

Success with GV Job Club!

Since the last issue of the Gleadless Valley News, the GV Job Club has helped even more job seekers back into work. In the last three months we have supported 6 people in their return to the workforce.

Michael had been out of work for a total of 6 years, 4 of which had been spent caring for a close family member. He found that during this time things had changed dramatically in Human Resources in which he had been working. He came to the Centre with limited IT skills and was apprehensive of using computers. He soon found out that to gain a job in which he could use his past skills and experience he would have to have at least a basic knowledge of computers. He started with our drop-in sessions, learning some of the basics such as updating his CV, emailing and using the internet to search and apply for jobs and quickly moved on to accredited IT courses with us. So, as well as job searching almost daily, he was constantly updating his IT skills.



Michael learned how to apply for jobs online and in no time he increased his confidence in using computers. He applied for many jobs and in particular two that he had developed the skills for, and was invited to both interviews. We supported Michael with a mock interview to help him overcome his nerves. His first was unsuccessful. The second went well and he was also shortlisted for a third job, but had to decline as he had already been offered work with Manor and Castle Development Trust, as a Receptionist/Administrator (his second interview). Michael has been employed with them now for the past 6 weeks and is enjoying his role immensely. In particular Michael wants to emphasize the valuable experience he gained as a Volunteer Health Champion at Gleadless Valley Community Forum.

Michael says 'When I first went to the GV Job Club I was nervous at the prospect of having to learn new skills and thought it would be like going back to school. I soon found out that the staff there treat everyone as individuals and nothing was too much trouble. I enjoyed the experience and would gladly recommend them to other people and have done so already. Thank you all, and keep up the good work.'

What can we say other than well done Michael, you overcame your fear of computers, battled on and gained qualifications in IT along the way!

Along with Michael we have supported 5 other people in returning to work in the last 3 months and congratulations should go to them all. If you need any help with creating a CV, searching for jobs, completing application forms either online or in paper form, then please call in to the Valley Online Centre, 187 Blackstock Road, we are always pleased to help.

With 92% of current vacancies being advertised online and over 80% of employers requiring IT skills as standard, isn't it time you let us help you to help yourself get ahead in the job market? The service we offer is completely **FREE** and available to everyone. Just pop in or if you need more information then please call Anne or Cheryl on 0114 2394888 or email anne.smith@gvcf.org.uk. (see back page for opening times).