

SNA Alumni

Edwardo – 2018 Leaver

After GCSEs I attended SNA Sixth Form, choosing A Levels initially but then I realised the academic route wasn't for me, so I switched to the BTEC L3 Sport, which suited my learning style much better.

Post Sixth Form Initially, I thought I'd try Marketing and Web Design, but didn't get any of the apprenticeships I applied for. I then considered the Armed Forces and joined the Cadets. I didn't meet the RAF and Navy recruitment criteria, due to eyesight issues. Back to thinking again about what I might enjoy! I was very lucky as my parents paid for me to attend a private Phlebotomy course at Harley Street, London, which I really enjoyed, and this raised my interest in Healthcare. I kept my eye on NHS Jobs and amazingly an apprenticeship came up at the right time! My NHS journey commenced in 2019, as an Apprentice Phlebotomist.

Phlebotomy requires the drawing blood out of a patient's arm using a needle. Blood tests are vital to investigate the reasons that a patient may be poorly, and it can lead to a diagnosis. Initially, I worked in the outpatient department, until I became qualified and I was then sent out to the wards. I've worked on various wards, and I love meeting so many different people and linking with a range of health professionals! There can be challenges to the role, but I get a huge sense of accomplishment at the same time.

At the start of 2021, I applied within the NHS to further my career, and I have recently been offered an Apprenticeship with the East of England Ambulance Service as an Emergency Care Support worker. I will be working with paramedics and technicians to support with emergency care during 999 calls. This will take 3 months in London for my clinical learning and exams and a 1-month intensive blue light driver training, where I will learn to drive an ambulance under blue light conditions. Once I've completed my exams and training, I will be qualified and deployed in Cambridgeshire. I'm very excited for my future within the NHS and this is not a career I thought about in Year 11!

If you are interested in joining the NHS, there are a number of routes in for many of their jobs. Keep your eye out on www.nhsjobs.co.uk There are also bursaries for nursing, midwifery and other allied health careers if you wish to take the degree route.