

Meet Craig ...



Hi, I'm Craig Bentley a legal cashier at Hillyer McKeown

Why did you join Hillyer McKeown?

I joined in January 2014 as an administration temp working in the Birkenhead office. I was drawn to it as growing up in Bebington I had heard about how good the company was and that it had a strong local presence.

Also, family members had used HM's legal services and praised the professionalism. When the opportunity came up to work for the firm I jumped at it. At the end of my temporary contract in Hamilton Square a fantastic opportunity was given to me to join the accounts team and start training in my current role as a legal cashier.

What do you enjoy about working at HM?

Being in accounts, I get to work with staff across the business, in every location, from apprentice level up to the Senior Management Team. My involvement makes my work very interesting as every day presents a new challenge. I also enjoy the friendly nature of all staff in different departments which makes the firm a nice place to work in. It's good to know that even the business owners are approachable and always have the time for their staff.

A typical day usually involves...

... dealing with all client payments we have had into our company bank account. This money can be for a wide range of things including bills, mortgage lenders sending in funds for people buying houses, sale proceeds of houses and funds due to estates that our wills and probate team is dealing with. These funds can range from £1 to over a £million.

I look at the firm's office account and deal with payments going out for that such as paying bills, and staff wages. I also deal with banking cheques received in the post into our bank accounts, taking card payments from clients, processing bills, sending out payments online and dealing with staff queries.

I sort out payroll for the firm, checking monthly wages to staff are correct and setting up any new starters.

Meet Craig ...



I enjoy...

... a wide range of things in my day to day work. I have a good working relationship with other staff members and I particularly enjoy when someone has a new or interesting query that I may not have tackled before - this means I keep learning while helping colleagues.

It's a challenge when...

... it's Friday! This is usually the day when our residential conveyancing department is very busy as a lot of clients prefer to complete their property purchase / sale ready for the weekend. For us this means dealing with a lot of money coming into our bank accounts and also sending out bank transfers of the same value.

I've had the opportunity to...

... get stuck in at Hillyer McKeown. The firm has funded me to be a member of the Institute of Legal Finance & Management (ILFM) and train for a Diploma. This has helped me with day to day jobs in accounts and has given me a good understanding of the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) accounting rules, which we follow to correctly manage our client's money.

I was also voted in to be a team member of the firm's Employee Engagement team (EEC) which was set up in 2017 to represent all staff. I help set up work events with the social committee like our recent Liverpool office launch, and we also look at staff perks and engagement activities. I even recently played guitar at a singalong for staff to enjoy after work one Friday night.

The firm has also funded me to be one of the company's first aiders and I took part in the fundraising efforts for the Clatterbridge Charity. I have also worked closely with one of our new members of staff to set up fundraising support for our newly selected charity, The Melanie Beattie Fund based in Liverpool.