

Katie Winfield – 2021 Alumni

Hi! My name is Katie Winfield and I left Spalding High School in 2021. After spending 7 years at school and studying Music, Religious Studies and Geography at A-Level, I am now coming to the end of my first year at Nottingham Trent University studying Primary Education. University life has been really fun and exciting with lots of opportunities to meet new people, try new things and pursue existing hobbies. I have been able to continue my passion for Music alongside my studies by joining the NTU Music society.

My course involves a number of different aspects including the taught content on campus, assignments, fieldtrips and placement in a primary school. At the start of the year we went on a fieldtrip to Eyam, famous for its role in establishing a quarantine during the Black Death of 1665 and 1666 and more recently, we visited Newstead Abbey once home to the famous poet Lord Byron. I have also completed a six-week block placement in a school about an hour north of Nottingham. This was a great experience giving me insight into 'the life of a primary teacher' and it has given me even more inspiration to fulfil my career ambitions. (It also made me realise that once I am qualified, I will never get a lie-in ever again!)

Plans for the future:

I am hoping to become a Student Ambassador for my course later this year as I have enjoyed my first year so much and would like to give something back to the university and share my experience with others. I am also looking forward to my second year of the course where I will have the opportunity to take part in Forest School Training. (This is where you deliver education outdoors allowing children to visit natural spaces which will help them in learning a range of social, personal and technical skills in a hands-on way whilst promoting respect for the environment.) I will also have the opportunity to experience placement in a SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability) School. This is an area which really interests me, so I am really looking forward to it. At the end of my course, I hope to leave university with Qualified Teacher Status.

My top tips:

- Stay on top of your workload as best as you can and make sure you take a break if it starts to feel overwhelming. (I have enjoyed university so much more when I know I have all my work under control.)

- Plan out a weekly budget and make the most of student discounts! There are several Apps and Cards that get you discounts in thousands of stores so make sure you use them. Two I would recommend are UNiDAYS and Totum, but there are many more.
- Have fun! Obviously, there is work you have to do but you need to make the most of the student experience and the free time that you have. Joining a society or two is a great way to meet a new group of people and expand your friendship circles. Arrange to go out and explore your new 'home' with people. Don't just sit in your room working!