

EMMA, GEORGIE, LOTTIE EQUINE ELLENWHORNE EQUESTRIAN CENTRE

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Tell us about yourself..

Hi, our names are Emma, Georgie and Lottie and we have recently completed our level 2 Equine Groom apprenticeships at Ellenwhorne Equestrian Centre in East Sussex. Our main passion is working with Horses. We are now about to all progress onto a Level 3 Senior Equine Groom Apprenticeship.

Whilst completing our level 2 standard apprenticeship we also privately completed the Level 2 work-based diploma with riding units. We all achieved Distinction grades in this and are very proud.

Why did you choose an apprenticeship?

Emma said, “I wanted to leave school and continue my education with horses in a working environment rather than going to college, as I felt I would gain more experience this way.”

Georgie said, “I started off going to college from school, but I didn’t enjoy it as I didn’t feel I was gaining enough practical experience.”

Lottie said, “Because I wanted to do something practical and didn’t want to be stuck in a classroom.”

How did you find out about it?

Emma said, “I was already loaning a pony at Ellenwhorne, and I had seen other apprentices pursuing courses at this yard and so asked about doing this after I left school too.”

Georgie said, “I had been told about apprenticeships at school and where I had been volunteering at the weekends, I was offered a full-time position but because I still needed to be in education the position offered was an apprenticeship.”

Lottie said, “I started helping out at Ellenwhorne on a Sunday whilst still at school and found out about it from my employer and other apprentices there.”

How long have you been in the industry?

Emma said, “I have been loaning ponies since I was 11 years old and then later I became a weekend help, so around 6 years.”

Georgie said, “My family has owned horses/ponies all my life, I started helping out at a Horse rescue yard when I was 11, so around 7 years now.”

Lottie said, “I have helped out and been around my family’s horses for the last 12 years.”

How do you feel you have benefitted from doing an apprenticeship?

Emma said, “I feel a lot more confident not only working with and around the horses but also my confidence has improved when speaking with, and dealing with, customers. So in general my communication skills are now much better.”

Georgie said, “Working with a team and meeting deadlines I feel my employability skills and communication have also become a lot better.”

Lottie said, “I’ve developed my confidence and know when to ask for help and my knowledge in horses has improved.”

What is the most interesting thing that has happened since being on this apprenticeship?

Emma said, “Accompanying horses to the equine dentist and particularly being involved with a dental operation to remove a broken tooth with one of them.”

Georgie said, “I have worked at 2 different businesses since I started my apprenticeship which were very different in what they offer. It was interesting to see how both yards operated particularly as the second yard was more customer based which I had little experience of.”

Lottie said, “I helped to break in and bring on some of the younger ponies so that they could be used in the riding school.”

What advice would you give to someone looking to come into the industry or looking to start and apprenticeship?

Emma said, “Hard work pays off and you do need to be dedicated as the job involves working long hours in all weathers. Make sure you keep up to date with all the course work that is set so that you don’t fall behind.”

Georgie said, “Be prepared to push and challenge yourself and remember that there are some days that may feel more challenging, but the end result does pay off if you keep working hard at it.”

Lottie said, “It is hard work, and you need to be dedicated but the rewards are worth it.”

What is next for you all?

Emma said, “I am about to be signed up for my Level 3 Senior Equine Groom and I will be completing my coaching diploma alongside this as my goal is to become a riding instructor eventually.”

Georgie said, “I am also signing up to do my Level 3 Senior Equine groom with the riding pathway as my long-term goal is to run my own business offering Livery, breaking and schooling.”

Lottie said, “Like Emma, I am progressing onto Level 3 and also completing the coaching units so that I can make a career out of teaching others to ride.”

What would you say to someone who is thinking of doing an apprenticeship?

Emma said, “You will be able to gain practical experience in a real work life environment and also take home a wage too.”

Georgie agreed and said, “Yes you get paid whilst you learn and also learn how to be a good employee and control your finances which in turn will improve your life skills.”

Lottie said, “It is a good way of gaining new knowledge and skills and you get paid too.”

