

Addington School worked in partnership with National Grid, through the EmployAbility - Let's Work Together -Supported Internship programme to provide Abi with two valuable work placements.

Abi went to Addington School from aged three.

Abi now works as a Database Support Administrator at National Grid, Wokingham.

I didn't imagine in my wildest dreams that this could happen to me.

During a full academic year, she developed key social, communication and work skills – the 'soft-skills' that are valued by employers. Most importantly, Abi developed the self-confidence that she needed to gain paid employment.



Getting a job at National Grid has changed my life.

I always thought that Abi could just go to college...now she's earning more money than me!

Abi's Mum

Diagnosed with autism at an early age, Abi received a Statement of Special Educational Needs and took a place at Addington School.

In KS1, Abi had made enough progress to attempt a transition to mainstream education. She took a place at a local primary school.

By KS2, it was evident that Abi needed the support structure of more specialist provision. She re-gained a placement at Addington School.

In KS5, Abi took part in the Level 1 Hospitality Course. She became an Addington 'employee' at Shuter's café and completed extended work experience.

Supported by Addington job coaches, in Year 14 Abi took a place on the National Grid 'EmployAbility' supported internship programme .

Abi had a placement in the pensions department for two terms. It was a big learning curve. Abi worked really hard on her 'soft skills' and her work skills.

In recognition of Abi's hard work, it was suggested that she could take a placement in the Control Room; Abi was working with six different shift teams. Her attention to detail was noted by managers and Abi had a secondment to the Energy Balancing Systems team, unaware that this was actually a job trial. Abi was able to quickly learn the new tasks and she was offered a Level 2 job at National Grid. Abi is receiving further training accessed by National Grid employees, including 'Performance Excellence' and 'Global Development' days so that she can continue to progress on the National Grid career pathways.