



Hatti Dawson

1. What made you decide to take A Level PE as part of your 6th form studies?

As a student who was already heavily involved with sport and dance at school, I felt as though choosing PE as an A Level fit with my prospective career paths.

I wanted to learn about subjects which would be relatable to my everyday training, and gain knowledge I knew I could use in my future career. Science was not my forte, however the Anatomy and Physiology section of my PE A Level has turned out to be one of the most valuable lessons that I learnt. The A Level PE Course stood me in good stead with my peers at University who some of which had no background knowledge of topics such as Anatomy, and therefore they had to undertake further studies

2. Having finished Year 13, give us some idea of the pathway that you took in terms of further studies or career choices

Whilst studying my degree, I created the DMU Hip Hop Dance Society with a fellow student, successfully achieving the Vice Chancellor's Society of the Term in our first term of existence, in 2017. The society went on to win multiple competitions in both University leagues, and regional competitions such as BDO and UDO. The society is still operating today at a high level.

I auditioned successfully for one of the 'Midlands Best Dance Crew', Code Crew, and competed/performed with them for two years across multiple platforms. I also started volunteering for a dance company which provided Arts Award training to multiple schools across Leicestershire and was eventually offered a job there as the Street Dance Teacher for the Arts Award students.

I successfully finished University in 2018 with a First Class Honours Degree in Dance and plentiful understanding in both work and performance under my belt. It was an incredible experience.

3. Where has this led you to at the present time and what are your plans for the future?

After returning from a period of performance and learning, I decided to start my own business in dance education and performance: Panthera Dance Company.

Panthera started in a small community hall in Amesbury, on a Sunday Evening, with around 15 students, in late November 2018. Now, in 2020, we have 5 teachers, a state-of-the-art dance studio on Churchfields Industrial Estate in Salisbury, over 120 students and 5 genres of dance education being offered. We teach both dance and yoga in schools across the county, including Exeter House, where we teach children and adults with special educational needs. We offer private lessons, and special occasion events such as birthday parties and hen/stag dos.

I have just recently been awarded Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2020 by the Wiltshire Life Awards for my 'outstanding contribution to the business community in Wiltshire'. To have a career which is also a passion makes me incredibly lucky. Having experienced how going to work doesn't feel like work, I am confident that I made the right choice in my education and career paths. I use almost every day the knowledge that I learnt from both my PE A level and my degree to help my students, who age from 4 to 64!



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