

## Faye's Story

My name is Faye, and I am a 25 year old Dental Assistant. If you'd had asked me 18 months ago if I could see myself as a Dental Assistant I would probably have laughed and answered "No!".

But what has happened in my life over the past couple of years I would never had imagined!

I spent 3 years at college doing Art & Design, studying Graphics and in March 2004 I was offered a job as a Trainee Studio Artist. I worked there for 8 months until I was made redundant in the November of 2004. This was the last straw for me as I had also dug myself into a financial mess and things just got too much for me. After talking things through with friends and family I decided that the best thing to do was to speak to someone professionally about my debts and the way I was feeling in general, which at the time was severely depressed. I also came to the decision that it would be for the best if I moved back in with my parents, as at the time I was living in my own house, which was one of the hardest decisions I made as I was a very house proud and independent person. After months of gaining some of my confidence back, and feeling back to the normal, smiling person I usually am, I felt confident enough to make steps to return to work. I was in close contact with my Career Advisors at my local Job Centre, and bobbed in everyday to chat to them and to see what was available. One day I went in and was sat speaking to my Advisor, when I was approached by someone from a Job Agency asking me if would be interested in applying for the position as a Trainee Dental Assistant. I must admit at first I was a little taken a back, as it's not something I've ever considered before. I was a bit apprehensive at first as I was only really looking for a part time office job, but once it was explained to me that the positions were aimed at helping people come off Incapacity Benefit, and that everyone who was successful in gaining a place on the 6 month contract were in the same boat as me I decided to apply for the vacancy.

A few days later I was invited to attend an interview, which obviously went well, since, despite me answering "They use one of those 'sucky' things", to the question, "So what do you know about Dental Nurses?", I was offered the job in November of last year, which was the best Christmas present I could've wished for! It just felt as though things were going to start going the right direction for me.....

.....And 5 months on me couldn't be happier!!! What a turn around from this time last year!! I was nervous when I first started as would be anyone starting off in a new environment, but with the help and support of the TPCT, Training 2000, and of course the wonderful team I work with. I've now been offered a full time job with The Dental Surgery, thoroughly enjoy going to work every day, enjoy my training at college once a week, work alongside a great team of people who are now my friends as well as my colleagues, but most importantly....I've gained back my confidence and am certainly back to the Faye people remember....smiling!!

If this scheme can work for other people and make people want to get up in the morning and go to work, and put a smile on other people's faces like it has done to me then as far as I'm concerned it's all worth the while!

