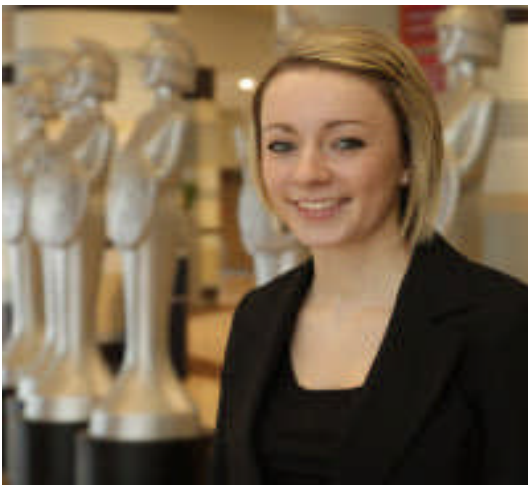


CHRISTINA BENJAMIN, COMPASS ACADEMY APPRENTICE

“We’re getting all the support that we need, and all the training is on our doorstep really – any extra support and training that feel we need, we can ask for. At the end we are guaranteed a job role, and our salaries will increase by 12 percent.”



Christina is someone who enjoys a very hands-on approach to learning - and with most management schemes asking for candidates with a degree - she jumped at the chance to apply for the Compass Academy Apprenticeship programme.

Now five months into her Apprenticeship, Christina has been able to watch what other managers do, and start thinking about how she can step into that role. Having spent three months working in the conference and banqueting department, she is now working in the kitchen, and will then move on to an office environment. Next year, she will repeat this experience in a supervisory role, and is enjoying thinking about how she will manage and motivate people.

When asked about the best parts of the course so far, Christina said that catering for the 2009 Brit Awards – and the likes of Kylie Minogue, Take That and Girls Aloud – would be a massive highlight for her.

Christina has also had plenty of support from her mentor, Graham: “If I ever have any questions, I give him a call and he’ll answer it straight away. If he can’t, he’ll find out for me and call me back.”

Christina lists her improved confidence, earning while she learns and the management training as the best things about her Apprenticeship, and feels that it will definitely help her to achieve her ambition of becoming an event manager: “I like the creative side of all the events, and I like the organisation side as well, making sure everything is done to meet deadlines. When I go into the office, I’ll get all the event skills from them, as we have special events managers in our team.

To sum up her experience for others thinking about taking an Apprenticeship, she says: “It’s been a great opportunity, a great experience. My boyfriend is doing the same college course that I did, and now he wants to do the Compass Academy programme too – it’s really, really good!”

Background

Name: Christna Benjamin

Age: 18 years old

Location: Pinner, Middlesex

Experience: Completed a B -Tech in Hospitality Supervision at Thames Valley university

