What do you particularly enjoy about studying Health & Social Care?

I particularly enjoy the coursework element. We learn about the importance of equality and diversity, facing ethical dilemmas and how to meet personalised care needs of vulnerable individuals. We then write extended pieces of work on that area. You get regular feedback and comments, so you are constantly aware of where you are up to. Coursework scenarios are about health problems that people experience in real life so you can apply your knowledge to individual health care needs.

How much work is involved? (hours in lessons / outside of lessons)

This is a subject where you are very independent. If you put the hard work in, your grades will reflect this. I have two, 2 hour long lessons a week. We either learn coursework content, complete our coursework independently with support from the teacher or we are taught exam content. Outside of lessons it is important that you keep up to date with your coursework. If you don’t get up to where you should be in the lesson, then it is key to catch up at home. We also have to do our own research about topics prior to lessons so we have basic understanding before we start. I’m close to completing the coursework now and am now just starting the exam work.

If you studied the subject at GCSE how different is studying it at A Level/BTEC Level 3?

I didn’t study Health and Social Care at GSCE, but I did study BTEC level 2 Child Development. To get high grades at level 3, you have to go into a lot more detail and gather more information to write more content than you do at GCSE.
How are you assessed and how regularly?
In Health and Social Care we are assessed by the teacher setting a deadline of when each Learning Aim within the coursework has to be handed in. Your class teacher then marks it with a grade and comments next to the area you need to improve to get a higher grade, as well as commenting throughout to tell you what you have done well. You also sit an exam at the end of the first or second year. Final grades are based on both coursework and the exam, aiming towards pass, merit or distinction.

What support have you received and is support available if you don’t understand something?
I've received support in lessons from my teacher who gives guidance to help find information or answer questions. Also, if you have missed anything or are falling behind, you can speak to your teacher to help you on a 1:1 basis to catch up. During my time so far we have been learning both in classrooms as well as remotely due to COVID-19. The teachers are helpful and if you’re confused or unsure on anything you can email or teams chat/call them and they will try to give you the help you need.

Have you received careers support and what are your future plans?
I have received careers support from both my teacher and the work experience co-ordinator regarding work experience placements that I will need to complete to help me secure a Uni place. My future plans are to study Midwifery at University.