



Termly Alumni

Focus

Term 3 – July 25

Did you go to Teesdale? Willing to share your career path? Please email Bethany.ward@teesdaleschool.co.uk

Here at Teesdale, we are interested in the role that our School has played in the lives of our alumni and each term we will publish a profile that explores qualifications, experiences and trace career paths.

Meet Keira Chippendale ...

Qualifications

- My A Levels were Biology Maths and Geography at Teesdale Sixth Form
- 7 GCSE at grade 9, 3 BTECs at L2D and above
- BSc in Bioscience pending with accreditation from the Royal Society of Biology
- Microbiology Apprenticeship Qualification pending



Career

What is your current job/career path?

I am a second-year [microbiology](#) apprentice at GSK, a global biopharma company with a site in Barnard Castle. I am also apprentice community lead, gaining management skills and supporting my peers in the apprentice program with monthly meetings, social events, and careers fairs. I study part time with Manchester Metropolitan University, visiting once a year for a week residential in the labs. I am currently in the Non-sterile product testing laboratory alongside production monitoring, here I analyse the levels of microbes' presence to comply with pharmacopeial requirements. My first year was in Microbiological Support services where I tested raw materials and tested media used in finished-product testing to ensure that microbes could grow if present.

How did you get to your choice of career?

I have known I wanted to be a Microbiology apprentice since I was 8 years old after visiting GSK and seeing an apprentice with bacteria on an agar plate. Since then, I had researched apprenticeships and requirements, I did my Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh to boost my skill set. I applied to other biology apprenticeships in the North East as I knew I wanted to get a degree through the apprenticeship pathway, but GSK is where I wanted to be.

What are you plans for your future in careers?

I plan to qualify with a first-class degree and secure a permanent position as a Microbiological analyst or even senior analyst at GSK, here I would continue to develop my skill set and take on more responsibilities within the department. From here, I would like to pursue leadership and management, in the laboratories but also across site in different areas of the supply chain.