

Success Story

Everton Smith

Everton joined the Get Connected Course with a strong desire to learn the skills required to excel digitally and thrive in today's world. I remember very well how he was very enthusiastic about learning new things. He used to come to class on time and go the extra mile to improve his digital skills, from navigating a new website to exploring the features of Microsoft Word. I like that he is humorous, friendly and very polite. He has never failed to entertain the class. Everton is able to make his peers and his tutor laugh by cracking jokes to try to cheer everyone up. Moreover, he is very optimistic and makes everyone feel positive about themselves.

At first when he joined the course, he struggled to use a computer independently, but he has improved a lot since he started. No matter what happens, he is always ready to learn. Everton is an energetic and lighthearted person. He is always ready to lend a helping hand to his classmates. His funny personality pushes his peers to express themselves explicitly, be truly inclusive and further develop their digital capabilities, in a safe, comfortable and non-judgmental environment.

In a short period of time, he has overcome his fear in handling a device, he was able to send emails, create posters and calculate using formulas in Excel, independently. He is currently in EDSQ Entry 3, studying both knowledge and practical. He is also learning Functional Skills Entry Level English in which is his improving his understanding and application of the language. He is very polite, he works well with others and helps keep the moral of the class going, he is a valuable member of the class and puts in a lot of effort. He is also supporting his family members with ICT issues at home and providing knowledge to members of the community around him.

Everton attended a Functional English class – where he was able to put into practice all that he was learning from his ICT class by attending a blended learning programme where 1 of his weekly sessions was online!! This was a huge challenge for Everton; however, he was not put off. He struggled to begin with, but he persisted and did not give up, to his credit. We watched as he developed in confidence practising his newfound skills as he demonstrated clearly his ability to actively engage using technology and encouraging other to do the same.

It was a joy one day to hear him say “I cannot see you, but I can hear you!! - I am going to log out and then log in again!” As an older adult it is not easy to enter the classroom and try to learn new skills- however, Everton did this with pride, dignity and an open-minded attitude that it is never too late to learn and try something new.

