



Shahid

- ▶ **Left school straight after GCSEs**
- ▶ **Worked for several years and raised family**
- ▶ **Studying Health Science Access to Higher Education course at Hillsborough College**

I already had what I needed to progress

I left school in 2003. Towards the end of my GCSEs I didn't pay much attention and I didn't expect to achieve great results, so I didn't even pick them up! Ten years later I decided to ring the school and ask if they still had my results. It turned out that they did and I'd achieved enough GCSEs to get myself onto this course.

The biggest obstacle I've faced would be the time gap I had from leaving education to coming back. I overcame it by getting help from the tutors in college and adjusting myself accordingly - there is so much help available for adult learners to return to education.

Some people will find it difficult to make the decision to come back, asking themselves 'how are we going to pay the bills' and 'how are we going to survive'. It is doable – especially as the access course is three days a week and you've still got time to work.

It might be a challenge at first, but you will get through it

I've really enjoyed becoming an adult learner

I won't have any regrets in the future and I'm so glad I'm going for the goals that I want in my life. My aspirations are to get into university, get a degree and secure a job as a radiographer or radio therapist. Hopefully, I could then climb the ladder and aim to be a consultant one day!

To anyone thinking of returning to education, I would say go for it! Go to an open day and look at the courses available. It might be a challenge at first, but you will get through it and you will achieve what you want to achieve.



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