

Case Study Godspower Obode

SPI (Supported Pre-Internship) 2021-22 & SI (Supported Internship) 2022-23

Godspower joined us in January 2023 on the **SPI** programme, his study programme included two class-based employability days, joining the students on the full **SI** programme at Harington for two days of practical horticulture each week in parks and open spaces. supported by the **SI** team consisting of a Garden Supervisor, Job Coaches, support staff and a BSL communicator.

Diagnosed on the autistic spectrum with profound hearing loss, he was not an independent traveller, so transport provisions were put in place for each of his journeys to and from home where he lives with his family.

Godspower picked up where he left off after finishing his studies at Oaklands College, his transition to a new environment was seamless and he soon adapted well to the demands of a **SPI**, his interpersonal skills are very good with staff and his fellow **SI** students, on several occasions he happily included all of us in the skills of the use of **BSL** in a working environment.

Fully supported by the program Godspower emersed himself in the full range of gardening duties during this time, specifically the in use of gardening tools, machinery and taking part in teamworking tasks. He completed the **SPI** year with noteworthy progress in his knowledge and experience in horticulture.

Godspower started the full **SI** programme in September 2022 where he attended with support of BSL communicator, 4 full days one of which was spent studying employability and the associated curriculum such as English & Maths where he successfully completed the Maths themed award Entry 1 (Number).

Godspower continued to progress and develop under the **SI** program during this time, with faded support from the **SI** team he successfully completed his travel training which has enabled him to become a fully independent traveller using the bus network.

Godspower continued to progress in his Horticultural skills, with his use of garden machinery such as mowers, hedge trimmers and strimmer's, he works well with other students now he is more familiar with them and is very helpful and supportive to others.

In April of that year and accompanied by BSL support he began a work experience placement at Alexandra Palace with John O'Conner Grounds Maintenance Ltd, working alongside long-standing employees he became part of a team of assistant gardeners at the park where he practised his skill set, he received excellent feedback that included his ability to adapt, his eagerness and his helpfulness.



I found Godspower a bright student, enthusiastic and quick to learn student, his skills in using garden machinery improved immensely with a measured understanding of what was expected of him in regards to team work and working independently in the garden.

With the continued support of the program his attendance at the employability studies at the learning hub was excellent, he was a conscientious student with boundless enthusiasm and a growing confidence in his communication in B S L with his fellow students, which resulted 10-minute presentation to his fellow students which I believe resulted in the start of development of strong friendships within his peer group.

In September 2023 he joined the Harington Gardeners, the commercial arm of The Harington Scheme, as a paid assistant gardener working 2 days a week, his horticultural development has been excellent with fantastic feedback from his supervisors and fellow staff members. His employment post is expected to continue until September 2025 where he will further develop his all-round skills in horticulture, after which we would be expected to seek employment in the horticulture sector.

