Introduction:

For my placement I worked at a small company called Prestige Designz who are based in Leicester and are rated one of best Web Developers in their city. Their main clients are newly formed companies or businesses who require assistance from making their company logo, business cards or creating and fitting a sign bored outside their building. The main services they provide include Web development, graphics Design; Printing and Signage; Video Animations and Photography. They are well known in Leicester and have worked with some famous brands and people in the past, such as Mumtaz, Dr Slush and SKR Legal solicitors. Few famous celebrities they have done work for include, Amir khan, British boxer and a wold champion and Fraya Khan who is a well-known Asian model. They have also worked with Rahit Ali Khan who is a very famous Bollywood singer in India.

My role:

My role at the company was front-end web developer and graphics designer. Therefore, for all my team projects, I was assigned to the development team or the graphics design team depending on the project. The teams were quite small and consisted of 3 to 4 people, and some people were in more than one team due to having wide range of skills and we would sometimes get projects where both teams would need to work together on a project. During my time at prestige, for the development team, I worked on various websites, from making a website for a restaurant to making a website for a car hire dealership. I mostly used front-end languages like HTML and CSS and occasionally JavaScript. After I had finished the website, I would then need to get it approved by the team leader and make any changes depending on the feedback. Once he has approved my design, he will then assign another member of the development team to do the back end for the website. I also did a lot of graphics design work here I had to create logos for company brand name, their websites, leaflets, flyers and business cards etc. I would need to follow a similar protocol as I did with my web development projects. Most of the times I had to manage multiple projects at once, some were team projects, and some were individual ones.

Skills I learnt:

The main skills I learnt were technical skills such as being a better and efficient web developer as well as being intermediate graphics designer. I also improved my communication as I would stutter when I felt nervous which was an issue since my role required me to communicate with clients verbally in meetings, and occasionally over the phone. I also learnt attention to deal as I gained more experience at my role as I was about to spot errors in my code very quickly, or I would make good detailed designs in my graphics work which made it more professional. During my time at Prestige Designz I learnt to be very punctual, as well as learning how to be part of a team efficiently and learn to contribute to team projects. One of the main skills which I worked on during my placement was my self-confidence. When I started my placement, I was very nervous and didn’t have the confidence to think my work would be at the standard they are looking for and they would be disappointed with me as I don’t have much experience developing websites or doing graphic designs. I had a talk with Brisco on how we can improve my confidence. He told me to believe in my abilities and be more confident; if I didn’t have what it takes, then he wouldn’t have taken me on for the placement year.

I really struggled taking criticism from client and colleagues as It made me feel my work is not at the ability they want, and it overall just didn’t feel good. However, I learn that having your work critiqued was in fact very useful as it helps you see the areas where you can improve on which helps you grow and makes you better.

Mistakes I made:

There were a lot of mistakes I made during the few months I worked there, especially at the start of my placement. There were times when I was bad at meetings. I would speak out of turn at times which would put the person off while speaking. This can be very irritating, rude and very unprofessional. I also made a lot of mistakes with my website development work as I struggled to make them look unique and different from each other as I didn’t have much experience prior to starting my placement, so I made errors when doing the layout for the website. Similarly, in graphics design work, I was very bad when I first started due to me being a total novice at it. I created some very bad logo designs which the team leader didn’t approve at all and the job had to be passed on to another employee. I improved at my artistic way of thinking over time as I gained more experience which helped me come up with new ideas for better designs.

Conclusion:

Overall, taking a year out to go on a placement was a good choice as I have now gained a variety of new skills and have 1-year worth of experience. Thus, in the future when I will be looking for a job, this will give me a slight advance over other competitors eyeing for the same role. I enjoyed my time working a Prestige Designz, although it was a small company, I still managed to learn very important things and made good memories which I will cherish.