

# South Tees Hospitals



NHS Foundation Trust

## Meet the apprentice

We are introducing to you **David Branch**, a Healthcare Support Services apprentice at South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

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How did you get your  
apprenticeship?

I graduated from Teesside University and left with no opportunities to find work. I attended an open day for the NHS Prospect work programme and applied for the job online then began working for the E-rostering team at James Cook Hospital South Tees. After the 12-week placement, I was offered an opportunity to become an apprentice for the trust.

**2** Who is your training provider and what is the study model like?

My apprenticeship training days are every fortnight, on a Thursday. During these days, I spend my time in the library completing my work using a "Gap Analysis" sheet which helps me identify the areas that need finishing.

**3** What types of things have you been doing in your off-the-job learning?

During my training days I have meetings with my training advisor who guides me to what needs completing or provides the feedback on completed work. Recently, I was working on how to give customers a good impression and how to understand the policies used in the organisation.

**4** What has been the hardest part?

Completing my key skills Maths & English level 2 was hard, but I had the full support from my advisor & training team.

**6** What has been the best part?

Getting to meet other colleagues in the trust who are also on the apprenticeship programme; learning how different everyone's job is from each other; and learning how my job helps support the trust.

**5** What tips do you have for people who want to do the same apprenticeship as you?

Take your time;  
Be open-minded;  
Don't be afraid to ask for help;  
Try to put as much time as you can into your apprenticeship programme as a lot of research and investigating is used;  
Lastly, enjoy it!

**7** What do you hope to do next?

Once the apprenticeship is complete, I am hoping a permanent job would become available for me to continue working for the NHS.