

Emma Hope Newitt

BTEC Level 3 in Musical Theatre



“My BTEC prepared me for my career working with children and inspired me to write about my passions online.”

Emma Hope Newitt currently works as a Learning Support Assistant in a primary school and is also a content creator – writing on the arts, lifestyle and travel. She took a BTEC Level 3 in Musical Theatre at Loughborough College in 2011. We spoke to her about her experience of taking a BTEC and how it has helped her grow her career and fuel her passion for writing about the arts.

Why did you choose to do a BTEC?

They say education is a journey and I found the road rocky at times. The time around my GCSEs was difficult and sadly I lost my grandad just before my exams which impacted my results. When I was thinking about my next steps one of the things that attracted me to BTEC was how practical the course was. Of course, you need to have a good work ethic to do a BTEC and be well organised, but the hard work is worth it. I redid my GCSE Maths and English at the same time, but it was integrated into my studies well, so I never felt too overwhelmed.

I really enjoyed the different opportunities I had to further my skills and abilities at that time in my life. I enjoyed the performance opportunities my course gave me and an understanding of the different roles that the theatre industry has. I was supported every step of the way which meant so much to me after coming through a difficult period before my course.

Did you attend or consider higher education? If so, why?

Yes, my BTEC gave me the confidence to apply for higher education. I was offered a place at Coventry University where I got a BA Hons in Dance Making and Performance. I had never imagined higher education would be part of my future before my BTEC. Doing a BTEC really gave me so many different skills - and confidence too.

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I think it's just as easy to go to university with BTEC as any other route in education - you'll be considered for a place just like everyone else. I would say to anyone starting out, be open minded about your end goal and to take on any feedback from your tutors so you can progress well.

Tell us a bit about your current role and how your BTEC helped prepare you for it

I currently work as a Learning Support Assistant in a primary school. I work with children on a 1:1 basis who have an EHCP (Educational Health Care Plan) as well as being a Wellbeing Champion. A typical day sees me working alongside the teacher to support my child, as well as others in the classroom to obtain confidence and understanding of the curriculum.

I've always wanted to work with children and my BTEC and the skills I learned at college have enabled me to do that in combination with my second passion - writing about the creative sector in my spare time. I use the creative skills I learned on my course every day in my work with young people and I'm looking forward to utilising them to lead creative sessions in the school again soon.

What advice would you give other young people planning their future?

I would tell them to take on any opportunities to develop and try new ideas because they will benefit you so much! Doing a BTEC showed me that there were a whole range of pathways available for young people. If I could only offer one piece of advice to young people thinking about their careers it would be to consider different routes for their future rather than be fixated on one way only. BTECs tend to be more practical than some other qualifications so this may suit you better and a BTEC enables you to focus on something you're passionate about.

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Our huge thanks to Emmie for speaking to us about her BTEC experience. You can read some of Emmie's content at www.carpediememmie.co.uk

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