

Rufus's Project Choice Story

A supported internship story.

South London

Rufus joined the programme for the 22/23 year and has done exceptionally well. Rufus is visually impaired and has struggled in the past to find work or work experience which has the support and structure he needs to succeed.

Over the year Rufus has been with the Orthopaedics and Spinal team at the Evalina Hospital for children. He has enjoyed it so much with the team there and has been such a success that they asked him to stay on with him to continue his placement. Rufus was more than happy to accept as he has found a real comfort there.

Rufus's role is within the admin team, and he has to call patients parents/carers to set up appointments or reschedule them. As Rufus is visually impaired, the Trust have downloaded a software that helps him screen read the information that is necessary. He has also completed relevant training to access the same software for patient information as the employed staff there. Rufus also helps with a range of general admin duties such as taking minutes in meetings with his exceptional memory and attending interviews to see how the Trust employ staff.

Rufus has had such an impact at the Trust that they are offering more support for other visually impaired staff members as they have learned a lot from Rufus. The team that supports him are absolutely fantastic and have the perfect balance of understanding his limitations but also motivating him to achieve more.

Rufus said, "I really enjoy it here, Paul is on hand to help me when I need it, but I have become very independent and keep doing new tasks".

At the beginning of the course, Rufus was unsure whether he wanted to do paid employment and said that he would like to just do something to keep him busy, even if it's volunteering. However, Rufus has started to apply for jobs and is really looking forward to the future.