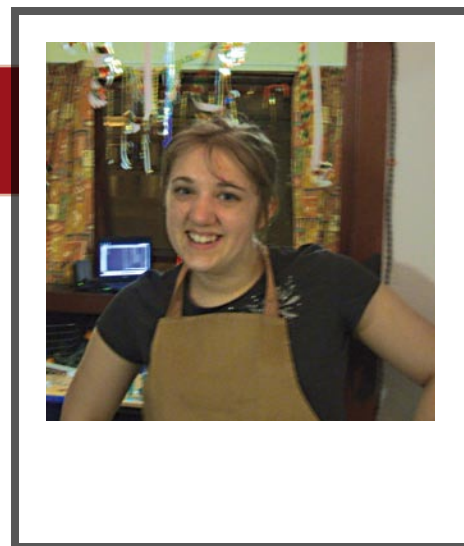


## Kelly's story



After doing my GCSEs I knew I would not be able to do A levels straight away because of my results. I talked to my teachers and they suggested doing a foundation year in the sixth form at The Axe Valley Community College. The foundation year was such a better atmosphere than being in the lower school!

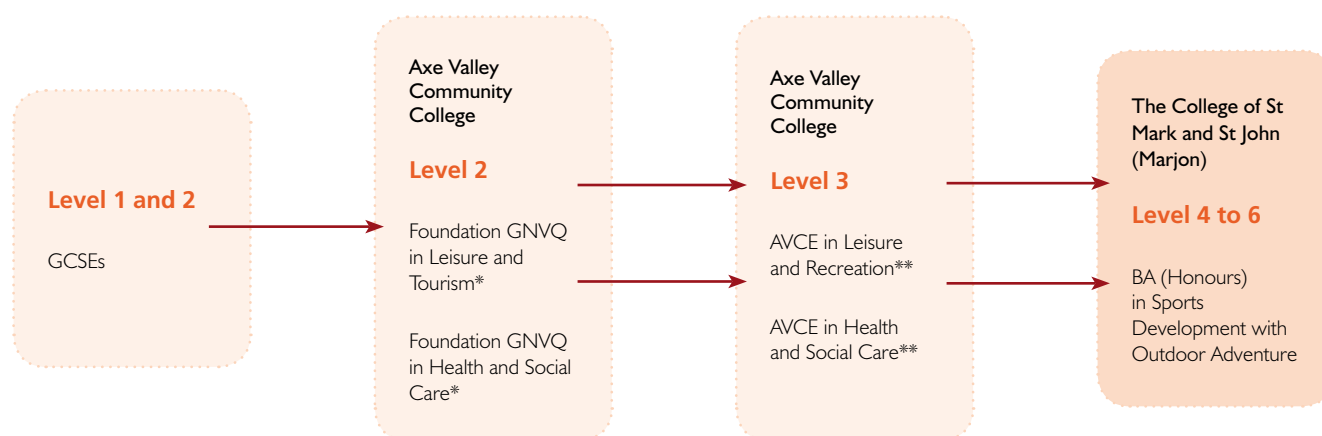
After successfully completing my foundation year I took the choice of going further and doing some advanced courses. I found that AVCEs (now replaced by Applied A levels) matched my capabilities as a practical student who didn't enjoy exam conditions.

Along the way I got involved with the PE staff at the school and volunteered to help run different sporting events which gave me lots of practical experience. I also got involved with the Community Sport Leader Award (CSLA) Scheme which is designed to gain a qualification in leading community sports projects whilst gaining plenty of experience and confidence.

I completed my AVCEs with great results and was accepted by The College of St Mark and St John (Marjon) in Plymouth where I am currently studying Sports Development and Outdoor Adventure. It is a wonderful, friendly atmosphere and it is an incredible experience.

I have come so far since my GCSEs and I believe that taking a vocational route has given me the practical skills and confidence to do what I am doing today and will allow me to achieve my goal of becoming a PE teacher. A vocational qualification is a brilliant way of progressing through to university and beyond. My tip for you is to get volunteering because universities and employers love it! And remember, **you** can do anything if you put your mind to it, I did and it's brilliant!

### Kelly's vocational pathway



\*GNVQs have been replaced by GCSEs in applied subjects or BTECs.

\*\*AVCEs have been replaced by Applied A levels.