

Where Are They Now?



Olivia Turton

Year left Winterhill: 2010

What have you been up to since leaving Winterhill?

I went to Thomas Rotherham College (TRC) after Y11 to study A Levels in Sociology, English Language, English Literature and Biology. I completed my first year but failed AS Biology and Sociology. I decided to continue with my English A Levels but after a few months I decided to leave college. Despite leaving TRC early, I finished my A Levels with email support from my tutors and achieved two C grades in English Language and Literature.

After TRC I decided I wanted to learn in a practical way and I applied for and got a Dental Nurse Apprenticeship with the Charles Clifford Dental Hospital in Sheffield. I have achieved Level 2 and 3 Dental Nurse qualifications and am now working as a qualified Dental Nurse at CR Dental Practice in Sheffield.

What does it involve?

The role of a Dental Nurse is to assist the Dentist whilst they are carrying out check-ups or procedures. My job is to prepare any materials or equipment the Dentist might need, remove water/saliva from the patient's mouth during treatment, keep the patient calm and comfortable and complete paperwork after each patient check-up.

What hours do you work?

I work 8.30am to 3.30pm Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 1.00pm on Fridays.

What skills or qualities do you need?

You need to have really good people skills as a big part of the role is to make sure patients are comfortable and calm. You need to be efficient and know what equipment the dentist might need. The dental practice I work in is very busy and I need to be on the ball and have everything ready and prepared.

What do you like/dislike about the job?

I find the work really interesting and I enjoy working with patients and getting to know different people. There isn't really anything I dislike about the job.

What are your plans for the future?

I have been working as a qualified Dental Nurse since September so it's still quite a new position for me. I have found out about an online radiography course I can do which the dental practice will pay for and which will allow me more responsibility in taking x-rays. After eighteen months as a practising Dental Nurse it is possible to progress onto a Dental Hygiene course at University which might be something I pursue in the future.

Any tips for current Winterhill students?

If you choose to study A Levels make sure you choose subjects you are sure you will enjoy and be good at.

Try and get some work experience related to the career you want to do. I initially wanted to be a primary school teacher but work experience in a school made me realise this was not the career for me.

Make sure you explore all your options after Y11 as college may not be the only route into a career. An Apprenticeship can help you to gain experience and can lead to further study.