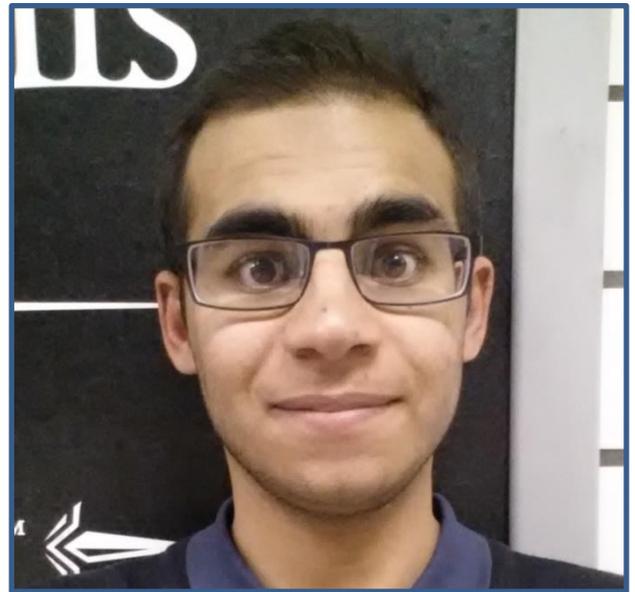


Where Are They Now?

AT SCHOOL



NOW



Omar Farooq

What do I do now?

I work as a Learning Support Assistant (LSA) here at Heathlands! I mainly work in the Lower School, assisting the Teacher of the Deaf in the classroom. I also occasionally volunteer as a Youth Leader for Bedfordshire Deaf Children's Society (BDCS). My ambition is to become a fully-fledged Teacher of the Deaf in the future.

How did I achieve this?

I studied BA History at the University of the West of England in Bristol for three years, achieving a good grade. During this period, I had a number of voluntary roles, including a week at the hearing-impaired unit in my local mainstream school, and six weeks as a voluntary LSA here at Heathlands. After university, while I was looking for a job, I volunteered at the Deafness Cognition and Language (DCAL) Research Centre at University College London, transcribing and organising research data.

What is my advice?

Don't assume anything is easy! In life you have to work for everything. If you're unsure about what you want to do in the future, it's a great idea to volunteer at a wide variety of workplaces and organisations – even if you don't like it, you'll still come out with invaluable experience.