

Employee Case Studies

JORDAN STEPHENSON

What opportunities has YST given you to grow and develop?

I first attended the Step into Sport camp in 2009 as a young person, this was my first experience of YST and our ability to deliver life-changing events which have a unique impact on the lives of all involved. From that moment on, YST always has held a huge place in my heart. Throughout my university years as I volunteered with YST through national camps such as National Talent Orientation Camp; Girls Active Camp and School Games.

My first graduate role was through YST, as I moved to Loughborough for a 6-week maternity cover role in Project Support, turning into 3 months and finally being a permanent member of the team. I am forever grateful for the opportunities through my time within the Project Support team. Many of the skills developed and knowledge gained left me well outside my comfort-zone and being able to focus on the administration and process management aspect of the role, I had many more strings to my bow than if I carried on a career in coaching.

I always had the desire and motivation to have an outward facing role in delivery; with the organisation supporting me through facilitation training and giving me the opportunity to work with YST International. I spent two weeks in Japan with Viv Holt delivering at the UN Youth Leadership Camp which was an immense experience, stretching my abilities and giving me a passion for sport for development which was the catalyst for the next stage of my career.

Having spent two years running an international Sport for Development charity, as a result of all the experiences gained in my initial 3 years at YST, I was fortunate enough to return to the organisation in 2019 as part of the Field Team. To be based in

my home region and being able to work day to day with schools, influencers and changemakers to build stronger partnerships and opportunities is an absolute privilege. I continue to improve my influencing skills and I take opportunities to continue to develop my skills and learn from the fantastic colleagues we have at YST.

What do you enjoy about working at YST?

There are many aspects of working at YST which are special. Giving a sense of pride to belong to such a great organisation, the can-do attitude of staff to solve problems and the ability to ensure that actions taken are in the best interest of young people, are some things that stand out.

As a whole, engaging with staff through whole staff retreats are incredibly enjoyable, giving us the opportunity to reconnect and bring such an electrifying atmosphere into a room.

Finally, within my role I am able to see first hand the end product of our efforts. Whether it is seeing schools improve their provision through our membership services, young people attending our training events, or to teachers developing their skills and knowledge through our learning academy.

What has been your favorite moment at YST?

My favorite moments at YST are always after conferences, events and visits. Those days are always stressful, full-on and tiring however, the camaraderie we all have as members of staff make it worthwhile. Once delegates have all left, having staff be able to put our feet up over a cold drink and say a job well done is the best part of working for YST. Especially when there have been mishaps or funny escapades which we can share with colleagues!

MIA PALMER

Mia's first involvement with Youth Sport Trust was in 2013 when she was invited to attend the National Young Officials Academy. The following year, Mia returned to mentor other Young Officials at National Talent Camp before volunteering at various YST events as a Team Leader throughout 2015-16.

Mia joined the YST staff team in 2017 as Project Co-Ordinator – Inclusion supporting the Girls Active programme. In 2019, Mia moved into her current role within the events team working on flagship events including YST Conference and School Games National Finals.

What opportunities has YST given you to grow and develop?

I've been on an incredible journey with YST since that first trip up north to Loughborough back in 2013 and am proud to be a member of alumni now working for YST!

I have had the opportunity to increase my event management experience working on a range of different events from Girls Active: Stepping Up for Change one-day camps for 100 young people to YST's annual Conference. In the past couple of years, I've gained new specialist events knowledge as we adapted our events offer and switched to virtual event delivery.

THEO BROOM

What opportunities has YST given you to grow and develop?

I started at YST on an apprenticeship role in 2019 and I had no idea what to expect from the role. Over the next year I learnt the basics of the role and found my feet whilst also facing challenges with my line manager. Youth Sport Trust I believe has a family ethos and like a family they want you to grow and develop into whatever role you are doing. I have had the opportunity to support at events all over the country, work on national projects changing the lives of hundreds and promote physical activity and participation to young people.

What do you enjoy about working at YST?

As mentioned in the previous section YST is like a family. I moved to Loughborough on my own

Working in the events team, I've been given increased level of responsibilities taking ownership of projects including managing YST's VIP offer leading to direct contact with the senior leadership team. I have played significant roles at events like Event Lead and Safeguarding Lead developing my leadership skills and confidence in my role.

What do you enjoy about working at YST?

Every event at YST is different and I regularly work with colleagues from all teams across the organisation. This creates a varied work programme and provides a continual challenge leading to constant opportunities for both personal and professional development.

What has been your favourite moment at YST?

Leading on the Girls Active & YST Young Changemaker virtual awards at the end of 2021. It was the final event in a busy delivery period for the team, so it was fantastic to culminate with an awards ceremony which celebrated young people's achievements.

Also, as a tennis fan, the opportunity to meet Billie Jean King at Wimbledon was a pretty special experience.

to work for this organisation leaving behind friends and family so to be so welcomed and supported by people I had never met was truly special. Whether in the office or working from home I know someone will send me a message, give me a call or book in a face to face to check up on how I am getting on and for a catch up.

What has been your favourite moment at YST?

There have been lots of fantastic moments at YST for me from achieving distinction in my level 3 apprenticeship, being promoted to Project Officer, or feeling a sense of belonging in the organisation but none of this could have been achieved without the constant support from my colleagues.