Hayden was hugely employable – the cockiness was gone, he was able to communicate appropriately with people at all levels. His confidence became more measured, and he now recognises the value of listening to people with more experience who have advice for him. He became a well-rounded young man."



What happened next?

Soon after he finished school Hayden got a job as Leisure Attendant with the Craig MacLean Leisure Centre, where he's doing more courses including coaching for swimming, trampolining etc.

"We took him on straight away and he's been one of our key members of staff since being employed here. He does a lot of coaching, has been on a lot of courses, and done very well. He's very consistent."

Hayden's next plan is to become a personal trainer; having achieved level 2 as a Fitness Instructor, Spinning Instructor and Community Leader he's now two thirds of the way there. His ultimate goal is to become a pilot in the RAF, and be sponsored through university. He now has a fallback of becoming an RAF physical training instructor, an option he'd not thought of before doing Skills for Work.



To find out more about Skills for Work

SQA overview of Skills for Work at:

<http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/25259.998.html>

Skills for Work in Highland Region

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