

Marc: The job search

[Redcar, Cleveland]

Marc: Well, I was talking to a woman last night in the Station hotel – cos I was out with my Mum, cos she was paying for everything for me, poor Mum – and she turned around and said to me, she said, why can't you get a job? I went, I've been looking for two and half years, three years. She said, well my son and daughter have had jobs since they were 16 and now they're 25. And I was like, well thank God for them then!

[Marc is one of over a million young people out of work in the UK.]

Marc: They all think you're all scum. Living off the job centre and benefits and everything – but some people can't help it you know. I can't help it. Basically getting a job for me is, it would be life changing – cos I'd be able to afford things I wouldn't have. I'd be able to do things, meet new people. I can't do it when I am not working, I just can't.

I come round my Mum's house about three times a week looking for jobs on the internet and using the paper, cutting bits out of the paper. I only pick out the main ones that stand out, and put them on my job search card, but three times of them, I could probably fill that card in a day.

When you don't hear anything back off these you just feel let down – really let down. That you spent all the time and effort filling out their applications forms, which they send onto the apprenticeship's website for you to fill in – and then they don't even have the time and patience to send you an email back saying sorry you haven't got it. It just lets you down and you just feel used and abused.

[After hundreds of applications, finally, Marc has a job interview. He heard about the job through a family friend.]

Marc: I've got a job interview working behind a bar. Hopefully I should get it, which is only 16 hours a week but it's something. I am quite excited for this job interview, yeah, I am actually, because I could get it, I really could.

The way I've got my clothes for my job interview I've still got my prom suit from school and it still fits me. That's the only way I've got job interview clothes. Three years old these interview clothes but still ok.

Last time I had an interview, I had to get this shirt out and iron it ... was about six months ago ... The other ones I wouldn't really class them as an interview – it was just a quick hello and no you haven't got the job.

Hopefully, my chances for this one would be start on Tuesday or I've got a work trial or I don't know, I don't know what will happen.

When you have a job your confidence boosts straight up, you get a massive confidence boost. When you don't have one it's really, really hard – because if they tell you no, basically go away, it knocks your confidence down by loads.

It is kind of hard to keep things hopeful in some interviews because like I said you've just got to keep pushing through it and this one might just be the one that you get.

Smart boots! Feel about 16 again.

Don't really have a pair of me own interview shoes, have to borrow someone else's. Cos every pair of shoes that I've got are either falling apart or they don't go with my clothes. I'm like a woman you see, I have to get an outfit. They'll do.

He said we will have a talk on Thursday, Wednesday or Thursday after your work trial. And then – we are going to work things out and he will say either I've got it or I haven't. I am just excited. Really excited.

Start a work trial tomorrow.

Mum: Oh well done! How many hours is it?

Marc: Only 16 but it's summat.

Mum: Well it's a start isn't it? Good lad. I am dead chuffed for you. About time after all those bloody applications you put in! I'm really chuffed for you I am.

Marc: I know ...

[Marc completed his work trial. Two weeks later he discovered that the position was no longer available. Marc is still looking for work.]

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