

## ALFIE BROWN

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### **BTEC Extended Diploma in Health Studies**



*Alfie Brown is in his final year at Truro and Penwith College and aspires to study Paramedicine. He has dyslexia which might have proved a barrier to a less determined person. But through his absolute dedication to gaining practical experience he has recently been successful in this goal through his vocational experience as a part-time trained RNLI lifeguard.*

We asked Alfie about his BTEC experience: "My course has helped me so much; I think the practical work placements I have done have helped me to really believe in myself and that I could one day get to university". Alfie continues: "I think the mixture of the science studies with work placements helps to link the two and prepare me for working in a healthcare setting. The skills I have learned on my placements like first aid, resuscitation, resilience, problem-solving, manual handling and compassion have all helped me so much in understanding all the theory, exams, and coursework."

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His lecturer Gemma Smith says of Alfie: "Alfie has excellent communication skills and is a very calm, mature, and competent young man. Alfie has gained numerous part-time employment and voluntary roles evidencing his absolute commitment to his personal and professional development alongside his coursework studies. He has struggled through academically but played to his strengths in achieving his university goal. A determined student in the face of adversity academically".

He is a qualified RNLI lifeguard, completing beach rescues from Easter to the end of summer and is defib and emergency first aid trained. He volunteered as a Covid vaccinator advocate during the pandemic, giving advice and emotional support. He also works as a surf coach and volunteers at Surf Action - a charity that supports veterans through using the sea to help with injury, depression or PTSD.

Alfie hopes to go to university this year to pursue his dream job in Paramedicine.