

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a blue dress, stands in a courtroom. She has glowing blue and white energy effects around her arms and torso. The background shows wooden paneling and rows of empty seats. The image is overlaid with a blue and green geometric shape in the bottom right corner.

 Class of 2020

**EAST OF ENGLAND
APPRENTICESHIPS**

JOB ROLE

Software Engineer

COMPANY

BGL Group Ltd

COMPANY SIZE

Large Business

APPRENTICESHIP

Software Engineering
Level 4



■ INTRODUCING MEGAN GOODE

Megan was an aspiring software engineer with little understanding of how to get into the industry. Having studied IT and art at sixth form, it's fair to say that school hadn't pushed apprenticeships as a progression option. She had studied a website design module that really peaked her interest in the field, and so it was down to Megan to research and understand how to progress with her career.

To kick things off, she looked into apprenticeships as an option and dived straight in to a Level 3 software engineering course. Working on the course two days a month gave Megan a great grounding and knowledge base in software engineering, sparking the fire that made her want to continue to develop a skillset in the space.

Having finished her Level 3 course, BGL Group in Peterborough were advertising a Level 4 higher apprenticeship vacancy in Software Engineering. Megan had wanted to make the move to BGL earlier, knowing a number of staff members and hearing positive things about the company. She saw it as a fresh, young and modern business that would support her learning and development - so she took the plunge and applied.



■ LEARNING

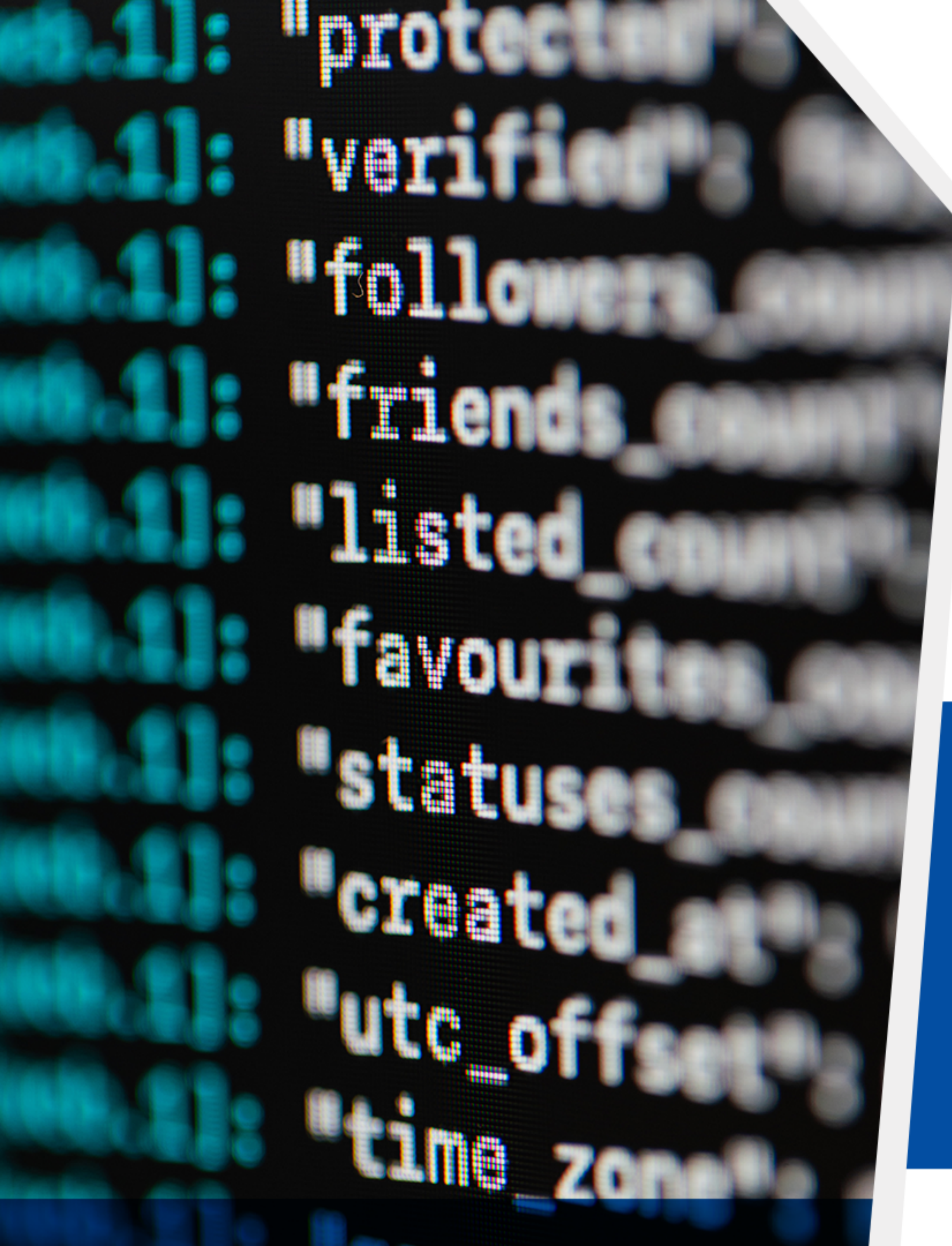
The level of detail covered in the application process for BGL Group was outstanding, and gave Megan a clear understanding and breakdown of the process to achieve her Level 4 apprenticeship, and progress within the business. This would start with a 12 week 'bootcamp' style training course based in London.

As soon as the course was underway, Megan felt like she was learning more than ever (from different coding languages to interpersonal skills). It was a great opportunity to network with people in the same field and a range of industries, alongside a solid grounding and bulk of work to move forward with, ultimately filling her with confidence to get started. She gained knowledge of the "nitty-gritty" and learned a lot about programming methodologies and the principles of coding.

■ GETTING STARTED WITH THE ROLE

It was a huge part of the course to be integrated with Megan's day to day role, assisting her in development along the way. She got started in creating a portfolio, and different 'tickets' or jobs at work would align with goals she was trying to achieve through her apprenticeship. The portfolio comprised of six submissions, and included standard points that come as part of the course and how they were being met. Effectively, the portfolio was a summary of how her newly developed skillset was being implemented in the workplace.



The background of the image is a dark, blurred grid of code snippets. Each snippet consists of a blue line number (e.g., 1, 2, 3) followed by a string in quotes, such as "protected", "verified", "followers_count", "friends_count", "listed_count", "favorites_count", "statuses_count", "created_at", "utc_offset", and "time_zone". The text is out of focus, creating a sense of depth and technical context.

Each apprenticeship has its own endpoint assessment process and for Megan this was broken down into a number of activities - the knowledge module exam and a vendor qualification. She took the knowledge module first and was really impressed with the level of support she received, both personally from teachers and through online and video resources. On the other hand, in the vendor qualification, she was given a choice of three projects based on varying coding languages, and able to progress with the one most fitting to her role.

Upon completion of her portfolio and exams, Megan had to pass a 5-day synoptic project in which she was again provided three briefs to choose from - ranging from building an application to a custom API. Following this, there was a final interview process to overcome with an apprenticeship assessor - covering the basis of the knowledge Megan had gained and her understanding of it.

IT'S GREAT TO LEARN ON THE JOB AND PUT YOUR LEARNING IN TO PRACTICE - I CAN'T BIG IT UP ENOUGH AND REALLY WISH I HAD FOUND OUT ABOUT IT SOONER. ANYBODY WHO IS CONSIDERING AN APPRENTICESHIP IN THIS FIELD - GO FOR IT!"

■ TODAY

Looking back, Megan is massively grateful for the ability to learn 'on the job' as it were, and thinks this benefitted her ability to pick things up quickly and apply them to her role. She was happy to be 'thrown in the deep end' following her 'bootcamp' experience and thinks it played a part in her wanting to push forward and learn even more!

Having gone from being baffled by large bases of code, to understanding them in their entirety a year on - Megan is a stellar example of what can be achieved if you apply yourself to a scheme such as this. Rather than asking the questions, people now come to Megan for the answers and this has allowed her to have a deeper level of responsibility within the business and even progress to a mid-level engineer - a personal goal of hers!

She says despite being an apprentice, she felt and was treated like a full time employee from the off - this meant there was a key focus on her progression. She also benefitted from the management of her apprenticeship in line with her day job, as it helped her to grow in confidence too.

Her plans going forward are to develop her knowledge base further and hopefully progress to a senior level software engineer in the coming years. Her apprenticeship was vital in helping her gain skills within an industry that would have otherwise been difficult to obtain, and she aims to be able to take on even more responsibility in the months and years to come.





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CELEBRATING APPRENTICESHIPS

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