

Stanley Park High School

Interview with Luka Raketa

Monday 17th June 2019



Lorraine and Kerstey from our marketing department paid a visit to Stanley Park High School in Carshalton, Surrey, to speak to Luka one of the students who works for Pabulum during lunch service. They wanted to understand what it is like being a student working for Pabulum.

How did you come to hear about the job?

There was a sign up in the canteen saying Pabulum were looking for two fantastic and reliable Post 16 Students to help for an hour at lunchtimes. It said that we would get paid, earn an end of year bonus for attendance, plus we got to enjoy a free lunch everyday! Myself and Kyah decided that we would like to do it as we wanted to earn some money but not dedicate too much of our learning time. It made sense to earn some money in the time that we would be at school, and obviously a free lunch was very appealing!

Do you both work every day or do you get to decide when you work?

We both work Monday to Friday but when we were doing our exams we didn't have to work. We work on the tills in the canteen from 12 till 1 and it is actually quite fun.

So how long are you planning to work for? Until your exams are over?

Our exams are finished but we agreed that we would continue to work until the end of the school year, which means Kieron, Exec Chef Manager, won't have to find anyone else for such a short period of time.



Have you got another job lined up once the school year is finished?

I am applying for holiday jobs at the moment.

Were you given a uniform?

Yes, I've got an apron and a name badge, which makes us look professional and also feel part of the team. It does really feel like a team, from the beginning we were made to feel welcome and every day we are asked what we'd like saved for lunch!

So what sort of food do you like from our menu?

I used to have hot meals but now that the weather has changed and it's a bit warmer outside, I tend to go for a salad but it depends what's on that day. Sometimes I like to go for the vegetarian option - I'm not vegetarian, but some of the dishes are quite innovative so it's quite nice to try something different. Most schools don't have nice school dinners but we're really lucky that we do.

Are you planning on going to university?

I have applied and I've got some offers, but I've also applied for a few apprenticeships. Regardless of what I decide to do, I'm not going to go to university for a year. I'm going to defer my offer and either work or do an apprenticeship, to find out if I like it or not.

Which universities have you applied for?

I've got offers from Kings, Greenwich and Reading. Reading is my first choice and Greenwich is my second.

What do you want to study?

Politics and International Relations.

Have you considered whether you'd be interested in a career in catering?

I've actually applied for an apprenticeship at Pret a Manger, as they do apprenticeships and if you get on well with them, after a year, you can do a Business Management Degree, so I've applied for that. Sue Frayn Pabulum Business Director, has said that she will give both myself and Kyah a reference. Whenever she comes in to the school, she's always friendly and chatty and asks if there's anything else she can do. She seems really motivated. I've heard that Sue knows a lot of people so I will definitely get in touch with her.

How would you describe the overall experience of working with Pabulum?

Kyah and I were both quite confident people before we started working for Pabulum so I think that helped and I think that was one of the reasons we applied because we knew that we wouldn't be shy. It's helped to develop our confidence even more, since we started. I have found now that I am older, it is easier to interact with people, including the adults and especially younger students who are sometimes a bit unsure about what's going on and may need help.



The Catering Team at Stanley Park High School

Do you think that there will be other students who will be interested in doing your jobs once you and Kyah have left?

Yes, we've had some year 12 students asking about what will happen when we are gone, so I think they're going to put out another ad in September. It's a perfect job while at school, especially as you're going to be here anyway. Usually at lunch time I'm sitting around doing nothing, so it makes sense to be earning some money and getting a free lunch.

Did you ever find yourself in an awkward situation with any students or staff?

There's the occasional time where a student might not have enough funds on their account but unfortunately you can't just let them take the food. Miss Patel, Head of Post 16 has had to send out a few e-mails to remind everyone to keep their accounts topped up!

Do you find it more difficult if it's a teacher, to tell them that there's no funds in their account?

Usually they just put their finger on the reader and go, and then we need to call after them!

We think Pabulum has a family feel about us – do you think that comes across from people you've worked with?

Yes, definitely. Everyone's so friendly and all of the kitchen staff and Kieron get on really well. It's a great atmosphere to work in.



Kieron Robathan, Executive Chef & Luka Raketa



Kyah Moseley-Davis

Have you been able to put Pabulum down as work experience on your CV?

Yes, I've put it on my CV and mentioned that it's helped with my confidence. I can use it to say that I've gained customer service experience. I can deal with customers and work towards the smooth running of lunchtimes, which is something employers look for. To have Sue as a reference will be a great help!

Did Miss Patel encourage you to apply for the job?

Miss Patel is good at encouraging people to do things outside of school, and she encouraged us to stay on after our exams were done which has been great having that support. Miss Patel is always in the canteen at lunchtimes.

Did you have to interview for your role?

Yes we were interviewed for the role and were asked a few questions and then talked through the role, what we'd need to do - how to operate the tills etc. which gave us the opportunity to ask any questions that we had. Kyah had no experience, but I had a little experience from last summer, doing catering at some music festivals, I think it has helped us both because this is a bit more customer orientated. I think it's helped Kyah to get a bit of work experience.

What are your thoughts overall on the food that Pabulum serve?

The food is definitely better than the people who were here before you! I feel like more people bought their food from the school when it changed because there was such an improvement, the food is more exciting. Maybe it's not like the food that some people might have at home, but I think that's quite nice because it gives some people the chance to try something different that they might not normally try. Especially with having the salad bar in the summer and soups in the winter.

What are the most popular meals?

Well Fish and Chips are crazy and also the Roasts. Curry always goes down well... things like Lasagne are also really popular. Pasta and sauce is also a big hit. There was feedback that the plastic salad pots weren't great for the environment, so they were changed to bowls to help be more environmentally friendly. Teachers still take them though and then end up bringing back a pile of 5 bowls all at once! Napkins and plastic cutlery aren't used any more so there's a lot of environmental awareness.



Cous Cous with Feta, Pomegranate, Orange and Mint



Ras El Hanout Chicken