

# Natasha felt like she needed a challenge and something a bit more fun and exciting

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### It all began at Sandon School...

Natasha has always been a hard worker. From the young age of 16 she has worked in kitchens and really enjoyed it, until she had her own children. Natasha and her partner have 3 children together.

When her youngest child was ready to start school, Natasha felt she needed a challenge and something a bit more fun and exciting.

Natasha said, “I loved spending time with my children when they were younger, so I knew I wanted to find a job working with children as I really enjoyed it. I needed to learn something new and challenge myself, so had a look at an Apprenticeship.

Sandon School were advertising, so I went for an interview and got the job! I'd never worked in a

classroom environment before, the closest I had been was working in a school kitchen, but I hadn't worked directly with the children before. I had also not worked with children who have additional needs, so had very little experience.

The job is amazing, I have never loved a job so much, I get so much joy from working with the pupils every day. I love the different challenges I face and I have learned so much. I love that every day is different and unpredictable but that I can also help and bring happiness to the children. A particular favourite for me so far was World Book Day!

I really enjoy the learning side of the Apprenticeship and I have taken part in so much varied training such as Positive Handling (Team Teach), Manual Handling and Epilepsy, and administration of the drug Buccal Midazolam, as well as training to meet particular pupils needs. I have furthered my knowledge of Mental Health awareness and have completed a Speech and Language Therapy training session and a Maths mastery training session.

I am currently undertaking my Tracheostomy and Gastrostomy care training, and button devices and peg tube training. As well as all this, I've almost completed my Teaching and Learning Support in schools Level 2; I'm hoping to start my Level 3 soon.



## Future Steps...

I have been very fortunate, as I was coming towards the end of my Apprenticeship, a TA1 job at Sandon became available. I applied and got the job. I am thrilled to be a permanent member of the Sandon team, and I have now signed on to the next Makaton course, although I'm learning this daily within my role at Sandon School. I am also really keen to do MIDAS training so I will be able to drive the school mini bus. I am keen on any training available really, as I like to keep busy!

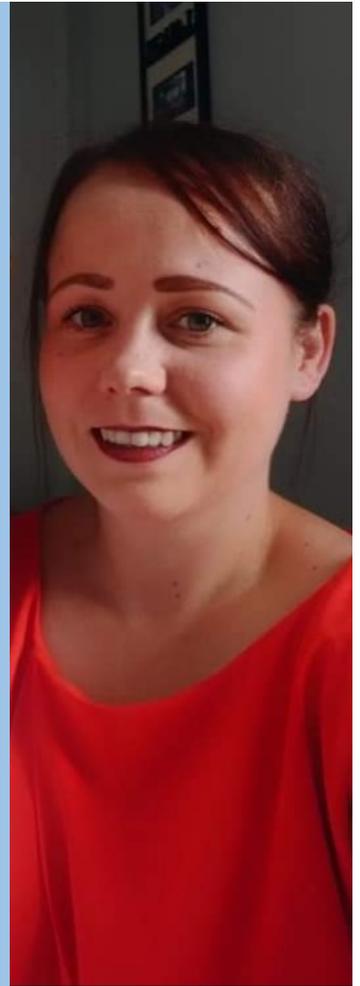
In the future, I'm hoping to improve my knowledge of working with children who have additional needs, my next step is to complete my Level 3 then hopefully become a TA2 .

Stela Plamenova, Headteacher of Sandon School said, "Natasha is a fantastic colleague to work with. She has supported pupils in various classes and established excellent relationships with pupils and staff. Her strong moral values and work ethics were evident from the start of her Apprenticeship at Sandon, and she continues to impress us daily. She has a natural ability to listen, reflect, and adapt her skill set in order to support some of our most complex learners".

## Award Winner!

Natasha has recently been recognised for her achievements as an Apprentice. She was nominated and won an award through Grantham College, for Level 2 Intermediate Apprentice support Teaching & Learning.

Natasha said, "It was such an honour to be nominated, let alone win the award! I have absolutely loved every single minute working at Sandon and have met lots of amazing staff and pupils. I am excited for the future and all the new challenges it will bring".



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## Grantham Additional Needs Fellowship

Ambergate Sports College	Sandon School
Dysart Road	Sandon Close
Grantham	Grantham
NG31 7LP	NG31 9AX
01476 564957	01476 564994

[enquiries@ganf-cit.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ganf-cit.co.uk)

[www.ganf.org.uk](http://www.ganf.org.uk)

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