THE SHEFFIELD COLLEGE SUCCESS STORIES - TSHIBANGU MUKENDI

Why did you choose to study at The Sheffield College?

I have previously studied higher education in another country, but I felt I needed to study GCSE Maths & English at The Sheffield College to reboot my potentials before pursuing further studies here in the UK. GCSE's were a starting point.

What are the skills that you have learned from taking part in the Enterprise Academy?

The START Up programme helped me to discover more about my passion, my entrepreneurial mindset and I also gained some valuable knowledge about business principles to succeed, something that I was not fully aware of. This knowledge appeared to be very useful as it was related to a business idea I had. I learned more about the UK business environment and regulations, as well as some insights about finance. Some other interesting topic discussed in the workshop such as "Building a Brand Identity" captured my attention on doing things perfectly. The overall sessions fuelled me with energy and confidence to start up my own business.

Do you have any comments about the tutors or staff which supported you within the Enterprise Academy?

The guest speakers seemed genuine and were happy to share their own life and in business experience. I found it inspirational. This helped me to reflect on myself and think deeper about the business I intend to set up. I also noticed that some guest speaker's advice was relevant. I tried to apply this advice into my business idea.

What facilities have you enjoyed using or found particularly useful during your course?
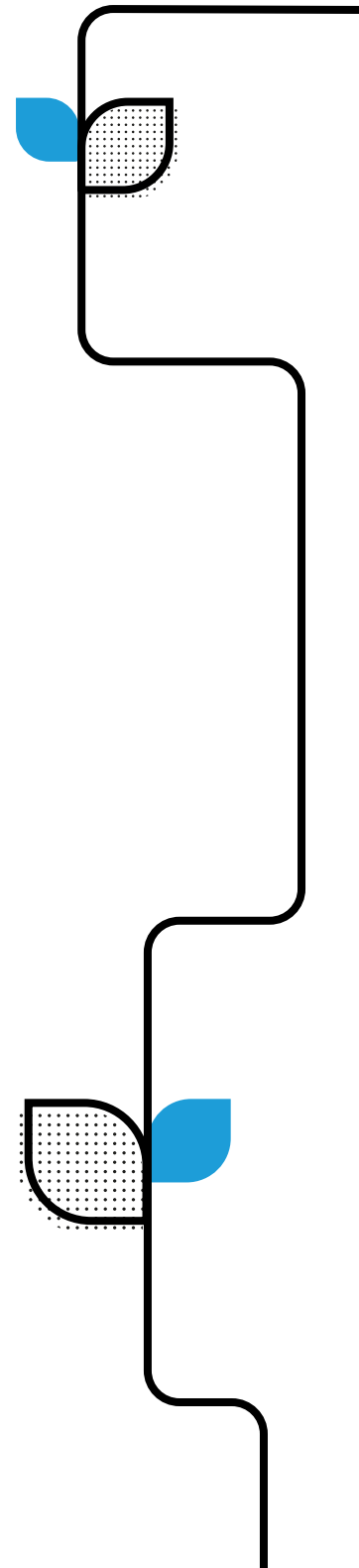
I thought it was very useful that the sessions were recorded. This gave me the opportunity to go back and listen more time. This helped me to get a better understanding of the topics as repetition helps you in learning. I also thought it was good that we were connected to other organisations from where we could get advice and support. For example, the Princes Trust, Twinkl. We were given opportunities to link with other organisations which could help us and provide us with more opportunities.

What would you like to do when you finish your current course? E.g. another course at The Sheffield College, university, an apprenticeship, get a job etc

Well, the most important thing for me is to set up my own business. After comparing working for a company vs. setting up my own business, I believe that being self-employed would give me opportunity to be successful. I could live and experience my passion, set some goals and meet them with enthusiasm. In addition, I would also like to take a university level course here at The Sheffield College if this will be possible, to gain the skill I need so that I can further invest with more confidence in some business opportunities that I spotted.

Do you feel like your course has prepared you to take the next step in your education or career? If yes, what has helped prepare you?

Absolutely, the course has raised my awareness of my strengths and my weaknesses. It has also helped me to spot some business opportunities. Therefore, I realise that I need to learn more for the business I intend to invest in. To make it possible, I must take a further step into high education or an Apprenticeship.

THE SHEFFIELD COLLEGE SUCCESS STORIES - ELEANOR BAVIN

Why did you choose to study at The Sheffield College?

The Sheffield College was one of a few options for Post 16. When I attended an open day and spoke to some students, they were really passionate about The Sheffield College and seemed really happy here and it was seeing how happy everyone was and the positive environment which made me want to come to The Sheffield College over other places I had visited.

What are the skills that you have learned from taking part in the Enterprise Academy?

One of the most important skills I have learned from taking part in the masterclasses and insight talks is how to network. As in the future, I am thinking about starting my own business. I learned the different ways you can network, like going to an event or online and how it can help me connect with other people in the animation industry.

Completing the Start Up programme helped me to understand and reinforced the different stages of starting up your own business. I learned how to create a short business pitch which will help me at networking events but also, for when I pitch my idea at The Festival of Ideas celebration event. The session on pitching helped improve my confidence to speak in front of others.

Do you have any comments about the tutors or staff which supported you within the Enterprise Academy?

The speakers for both the START Up programme and those that have given insight talks have been great. What I thought was really useful was them sharing their stories and expertise with us. Some of the speakers were fantastic and in particular Steve Judge who talked about resilience – he was able to really bring his story alive with sound effects and it was a great talk.

What facilities have you enjoyed using or found particularly useful during your course?
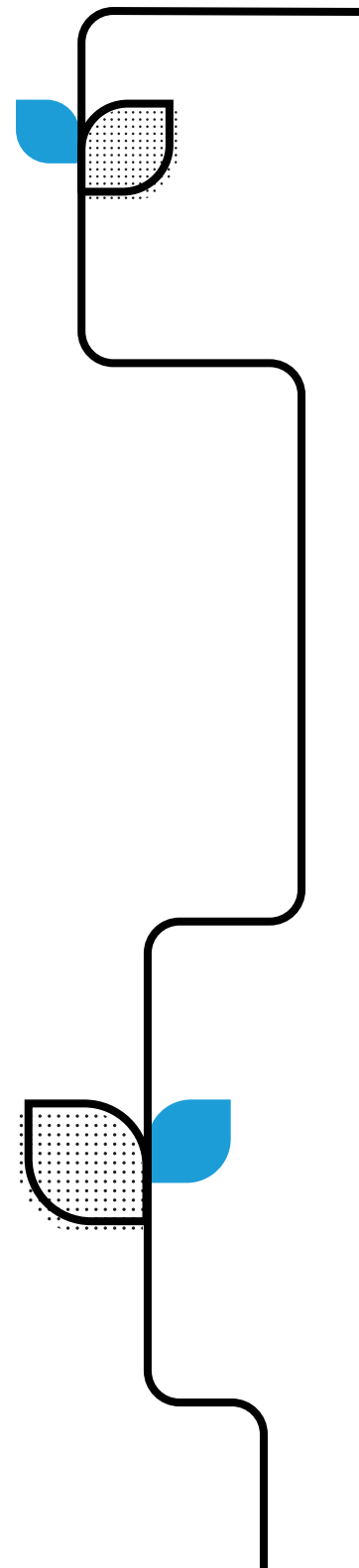
All of the sessions have been recorded and shared with us. I thought this was great because I could refer to them at any time whenever I needed to or, if I missed a session.

What would you like to do when you finish your current course? E.g. another course at The Sheffield College, university, an apprenticeship, get a job etc

I am are going into the second year with VFX course which I am looking forward to. After College, I am still undecided about what I would like to do. I do like the sound of studying Animation at University as I have been researching it.

Do you feel like your course has prepared you to take the next step in your education or career? If yes, what has helped prepare you?

I think the opportunities I have had have prepared me because I have been inspired to go to University as I might not have gone before and I feel more confident and resilient now.

THE SHEFFIELD COLLEGE SUCCESS STORIES - RYAN CAIRA

Why did you choose to study at The Sheffield College?

I chose to study at The Sheffield College because the college offered a BTEC IT course and I wanted to pursue IT as a career.

What are the skills that you have learned from taking part in the Enterprise Academy?

It's been really nice to take part in additional activities alongside our current course during lockdown. From taking part in the masterclasses, employer talks and START Up, the main thing I have learned is knowledge on how to start up my own business. Currently, I have aspirations to go into HE but I think it will benefit me for if I do want to start up my own business in the future or, to help me understand businesses in general which will help me with employment.

I have also learned about and gained knowledge and skills such as creativity and innovation, leadership, persuasive communication, confidence and resilience. The talks have been interesting and motivating and I have enjoyed listening to different speakers and hearing their perspectives on topics.

Do you have any comments about the tutors or staff which supported you within the Enterprise Academy?

All the guest speakers within START Up and the Enterprise Academy have been fantastic. They have all offered their stories and expertise and it's really useful to hear the different perspectives.

What facilities have you enjoyed using or found particularly useful during your course?

It's been really useful to have the recordings of the sessions to refer back to. But also, the sessions were most interactive and engaging when speakers used the platform Nearpod. Interaction really helps and when the sessions used Nearpod it helped us to engage more in the activities which was like we were in a real lesson.

What would you like to do when you finish your current course? E.g. another course at The Sheffield College, university, an apprenticeship, get a job etc

I have offers to study a range of HE courses in Cyber Security/Artificial Intelligence and Internet of Things but I am yet to decide which course I would like to study. After that, I like the idea of potentially going into Management within IT but I'm not really too sure yet and I have a couple of years to decide.

Do you feel like your course has prepared you to take the next step in your education or career? If yes, what has helped prepare you?

Yes, it has improved my transferrable skills like confidence, problem solving and creativity which will help me in my future. I think the masterclasses have been a great opportunity and I would say to any other students there is no reason not to do it. You can learn about different topics related to personal development which can help you. I'm a HND student and I have been able to manage the activities and programmes alongside my course so I would encourage anyone to get involved.