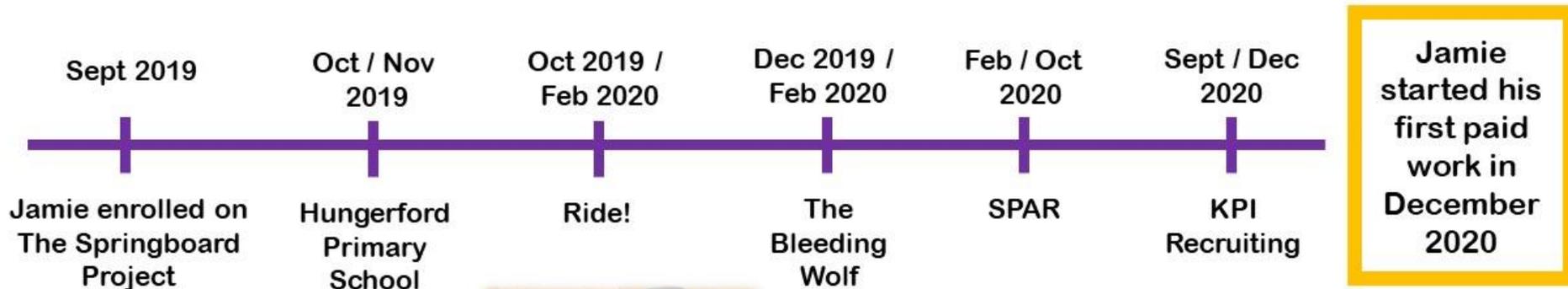


# Jamie's Journey to Employment



# Jamie's Journey

*Jamie started his journey to paid employment when he enrolled onto The Springboard Project in September 2019. Jamie was unsure which career path he would like to follow but he showed an interest in being active, sports and helping people.*

*Initially Safe Opportunities arranged for Jamie to work at a local primary school assisting with forest school activities. Jamie always arrived punctually and worked hard to settle but it soon became evident that he didn't feel comfortable in this setting and was feeling anxious. Safe Opportunities and the Springboard team made the decision to find a new placement and explore different opportunities to ensure Jamie could progress into a career that suited his interests and abilities. Jamie started work with a company called Ride who visit Care homes and deliver sporting activities to encourage the residents to be active. Jamie really enjoyed this role and had great feedback from the employer. Unfortunately, Ride were unable to offer Jamie any longer-term opportunities due to the Covid situation and the job required more independent working than Jamie would have been able to progress to. As Jamie enjoyed working with Andy and Nicola, he stayed with Ride to continue to build confidence, skills and experience. This would all be beneficial for Jamie in securing paid employment.*

*Alongside working at Ride, Safe Opportunities organised a placement for Jamie at The Bleeding Wolf public house. As Jamie already worked there each Saturday he knew most of the staff and settled easily. Jamie was accompanied by a job coach who helped him to break down the tasks and process the duties in a methodical manner. After a short time, The Bleeding Wolf had to close for refurbishment which left Jamie without a work placement however this did not dishearten Jamie and he remained focussed and driven by his ambition to secure paid work.*

*Jamie then got involved in an initiative selling baked jacket potatoes to staff in Springfield School's Chat and Chill cafe. Along with others from the Springboard team, he worked on the jacket potato enterprise which received over 60 orders weekly. Jamie was keen to be a valued member of the team and try out the different tasks from food preparation to handling money, advertising, customer service and dish washing. One of the tasks Jamie tried was inputting the jacket potato orders and data on to spreadsheets. Jamie was challenged to add all orders so that they could be read clearly and duplicated with ease. Jamie often struggled to speak out about his skills and chose work that he thought others would want him to do, however Jamie completed the jacket potato data input task competently and accurately which prompted a search for data input work for Jamie.*



Jamie moved on to his next work placement at the Spar in Alsager. Jamie soon settled and really enjoyed working with the team. Jamie learned how to sort and process deliveries, how to rotate foods on the shelves and how to help customers. Jamie would have progressed well at the Spar but unfortunately had to leave due to the national lockdown. Jamie did return to the Spar in the Autumn of 2020 alongside his work at KPI.

Jamie's work history showed that he thrived when working independently and when he was able to focus on one specific task at a time. We became aware of an opportunity at KPI recruitment for a data input work placement which we felt would be fantastic for Jamie. Jamie started working with KPI in September 2020, he worked with job coach Daz from Grow and Achieve Together. Daz helped him to break down the tasks and settle into the role while supporting his independent working. KPI were extremely impressed with Jamie's progress and how well he fitted in with the team. Jamie received the prestigious employee of the month award in October 2020 and was then offered his first paid work contract to start in December 2020. Jamie and his Mum were delighted with the offer and Jamie's work colleagues cheered when he was given his first contract of employment!

*"Securing paid employment made me feel over the moon and I never gave up. Some placements didn't go to plan but I kept believing that if I kept working hard then I knew I would eventually get a paid job" – Jamie*

*"It was a big decision to decide what was the best option for Jamie to do after he had finished high school. We were given details on the Springboard project, went along to a talk made the decision straight away. Initially sport was the area for Jamie to go into as he has a real passion for it but after a few mishaps mainly down to Jamie's immaturity and vulnerability, other areas were pursued. It became quite clear that Jamie needed something that he could be taught what to do and get on and do it. Using his own initiative is not something that comes naturally to him.*

*When KPI came along, right from the start it was clear he enjoyed the work and the people. The Job coach was great and gave him the confidence he needed. Being told he had gained paid employment was a very proud moment for us, something that at times we never believed would happen.*

*Jamie has gained confidence in his abilities, he travels on a bus and occasionally has had to make decisions as to what to do if a bus didn't turn up. Jamie still needs to mature more but steps in the right direction are being made.*

*One thing is for certain the Springboard team and Safe Opportunities never gave up the fight and we as parents supported them in every way possible" – thank you – Nicola (Jamie's mum)*

Jamie really deserves the opportunity with KPI recruitment; it is evident that Jamie's hard work, diligence, motivation and enthusiasm to secure paid work has been justly rewarded. We wish Jamie all the success in the future.

## *Safe Opportunities – December 2020*



