

Hannah Edmond's career is shaped by Arkwright

When I first heard of Arkwright Scholarships I never really understood the significance of how it would begin to shape my future. The interview was the most unnerving part of the whole process, but once I was there I suddenly found that I was talking about something that I was passionate about and could have talked about with confidence for hours. When the letter came to say that I had been selected and Kier Group were to be my sponsors I was full of surprise at having succeeded in getting so far.

I met Kier's contact for the first time at the award ceremony and kept in touch with him, throughout my 6th form. He put me in contact with my regional group of Kier when I asked for work experience and in the Easter holiday of my L6th year I went on site with Kier Longley.

Before I started on site for the first time I had no idea what to expect, everyone I spoke to about it seemed to have a surprised expression, or be concerned about me as a young girl on a building site. The talk made me slightly nervous but I shouldn't have been. The site was a 43 bedroom extension on a 5 star Country Hotel. They couldn't have been more welcoming and I was taken under wing, finding myself totally immersed in the daily work, I was suddenly part of a team learning loads of new things every day and getting interesting experience. A whole new world had been opened up to me, one in which I seemed to fit naturally. I returned to the site as often as I possibly could throughout my 6th form - in holidays, post exams, even the odd afternoon - and was on site just before handover after my A levels finished.

The men on site were keen to teach me new things, help me to understand and answer all my questions however silly they



sounded. We were having a conversation one day about my future and I mentioned in passing that I was looking for a working placement for my gap year. This turned out to be one of the most significant conversations I had as soon afterwards I was offered a 10 month placement starting at the end of August 2008, which is what I am doing now. I am working on another site, building a school in very contrasting circumstances and once again part of the team. But I have also been called up to the office for opportunities to experience other aspects of the industry.

Kier offered me sponsorship through university to read Civil Engineering commencing 2009. This includes paid holiday placements and a job at the end of my degree, all of which are opportunities that I am hugely grateful for.

Arkwright also gave me the opportunity to go on a Construction skills course in the summer holiday after my L6th. This gave me new opportunities to learn about presentation, design and teamwork through

"The significance of Arkwright is not so much in the sponsorship money, but in the sponsors themselves and the doors full of opportunities which it unlocks for you. These are things that without the contacts you gain through Arkwright you would never have access to."

Hannah

the project that we did. It also allowed us to meet other scholars who were like minded and develop friendships with people studying similar subjects to you, as well as people who were working in the construction industry.

Brighton College Senior School

A level subjects:

Maths (2007)	A
Further maths	B
Physics	A
Geography	A
DT	A

2008 – 2009 Gap Year with Kier Longley

2009 – 2013 Bristol University Civil Engineering

The Arkwright Scholarships Trust

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