

# ABBY'S JOURNEY TOWARD BECOMING A PAEDIATRIC NURSE

## A FIRST YEAR STUDENT JOURNEY



Meet Abby, a first-year T Level Health student at City College Plymouth, who is about to embark on an exciting journey that could shape the future of her career in healthcare. Having been recently accepted for a T Level placement with us here at University Hospitals Plymouth, Abby will complete a total of 315 hours, gaining real-life experiences that will help her progress toward her dream job as a paediatric nurse.

### A Passion for Paediatrics

Abby has always been passionate about helping others and at a young age knew she wanted to be a nurse. Her interest in paediatric nursing developed when she was inspired after losing a close friend from a rare form of leukaemia at the age of just 11. After witnessing how the nurses helped and treated him with kindness and care, Abby was inspired to help children just like him. Her decision to study a T-level in Health is driven by her desire to gain practical, hands-on experience. T-levels offer an ideal pathway to enter healthcare professions, combining classroom learning with industry placements. Abby sees this as a great opportunity to gain the skills and confidence she will need in her future career.

### The Placement Experience

Commencing her placement in January 2025, Abby will work closely with healthcare professionals in a dynamic and high-pressure environment. Acute hospitals such as University Hospitals Plymouth provide care for patients with serious conditions that require urgent medical attention, so Abby will be exposed to a range of cases and scenarios that will test her ability to stay calm and think critically.

Abby will shadow experienced nurses, doctors, and other healthcare staff as they provide care, learn the daily responsibilities of nursing, and assist with tasks such as patient personal care and supporting families. Over the course of her 315-hour placement, she will not only observe the skills required to be a successful nurse but also gain insights into patient care, teamwork, and communication.

### Preparing for the future

Abby's T-level studies and hospital placement are just the beginning of her journey. After completing her placement, she plans to continue her studies, aiming for a degree in nursing at university. "I want to be a paediatric nurse because I believe it's such an important role," she says. "The hospital is a place where children need care and comfort, and I want to be the one to provide that support." She understands that the path to becoming a paediatric nurse is not always easy, but Abby is determined to keep pushing forward. With her strong work ethic and passion for helping children, she is well on her way to achieving her goal.

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Abby's story highlights the importance of T-levels in providing students with both academic and practical experience in their chosen field. As she moves forward with her placement at University Hospitals Plymouth, Abby is one step closer to realising her dream of becoming a paediatric nurse. For other T-level students, this is a reminder that hard work, passion, and hands-on experience are the keys to success in healthcare careers.