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Francis Heard

Instructor Cadet Francis Heard of 326 (Hartland) Squadron, Devon and Somerset Wing ATC, joined the ACO at the age of 14. After hearing the stories of fun and excitement his brother and friends were having when out canoeing, shooting, camping and flying, Francis decided he wanted to experience the same thrills.

Having grown up on a dairy farm surrounded by cows and recognising that farming is not the idyllic life sometimes portrayed, Francis has decided not to follow in the family footsteps. Instead he will be leaving farming to his father and brother and plans to forge a career in adult nursing, leading to becoming a Nursing Officer in one of the Armed Forces.

Currently in the final stages of studying for his A-Levels in Psychology, Biology and English Literature, Francis has accepted a university offer to Bournemouth University where he will study adult nursing.

Francis said “Studying the BTEC First Diploma in Public Services has really had an impact on my university application. It showed that I have the ability to study in my own time and outside of the normal educational system.”

“Working with the volunteers of the Hartland Fire Service and Coast Guard during the BTEC has made me a more rounded person. I have had the first hand exposure to what it is like working in the public services sector where I will hopefully be employed.”

In his free time, Francis enjoys nothing more than playing rugby for his local team, shooting on the farm and canoeing across the lakes that he is surrounded by.



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