

#NOWWRONGPATH

AGE: 21

JOB TITLE: HOME CARER

BUSINESS: COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR



REBEKAH MACDONALD

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO DO WHEN YOU LEFT SCHOOL?

Ever since I was a young girl it was my dream to become a commercial pilot. I started flying small aircraft when I was 12, flying solo on my sixteenth birthday and I took subjects in school such as physics, engineering and maths that were hopefully going to help me achieve my goal. It was my plan to save up after school and either go to Spain to get my commercial license or do it in stages here in Scotland.

WHAT DID YOU DO AFTER SCHOOL AND WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB?

After I finished school I applied to become a home carer. It was only going to be a short term job to save up for my commercial license, however, a couple of months after I left school it dawned on me that I wasn't going to be happy if I followed through with becoming a pilot. I had known for a while that flying wasn't what I wanted to do but pride kept me from admitting that as I was scared I would be frowned upon as a failure. I had developed a love for all things fitness and health related and decided that if I was going to be happy then I would choose a career doing something I loved so I decided to become a personal trainer. Whilst I've been studying for that and planning my new business, I've stayed in homecare as I love my job so much.

HAVE YOU CHANGED JOBS OFTEN?

I had a summer job when I was sixteen working in a cafe and then I worked in a shop in the evenings and on Saturdays when I was in my final year of school. After I graduated at the age of eighteen I became a home carer and I've been there ever since. In the next few months I'm hoping to set up my own business as a Personal Trainer and start taking clients for 1-1 sessions and also taking some classes through the week.



HOW DID YOU GET INTO YOUR CURRENT ROLE?

My mum phoned me one afternoon from work shortly after I had graduated to tell me that they were advertising for home carers and she thought I would be good at it so I applied, I had an interview and got offered a contract. At first I didn't know whether I would enjoy it or not but three years down the line I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity to work in the caring sector. It not only gives you job satisfaction but a huge amount of life experience. I've been put in situations where I've had to act quickly and use my initiative, I've also been put in situations where I've had to take the lead or work in a team to solve the problem. Being a home carer is very challenging at times but in my opinion, it is one of the most rewarding jobs you can have. I love my job and I love my clients, we laugh together and we cry together, we crack jokes and they give me advice on life, they're like family and you couldn't ask for much more than that.



DO YOU HAVE A MESSAGE TO PUPILS RECEIVING THEIR EXAM RESULTS TODAY?

If there's one thing I've learnt is that even though grades are important, it's not the end of the world if you don't get the results you were hoping for, and even if you don't get straight A's or B's it doesn't mean you're not smart or you didn't try your hardest. Peoples intelligence nowadays is based so much upon grades which to be honest isn't very fair. Some of the most successful people on this planet didn't succeed at school and it just shows you that if you put your mind to something, you can achieve it. I also want to say that what you have planned for your future now, may not be what you end up doing. I'm the proof of that! Do what makes you happy, whether that be caring for the elderly, working in a restaurant or even flying to the moon with NASA as long as you're happy that's all that matters. Fame, success and fortune aren't everything at the end of the day, these things won't bring you happiness. Aim to do the things that make you happy and be grateful for all that you have.



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