



## BURSARY REPORT

Dear James,

Thank you for supporting Snow-Camp's bursary programme.

We believe that there is huge potential in using the power and appeal of snowsports, as well as the mountain environment, to challenge and support the young people we work with. Everything we do is rooted in the challenges of young people who are living in the most deprived areas of the UK. This includes young people who are not in education, employment or training, those who have been affected by knife and gang crime, have behavioural and emotional needs or have faced social inequality.

Each year our young people work with us to develop and deliver a training programme that provides them with life changing opportunities to learn a new sport, work towards qualifications and find careers in the snowsports industry and beyond. It's a unique form of training, since the training provided can only be received by those who share similar experiences. It's a model that works and one that we have worked tirelessly to promote over the last 15 years.

This year, we have worked with over 800 young people nationally on our summer First Tracks Programme. Over 200 young people then moved on to our Graduate Programme in October and we are pleased to let you know that over 80 young people are now moving on to our instructor programme, Excel, in February including Connor Cubbons.

We are delighted to share with you your first bursary report highlighting the incredible journey Connor is now on thanks to your support. Thank you and we hope you enjoy reading the report below.

# CONNOR CUBBONS

AGE: 21

FROM: LIVERPOOL

SPORT: SNOWBOARDING

YOUTH CLUB: POSITIVE FUTURES



Connor is a full-time carer for his mum, who has COPD and osteoporosis. Connor and his mum survive on his carers allowance from the Government, which is just £60 a week. Before Snow-Camp Connor was only able to leave his house once a week, due to the level of care his mum requires. Working closely with Connor's youth worker, we were able to ensure that Connor's mum has the support she needs at home while he is on our programmes.

In August 2019, Connor joined our two-day First Tracks programmes, taking part in two slope sessions and two life-skills classroom sessions each day. In the life-skills sessions Connor reflected upon the skills he was demonstrating on the slopes – perseverance, commitment, listening, patience and overcoming fear as well as how to respond to challenges, deal with peer pressure and setting goals for the future. At the end of the two-days Connor had made significant progress on the slopes and experienced, for the first time, the feeling of coming down a ski slope. An awards ceremony the programme, with Connor receiving a Snowsport England Snow Life Award along with a medal and certificate.

Having experienced the thrill of snowsports for the first time on First Tracks, Connor moved onto our Graduate Programme in October. With 6 days on the snow, spread over six weekends, the Graduate Programme gave Connor the opportunity to take his snowboarding to the next level. Group classroom sessions held before each slope lesson exposed Connor to the wider world of snowboarding, with talks each week from snowsports industry representatives and Snow-Camp ambassadors including Jamie Barrow and Jenny Jones.

“Attending Snow-Camp has given me some respite from my responsibilities at home. Working with Snow-Camp has really helped to reduce my anxiety. It is still pretty bad but more manageable because Snow-Camp has kept me busy and focused at the weekends.

I used to be really fit and healthy but all that changed when I became a full-time carer. Snow-Camp has reminded me of how fun exercise can be, as well as making me realise how unfit I have become! Exercising again is one of the reasons why my anxiety has reduced, plus Snow-Camp's life-skills sessions have given me strategies to reduce anxiety.

Day 2 of First Tracks was a massive day in my life. I didn't want to go back after the first day, I was dreading it. But I did go because I didn't want to let my friend down. And I'm so glad I did. It made me realise that enjoyment comes from achievement, and by sticking to it and not giving up – I could actually snowboard quite well by the end! Going from VERY nearly giving up to snowboarding from the top of the big slope was AMAZING!

Thank you James for this opportunity. I feel so grateful to know that I can continue Snow-Camp's programmes. It means so much to me, thank you.”



Connor will begin our Excel Programme in February. It's a hugely exciting time for Connor who will now take part in 10 weeks of advanced snowsports training with assessment by Snowsport England, which includes 20 hours shadowing their instructors during a 9-day residential to Austria with Equity Ski. The programme includes life-skills sessions throughout which will focus on career opportunities, working with young people and the theory of teaching snowsports. Young people receive a Snowsport England Instructor qualification and First Aid and Safeguarding certificates.

It is at this point in the Snow-Camp programme journey that the young people become an integral part of the development, delivery and monitoring of Snow-Camp programmes becoming young leaders and ambassadors for the charity. When a young person completes Excel and gains an instructor qualification, they then volunteer by teaching the next cohort of young people on First Tracks the following summer. Not only is this empowering for them, it's inspirational for the new young people who they may already know from their youth club or estate, showing them exactly what can be achieved in one year at Snow-Camp.

We look forward to updating you on Connor's progress!

**THANK YOU**



**ANNA KENT**  
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