

Problem scenario – girls

Workplace Pressures

Gemma has recently started her new job at the accountants firm Wishaw & Sons. Her first day was three months ago – the day after the school broke up! She feels really lucky to have got the job as there were over 62 school leavers who applied for it at the end of the last summer term. The offices are near to home so she can walk to work and her boss is arranging for her to have a college day release from next February now that she's completed her three month trial period, and he feels confident that she's got the ability and commitment to complete the course. Her mum was over the moon about that. The problem is that another girl called Carla also started at the same time but she's not being allowed to go to college. She's really upset about it and has told Gemma that she doesn't think it's fair. Now she's not talking to Gemma and yesterday Gemma found out that Carla had been telling everyone else in the office that the only reason Gemma was going to college was because she was having sex with the boss. Gemma feels so upset and humiliated about this and is worried that some people actually believe it as they were sniggering when she came into the office. She doesn't know what to do and is feeling totally stressed.

Questions

- ▶ Why does Gemma feel so lucky?
- ▶ Is it always difficult for young people to get a job?
- ▶ Why is the college placement so important to Gemma?
- ▶ Why do you think her mum feels so proud?
- ▶ What skills has Gemma got that led her boss to provide her with the college placement?
- ▶ How do you think Carla feels?
- ▶ How would you feel in Carla's shoes?
- ▶ What do you think of Carla's behaviour?
- ▶ What is Gemma worried about now?
- ▶ How would you feel if you were in Gemma's shoes?
- ▶ What might happen next?
- ▶ What advice would you give to Gemma if you were her friend?



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