**Greggs Gives A Taste Of Work To Prisoners**

Source: 13th March 2017

[](https://www.bing.com/images/search?view=detailV2&ccid=/hYCbo8n&id=5F5163CF0EA9B2FCF63BDF072ABB681AC7F29C0F&thid=OIP._hYCbo8nogeyGVFweR8E5gHaEI&mediaurl=http://extramile.eurogarages.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/87b58135-83f9-4c73-9562-883ca46d5cda-original.jpeg&exph=419&expw=750&q=Greggs+employees&simid=608010992148873235&selectedIndex=8&cbir=sbi)Greggs first started working with offenders in 2010, entering women’s prisons to work with offenders on their confidence, as well as skills such as CV writing and interview techniques. They soon realised that the women had a lot of potential and they took on their first employee that same year. In 2011 they launched Fresh Start to offer support to people who find gaining employment through conventional routes more difficult, following the principle of ‘one person at a time’

Roisin Currie, who is the People Director at Greggs explained that the Gregg’s Fresh Start programme aims to help to break the cycle of reoffending. This is by demonstrating that ex-offenders can play a meaningful role within business. She stated that Greggs feel they have a duty to make a difference to local communities. They feel they can make this difference by providing those at a disadvantage with opportunities. These opportunities can help people to move their lives on. She also highlighted that this has led Greggs to recruiting some very committed and loyal individuals.

Laura had been in HMP Drake Hall for a few years and she was struggling with negativity. She also had very low confidence. Greggs recognised that she was not ready for employment at that point, but supported her through an academy programme to help her get ready for work. At this point she began to gain confidence and participate in activities more and more.

After completing the course, Laura was given the opportunity to move into a more open and trusted accommodation block at Drake Hall. Greggs then offered her a four week work-placement in one of their stores. This then developed into a paid team member role. She is currently working within this role and has ROTL from Drake Hall.

Greggs identify that they focus on one person at a time. They believe that by helping one offender on their journey, they also impact their families and the communities in which they live.

Laura said “I feel so much more confident than I did. I love the shop, and the people I work with. I’m loads more confident, and feel ready to return home and be a normal person. Working at Greggs is helping me to secure somewhere to live when I get released and in the future I want to start again and continue working with Greggs and even go into a management role”.

Adapted Source: <http://www.cbi.org.uk/insight-and-analysis/greggs/>

Questions

1. What did Greggs launch in 2011?
2. What does the Fresh Start programme demonstrate?
3. What did Greggs offer Laura?
4. What did Laura say about working with Greggs?
5. Write a list of qualities you think prisoners can develop by working with Greggs.