

Where Are They Now?



Rob Jenkinson

Year left Winterhill: 2009

What have you been up to since leaving Winterhill?

I went to Thomas Rotherham College (TRC) after Y11 to study A Levels in ICT, Sports and English Language but after a year I realised A Levels weren't for me and decided to leave. I saw a Coaching Apprenticeship advertised with Sheffield United Football Club, applied for it and got it.

I completed a NVQ in Sports and Activity Leadership as part of my Apprenticeship which took two years and I also achieved Level 1 and Level 2 Football Coaching qualifications. Once my Apprenticeship was complete, I was offered the job of Community Coach at the football club which is the job I do now.

What does your job involve?

I spend a lot of my time out at primary schools in Sheffield coaching a variety of sports and running PE lessons. I also run a twice yearly football tournament for schools and am responsible for the organisation of this. I organise SUFC match-day experience days in conjunction with local junior football clubs where children can be a part of the home match-days.

What hours do you work?

I work from 9am until 4.30pm Monday to Friday and 12noon until 6pm on Saturdays if it is a home game. This is because I am responsible for the match-day experience events so I have to be on hand for this.

What skills or qualities do you need?

You need to be confident and have a good knowledge of sports and football. You need to be good with children. You have to be adaptable and organised and my current job role requires really good organisation and event planning skills. I also collect data about the different projects I am involved with and my ICT skills are useful for this. The football industry can have strong personalities working in it so you need to be able to take criticism and not take things to heart.

What do you like/dislike about the job?

I love football so being able to work in a job directly related to football is great. I like the fact that isn't a desk-job and that every day is different. I also like being able to make a difference to children's lives. There isn't anything I really dislike about the job, apart from having to work the occasional Saturday.

What are your plans for the future?

I would hopefully like to coach a professional team in the future.

Any tips for current Winterhill students?

Make sure you choose something you are interested in after Y11 and don't just follow your friends.

Don't be scared to apply for opportunities - I wasn't sure if I would get the Apprenticeship but I went for it and applied and got it.