

Sheraz (Age: 31)

Went to Braidwood - Sept 2001 - July 2006

Your Job: Teaching Assistant

Your Company: Longwill School for Deaf Children



1. What do you remember about Braidwood School?

- **What memories do you have?**

The fondest memory is of a 5 day school trip to France with my class.

- **What did you learn?**

We covered all core subjects but my favorite was Geography.

- **What did you like?**

I like the new building, warm and friendly environment and mixing with hearing students. I particularly liked playing football with deaf and hearing students.

- **What did you not like?**

Maths was a subject I didn't enjoy but I knew it was a valuable subject when thinking about future employment and managing finances.

- **Did you work hard?**

I worked very hard because I wanted to be successful professionally. I am very grateful to all that staff and the efforts they took in helping me succeed.

2. Did you always want to be A Teaching Assistant?

- **Have you had any other jobs?**

I have worked as a security Supervisor and I was also employed as a part time car salesman and a full time teaching Assistant.

- **How did you get into Teaching Assistant?**

When I was 18 I studied to become a Teaching Assistant at college and was offered a work experience placement at Longwill School. Having attended the placement alongside my studies and working hard I was offered a job as a teaching assistant which I accepted.

3. What did you do when you left Braidwood School?

- **Did you go to college?**

I attended college for 2 years

- **What course did you do?**

Teaching Assistant Level 1, 2 and 3.

First Aid

Security Supervisor.

- **What did you do when you left college?**

I became a teaching assistant.

4. What is the best thing about being a Teaching Assistant?

When I started my job I remembered what it was like to be one of those children starting school with hopes for the future. It just became my passion to see kids enjoying their education and succeeding academically and socially in their time with us.

5. What is the worst thing about being a Teaching Assistant?

I really do not enjoy hanging posters. If they are crooked I have to take them down and hang them again as well as constantly replacing the ones that have fallen down or gone missing. When marking work I am reliant on interpreters to check English which is very time consuming.

6. What advice would you give a pupil at Braidwood School about life and work?

When leaving school it is important to go to college or university to achieve further qualifications. This will open many doors for you and give you opportunities professionally that you will not have otherwise. When I received my first wage I was shocked by all the expenses you have to pay. I now support my family and own my own home and have another property that I rent out for additional income. It took hard work and time but it is totally worth it. Do not waste your time at school and you must keep working hard and pushing yourself. Time waits for no man and it goes faster than you think. Good luck.