bloc **digital**

// Apprentice & Work Experience
// Alex Collyer
// Frontend Web Developer Apprentice

// Bio

Technology has always been something I have been interested in. With a general computer science background, I self-taught the basics of programming and am completing a level 4 general software development course as a part of my apprenticeship.

// Tell us about your role

My current position has me working as a part of the web team completing development work, interacting with clients, and deploying projects to name just a few things.

// Why did you choose the industry?

Technology has always been something I have been interested in and software development is the sector my father has worked in.

Through school and sixth form my aspirations were focused more upon design. I wanted to be an architect and went on to complete GCSEs and A-Levels in design. However, during the COVID-19 lockdown in summer 2020 I needed a hobby after sixth form abruptly ended.

I got myself into programming again as I remembered it was something I enjoyed at school. Throughout the summer I taught myself the basics and concluded that this was now what I wanted to do with my life.

// How did you get into this industry?

I completed computer science courses at GCSE and A-Level which provided me with a good understanding and basic qualifications.

I had also visited Bloc on two occasions before joining the company in December 2020: one week in 2017 and another in 2019, both working in the 3D modelling and animation department for work experience. Bloc was therefore a company I was familiar with and one I'd had the chance to prove my capabilities to. While I ended up joining the company in a different field, I believe strongly

that the time I'd spent at the company had a direct impact on my step into my chosen industry at Bloc.

To secure the position itself I got in touch with Bloc's Founder and Director Keith Cox to enquire about any positions the company may have, providing my CV and examples of my work. It was then agreed I would be brought into the company as an apprentice.

// How could others follow your route to industry?

For those who find the idea of university not for them or daunting, your education is never the "be all and end all". If you are interested in development and want to pursue a career in it, look towards diving headfirst into anything you can – find online courses, educational games, or forum resources to teach yourself and actively seek support from anyone who is willing to help. Your eagerness, willingness to learn, and time and effort will help you get where you want to go in computer science.

// Top Tip

Teamwork and communication are key alongside your ability to manage your time, especially if you find yourself on multiple projects in your working week.

// Are there any sources of information you would recommend?

Through teaching myself the basics of computer programming I've found that websites such as **Codecademy** have been really helpful with interactive courses and challenges. Google is your best friend and **Stack Overflow** is also a very helpful forum.

w: **bloc.digital**   // design // modelling // animation // immersive // development // data