



Taylor finds it difficult to expose herself to new opportunities and because of her lack of confidence she feels that she does not always work to her potential.

Taylor previously planned to go to university, as that is what her friends were doing. Her mother was keen for Taylor to do this as she'd be the first in the family to attend university.

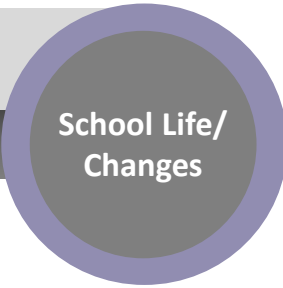
“ I’m glad that I stepped out of my comfort zone because now I’m somewhere where I can say, “if I want to do something, I can do it”. If everyone else is going to university it doesn’t mean I have to. I can follow my own path. I wouldn’t have realised this without the help of Aimhigher. ”

- Taylor

Taylor has had 17 engagements in total with Aimhigher, including: Mentoring; Summer Schools; Masterclasses; Information, Advice and Guidance; and Campus Visits.*

Taylor, Year 13

Urban school



Taylor enjoys Sixth Form a lot, as it gives her the familiarity and routine of school, but with more independence.

Taylor achieved good grades in her GCSE and A level exams, but she did not have a clear idea of what she was working towards. Her favourite subject has always been English but more recently she’s been working on her maths so that she can fulfil her **new ambition of civil engineering, which she decided on during an Aimhigher activity.**

“ She was very apprehensive about going but she went and she got Apprentice of the Week and she came back and spoke to me and said, “my confidence is now so much better because I went on this.” ”

- Aimhigher Coordinator / 6th Form Academic Mentor

Taylor was nervous about attending the **Apprenticeship Residential**, however it had a significant impact on her. She was surprised by her aptitude and engagement in the engineering activities during the trip. Taylor overcame her shyness and worked in teams with others on the residential, and her confidence grew after winning **Apprentice of the Week**.

Taylor also visited **Birmingham City University**. She was grateful for the chance to test out the university experience as **she realised that university would not suit her**. Taylor also enjoyed the social aspect **Future Fest** and the chance to reflect on a trip to **Birmingham Council**.

“ The Apprenticeship Residential was the best because it got me engaged in a lot of things and gave me more of an idea of where I wanted to be. After it, I thought “why don’t people go for apprenticeships more?” ”

- Taylor

Taylor’s prospects have improved, as **the Aimhigher activities helped her become more comfortable in trying unexplored options and speaking to new people**, and she is now more self-assured in her abilities.

Taylor was encouraged to do more research into Civil Engineering Apprenticeships and to consider options other than university after her experience with Aimhigher. **As a direct result of her Aimhigher engagement, Taylor applied to a number of apprenticeship schemes in civil engineering.**

“ Nobody in our family has really relished the challenge to actually go and take something head on, so Taylor is the first one to show an ounce of intelligence and drive to actually get some kind of higher education. ”

- Taylor’s mother

*Full details on number of activities engaged in and activity objectives are detailed in the Appendices. Please note, learners may not have mentioned each NCOP activity engaged in during their interviews.