

Marlborough Town Council



PRESS RELEASE

5 December 2024

Apprentices

Dear Editor

I'm delighted to announce that the Town Council has recently appointed two apprentices.

Emma Cook is our Level 3 (A-level equivalent) Information Officer Apprentice. Emma joined us on 16 September and the placement is for 18 months.

On 1 October **Matt Powell** joined us as a Level 6 (degree-level) Youth Worker Apprentice.

Marlborough residents as well as visitors to the town will benefit from these appointments as Emma and Matt bring valuable additional resource which will allow our team to enhance and extend our services. The apprentices get a great opportunity to earn while they learn and work towards more qualifications, and the wider team is grateful for the extra help and different perspective these two young people bring.



The Town Clerk with Matt and Emma

They're already making a difference.

Emma has created "[Hidden Marlborough](#)", a brand new online town trail available exclusively via the [Explore Wiltshire app](#). Matt is extremely popular at the Youth Centre where he's been getting involved in youth clubs, taking part in sport, organising activities and starting to look at how we can provide even more support to the young people of the town.

But don't just take my word for it. Approximately two months into their apprenticeships I asked them to reflect on why they applied for the position, what they hope to gain from it and how things are going so far.

Emma Cook, Information Officer



Hi, I'm Emma.

My position within the council is 'Information Officer Apprentice', this designates me jobs like keeping the tourism platforms up to date, as well as aiding with the social media and front desk duties. The position first appealed to me because of the broad scope of work this role would cover.

When thinking about my next steps towards a career, I've always known that an apprenticeship would be the route I'd take, the balance between work and education always appealed to me and is the way I learn best. Seeing the opportunity to work at Marlborough Town Council I was instantly aware that this course would offer me a good foundation for my career and education. Within the role I get to learn about the inner workings of a council as well as evolve my skill set in a supportive environment.

Alongside the college course I am learning many skills that I will be able to take into any future job role; this opportunity has given me a better understanding of what my future career could look like, and with the technical abilities I am learning through this apprenticeship, it has become more attainable.

Throughout my apprenticeship I hope to help expand on the existing tourist information, whilst also promoting some fresh new trails and events for people to enjoy. I am grateful for this opportunity and look forward to working with Marlborough Town Council over the course of my apprenticeship.

Matt Powell, Youth Development Worker

Hello, I'm Matt!

I'm excited to introduce myself as the new Youth Development Worker for Marlborough. I have a deep passion for music, sports, especially football and athletics, and I'm eager to bring these interests to the forefront of my work with the young people of Marlborough.



Before I applied, I was working in education as a tutor and in all honesty didn't realise this was a career path I could pursue. From my time working with young people, I know that there isn't a lot for young people to do in the form of activities and opportunities outside of school. I've always believed we can do more for our young people, and I'm thrilled to now have the chance to change this and to make a difference.

My vision is to create a community where every young person feels welcomed and excited to get involved. I want to offer a variety of activities - from sports and arts to gaming - that not only help young people develop valuable life skills but also allow them to have fun. Equally important is giving young people a platform to voice their concerns and what matters most to them. By doing this, I hope to create positive change both within our sessions and across the wider Marlborough community.

I'm incredibly grateful to Marlborough Council for investing in me and providing the opportunity to pursue a three-year degree in Youth Work. This will help me grow in my role and provide the best possible service to the young people of Marlborough. With all the resources available to me, I am excited for what the future holds and can't wait to see how we can work together to create something special in the coming months and years ahead.

The Town Council is really pleased to have been able to create these new opportunities for young people, and to extend its services to residents and visitors; and we are especially pleased to be able to respond so positively to the community needs of the town's young people.

Yours sincerely

Richard Spencer-Williams

Richard Spencer Williams, PSLCC
Town Clerk

Notes to editors

Our Information Officer apprenticeship is a partnership with New College Swindon. Emma attends College one day a week, incorporating study topics into her work at the office, and using her work as examples of her learning at College. <https://www.newcollege.ac.uk/apprenticeships/> At the end of this 18-month placement she will be well equipped with experience and skills in business administration and customer service, opening the door to many career paths.

The youth work apprentice scheme has recently started which enables applicants to become a professionally [qualified JNC recognised Level 6 \(degree level\) Youth Worker](#). Like Emma, Matt has a day each week dedicated to pursuing his studies. He will graduate with a degree in youth work on completion of the programme.

The Town Council pays the salaries for both apprentices. The training costs are supported by Wiltshire Council and New College Swindon, and we would like to express our thanks to both. [Read about the Apprenticeship Levy here.](#)

We believe the Town Council is unique in offering these two positions. Starting with a modest team of 15 staff, of which 10 team members are wholly dedicated to our grounds and estate management, these appointments have increased the overall workforce by 12.5%.

Photos overleaf, please credit Marlborough Town Council

For further enquiries please contact us using the methods below





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Welcoming the Apprentices to the Town Hall



At the Community and Youth Centre: Matt introduces Emma to cricket



Emma shows Matt the Hidden Marlborough town trail



Exchanging tools of the trade