

Bournemouth & Poole College

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A Health and Social Care student from Bournemouth & Poole College was presented with an accolade at the [Daily Echo Proud to Care](#) Awards. Amy Brewer Smith, 20, a Level 3 apprentice at the College, won the Apprentice of the Year category of the awards, which aim to recognise the individuals, businesses and care homes who go out of their way to improve the lives of others.

The finalists were invited to a glittering awards ceremony held at the [Marsham Court Hotel](#) in Bournemouth on Thursday, November 15, where the worthy winners were revealed. Amy scooped the award after being nominated by Bekki Burgess, lecturer in health and social care at Bournemouth & Poole College, in recognition of her hard work during her studies, despite facing some health issues.

Bekki Burgess said: "I am so pleased that Amy was picked by the judges to win the Apprentice of the Year Award, which is well deserved. She started her level 2 apprenticeship back in 2016 and just a few months into her course, she underwent surgery on her spine. However, she came back to work and college as soon as she was physically able to, with the same high level of enthusiasm and passion as before.

"Amy is now on our level 3 apprenticeship and works as a senior domiciliary care worker. She is working hard to build herself strong foundations for her career in adult social care. Amy is really making a difference to the people she supports and they are truly happy to see her when she goes to visit them at home."

Amy said that she chose to study health and social care after looking after her nan, who was very ill before she passed away. She added that she wanted to make a change to other people's lives and to make sure that families know that there are people who are willing to help them.



Reflecting on her award win, Amy said: "I'm very proud to be able to show off my award and I feel so special that I got nominated, as I never thought that I would win. The best bit about being a carer is the rewarding feeling and the pride it gives you to know you're making a difference to so many people."

Bournemouth & Poole College offers a range of courses within the care sector, which all feature a practical element, to enable people to achieve their chosen career. The College team work closely with local organisations and schools across the region to ensure that students are gaining the most up-to-date, relevant experience and skills that employers are looking for.

The College also boasts its own on-campus [Care Innovation Centre](#), featuring the same industry standard equipment that can be found in care homes and schools, as well expert tutors who have worked in the industry.

For more information, go to thecollege.co.uk/care