

# Sienna Marius-Burke

## BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Uniformed Public Services

NEW CITY COLLEGE



### What was your BTEC experience like?

My BTEC in Uniformed Public Services was a worthwhile experience that supported my career and personal development. I now have a thorough understanding of what it takes to be a member of the front line services. The BTEC's emphasis on coursework and real-world settings, in contrast to traditional A levels, suited my study style best. The BTEC split between coursework and practical work was very appealing to me. I frequently participated in leadership exercises, outdoor trips and group activities, all of which made this course much more entertaining rather than just sitting in class all day. This course offered me both mental and physical challenges which enabled me to build discipline, resilience and self-assurance that I can use in my future.

### What did you like most about studying for a BTEC?

The way I learned and was evaluated is the primary distinction between studying for an A level and a BTEC. Because the BTEC format allowed me to demonstrate my abilities through assignments and projects rather than just written tests, I preferred it. In addition to just learning from books, PowerPoints and case studies, I took part in team-building tasks, exercises classes and outdoor expeditions that provided me a true sense of what it would be like to work in the public sector. My BTEC was enjoyable and fulfilling because of the combination of work.

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Thanks to my BTEC, I gained the practical and personal skills to start my journey in the NHS and work towards becoming a fully qualified paramedic.”

### What top 5 skills did you gain throughout your course?

I gained a variety of useful skills during my BTEC course which have prepared me for future work.

My top 5 skills would be:



**Communication:** Through teamwork, reports, and presentations, I was able to express myself more confidently and clearly both orally and in writing.



**Teamwork:** Through group projects, workouts, and outdoor activities, I developed excellent cooperation and communication skills and learnt how to work well with others.



**Discipline:** I learnt how to maintain organisation, punctuality and attention when doing coursework and practical exercises thanks to the disciplined and professional style of the course.



**Leadership:** I learnt how to inspire others, make choices, and accept responsibility by assuming leadership positions in projects and physical challenges.



**Problem-solving:** Through team challenges and real-life situations, I learnt how to remain composed under duress and use reason to get beyond. ►

## How do you think BTEC helped get you where you are now?

My apprenticeship as an ambulance support worker was made possible in a significant way by my BTEC in Uniformed Public Services. I gained solid knowledge of how emergency services operate thanks to this education, which made it simpler for me to transition into a true front line position that suited me best. My course contributed to the development of critical abilities like decision-making, all of which are crucial in the ambulance profession. The BTEC's physical component prepared me for the practical side of employment, such as having to lift wheelchairs and other equipment.

## What are your ambitions for the future and how has your BTEC helped prepare you for what comes next?

I've always desired a job where I can help others, make a difference and give back to the community, therefore my ambition for the future is to have a job that achieves this. My BTEC helped me gain confidence while working with others as interacting with a variety of individuals and circumstances is a huge part in emergency roles. Additionally, I gained knowledge about health, safety, and the significance of adhering to protocols - all of which are essential components of work within the services. My fitness and resilience were enhanced by the outdoor sports and physical training, which helped me maintain composure and concentration under duress.

## Progression pathway

- ↓ BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Uniformed Public Services
- ↓ Ambulance Support Worker Apprenticeship
- ↓ **Future ambitions**  
Fully qualified NHS paramedic

## What are your future career aspirations?

My long-term professional goal is to become a fully qualified paramedic. My career ambition will always be to be able to be part of a team that has significant influence and purpose. Because I would rather not go to university, I am now doing an apprenticeship where I start at the bottom and aim to work my way up to my dream job. I have a one-year apprenticeship as a NEPTS Patient Transport Driver at Newham Hospital with Barts Health NHS. This position requires transportation of vulnerable individuals in an ambulance and a high-level first aid course, especially in resuscitation.

My BTEC gave me the assurance and perspective I need to function in this fast-paced and high-pressure setting. Overall, the BTEC inspired me to seek a profession assisting people and provided me with a genuine grasp of what it takes to work in the emergency services. ■

