PET-Xi CASE STUDY

TILLIE'S STORY



TILLIE'S STORY - A YEAR ON

Coventry local Tillie Jackson, 17, had struggled with her education due to having a condition known as PANS, which causes severe OCD and anxiety.

It meant Tillie missed the majority of Year 10 and 11, meaning she left school without GCSEs. An aspiring dancer, Tillie was unable to attend dance college due to her lack of qualifications.

Although she wanted to get her education back on track after leaving school, Tillie was unsure where to turn.

A chance meeting between Tillie's father Steve and PET-Xi's Managing Director Fleur Sexton resulted in Tillie being accepted onto PET-Xi's courses last year to help her get back on track.

A year on, Tillie has recently completed her first year of college and has secured a part time job, something she and her family credit to PET-Xi's teaching and guidance.

Support provided by PET-Xi

When Tillie first started training with PET-Xi, she took courses in Employability Skills, Maths, English and a Level 2 Qualification in Health and Social Care.

To begin with, Tillie was out of her comfort zone in the lessons due to her condition and having not been in full-time education for a while. However, she persevered through the initial difficulties and quickly got the hang of things.

Tillie was also mentored by Ellie Wickett of PET-Xi – who dances in her spare time. Ellie gave up her time to give Tillie dance lessons over Zoom each Friday, which she really enjoyed.

Tillie subsequently passed each course she was enrolled on, which gave her the confidence boost she needed to apply to college and take her first steps into building her career.

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ROUTES2 PROJECT



Ellie, Tillie's mentor, presenting her with a stationery hamper to congratulate her on starting college.

Outcomes

After finishing her courses at PET-Xi and with a new-found confidence in herself, Tillie was accepted onto a Level 1 Introduction to Hair and Beauty course at Royal Leamington Spa College – part of WCG.

Now, Tillie has recently finished the course and is set to start a Level 2 qualification in Hair and Beauty. Tillie has also secured a part-time job in a clothes shop to earn herself some money while she studies.

Tillie's mother Emily said: **"PET-Xi really gave Tillie a confidence boost that she really needed at that time.**

"While Tillie found it difficult to begin with, the staff at PET-Xi and her mentor Ellie were brilliant with her, and were always on hand to answer questions if she had any – even outside of class hours.

"It was a lovely touch for Ellie to be her mentor – Tillie has always loved dance so to have Ellie give her dance lessons on Fridays was brilliant to help manage her anxieties.

"I don't think she'd be in this position had it not been for PET-Xi. Tillie is now taking those important steps to being independent and having her own career, and I can't thank them enough for their help."

Together we work as one

Tillie's courses were part of PET-Xi's Routes 2 project, which aims to support 15 to 24-year-olds who are not in employment, training or education (NEET) in Coventry.

If you would like to do the same course as Tillie we would love to hear from you!
To sign up call Kerri Bowers on: **07387 412 949** or email: **kbowers@pet-xi.co.uk**