

Where Are They Now?



Andrew Jones

Year left Winterhill: 2011

What have you been up to since leaving Winterhill?

I went to Thomas Rotherham College (TRC) for two years after Y11 and studied A Levels in Chemistry, Biology, Maths and Further Maths.

I chose Maths and Further Maths since I loved doing Maths in school and I have always been capable with numbers. Also the fact Maths is needed everywhere is another reason I chose this subject as I knew it would be useful for whatever career path I chose. In terms of Chemistry and Biology, they always interested me, and I wanted to work with animals in the future and these subjects are often requirements at University for animal-related subjects.

I am now studying Veterinary Medicine at the University of Nottingham. I am in my first year of a five-year course.

What does your course involve?

I am usually in University 9am until 5pm every day. We have lots of lectures over the week lasting an hour each time. At the University of Nottingham the Veterinary course pays great attention to the practical side of teaching so we also have six hours of practical every week which I really enjoy because you can practise what you preach! We also go out on lots of work placements over the five years; there are 26 weeks of clinical experience and 12 weeks of animal husbandry to obtain in the first three years of the course.

Why did you choose to study this course at University?

I wasn't originally planning on going to University and I wanted to become a Zoo Keeper. However my A Level results were better than I ever expected and I was encouraged by Careers Advisers to look into Veterinary or Animal Science degrees. I then researched a variety of courses and came to the conclusion I actually wanted to become a Vet. I have always wanted to do this career but never thought I was able to. All the belief that people had in me really helped me to realise I was capable of

studying Veterinary Medicine at University. I also applied and successfully got into the University of Cambridge but decided to study at Nottingham instead.

I had to achieve A, A, B grades at A Level to get in at the University of Nottingham and I also had to attend multiple interviews. In terms of work experience I had to obtain six weeks of experience prior to application which included three weeks at a veterinary practice and three weeks of other experience related to animal professions.

What are your plans for the future?

My dream is to become a Safari Vet. We do learn about the business side of owning your own small animal veterinary practice in the fourth year so this might be an option too.

Any tips for current Winterhill students?

Look at University courses and start researching these and the career you want to do as soon as possible.

Try and get some work experience related to what you want to do so you can see if you enjoy it.

Meet and exceed the requirements and believe you can do anything; nothing is impossible.