



**SUCCESS ON A PLATE:** Kitchen worker Paul Paterson at Fulwood Hall Hospital is now training to become a doctor

Working in a hospital kitchen was meant to be a stop-gap summer job for one Lancashire lad. But working in a hospital setting gave him a taste for medicine, and he is now training to become a doctor. Health Reporter AASMA DAY finds out more

**W**ORRIED about plunging into student debt, Paul Paterson was keen to get himself a summer job during his university break, and began working as a catering assistant in a hospital kitchen. Serving hospital food to patients, taking orders and washing up were all in a day's work for Paul, and what began as a stop gap job led to a fascination with medicine, and a complete change of career path, and he is now training to become a doctor at Lancaster University. Paul, 33, of Ronaldsway, Ribblesdale, Preston, who is a former pupil of Fulwood High School, was so determined to become a medic, he studied science A-levels during the evenings at Preston College for four years, in his desire to win a place on the medical course. After leaving school, Paul worked in a bookshop for a couple of years, and then went to St Andrews University to do a degree in philosophy. Following this, he was unsure about what career to go into,

# Doctor's hors d'oeuvres

## From kitchen to medic...

and decided to study a two-year postgraduate course in philosophy in London. Paul says: "I did the first year of my postgraduate course, but I did not end up completing it because of money worries. "I had a lot of debt, and was funding the course myself. I wanted to work off some of my debt, so I decided to postpone my second year and earn a bit of money. "But the way things worked out, it ended up being a permanent postponement." Paul moved back home to Preston, and began looking for some employment. His mum was one of the housekeepers at Fulwood Hall

Hospital, and told him there was a vacancy in the hospital kitchens. Paul says: "My roles were taking food out on the trolleys to patients, serving food to patients and staff, washing up and taking food orders. "It was initially only meant to be a summer job, but I ended up doing it for a year." Paul found that the part of his job he enjoyed the most was his contact with patients, and it gave him the first inkling that he would like to become a doctor. After a year at Fulwood Hall Hospital, a job came up in theatre as a healthcare assistant, and Paul began working there.

He enjoyed this job immensely, as it gave him a greater insight into surgery, and his tasks included helping set up theatre for operations, giving equipment to surgeons during operations, and helping clean theatre and equipment after the procedures. Paul says: "I found it quite fascinating, and I saw a whole range of different procedures, and I felt like I was going behind the scenes of hospitals, and seeing what happened in theatre. "I saw everything from the removal of lumps to spinal ops, knee surgery and hip replacements." After realising he wanted medicine to be his future, Paul

started doing a chemistry degree at Preston College in the evenings, while still working at the hospital.

He then studied biology and maths at night classes too, and he then applied to study medicine at Lancaster University. He is now in the second year of the five-year course.

Paul says: "Doing my A-levels in science and working at Fulwood Hall Hospital made me realise how much I wanted to be a doctor.

"I am particularly enjoying the practical side of my course, and I am enjoying my hospital placement.

"The part of medicine I like the most is how everyone works together for the same aim – for the good of the patient – and it is something that is so worthwhile.

"I am still working at Fulwood Hall Hospital at weekends, as not only does it allow me to get some money under my belt, I really enjoy working there as it is such a friendly place, and it is great experience for training to be a doctor. I am starting to link what I am learning in the classroom to what goes on in the real world."

Chris Buckingham, hospital manager at Fulwood Hall, says: "In whatever role he has played within the hospital, Paul has displayed an enormous amount of enthusiasm and commitment.

"It was clear from the start that he had potential, and we are really pleased that he is following a career in medicine."

## what's next?

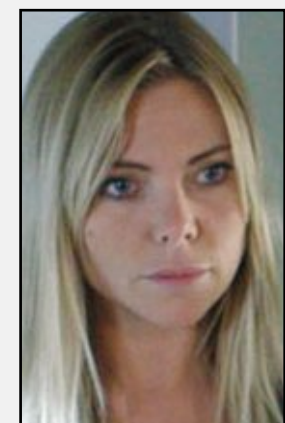


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## television



Ronnie fears she is on the verge of getting caught when the midwife calls round and notices physical differences in the baby. **EastEnders** is on **BBC ONE** at **7.30pm**. TV is on **Page 26**

## breaktime

'Breaking away from a group is never easy, but it's critical to your self esteem...' **Which star sign?** Puzzles and a **Watching Brief** on **Emilia Fox**. All on **Page 27**

