

JOANNE DODD**HALTWHISTLE MEDICAL GROUP****Joanne Dodd**

Joanne Dodd is undertaking a Level 6 Registered Nurse Degree (NMC 2018) apprenticeship standard at Haltwhistle Medical Group.

We spoke to Joanne recently about her experiences of undertaking an apprenticeship, keep reading to find out more.

What apprenticeship are you studying and what does the study involve?

I am currently in an apprenticeship route towards becoming a band 5 registered nurse. This is a two-year top-up programme following on from my two year apprenticeship to become a registered nursing associate. The course although not classed as a full-time course does require full time hours each week. My employers have been so supportive as my current course has meant I have been out of practice either on placements or at university for months at a time.

What is your current job role and how did you get into your current role?

I am currently a registered nursing associate within a general practice setting. I started my employment for my current employers (Haltwhistle Medical Group) over nineteen years ago as a receptionist.

What have been the biggest challenges?

I am a mature student and juggling family life, running a household and studying for four years in total is not something I would wish to start again but if I do qualify it will all have been worth it.

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What has been your proudest achievement on your apprenticeship to date?

I hope my proudest achievement is still to come. When I qualify as a band 5 registered nurse and attend my university graduation ceremony.

What do you want to do once you complete your apprenticeship?

I intend to stay with my current employers and continue my training to become a competent practice nurse.

What would you say to someone considering an apprenticeship?

It is never too late to learn and achieve your potential although you must be determined.

Any final comments?

I am pleased that as a mature student I have been given the chance to become an apprentice as initially these were courses for young people. There should be more opportunities and courses available through apprenticeship routes.

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