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First class achievement for James

An employee who joined South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust as a teenage apprentice has been awarded a first class honours degree.

Senior Biomedical Engineer James Taylor achieved his degree in Medical Equipment Technologies Management from Kingston University London as a result of three-and-a half years of distance learning in his own time, involving 16 hours a week on the computer.

At 17, he decided he had had enough of full-time education and wanted to get a job. He chose to work at the Trust because he was interested in its biomedical engineering apprenticeship and his dad, Keith Taylor, a charge nurse in the Moorlands Day Unit, had told him it was a really friendly place to work.

After completing his four-year training, which was linked with South Tyneside College and the Northern and Yorkshire NHS Assessment Centre, he decided to do a foundation degree in Medical Technologies, which led on to the full degree.

James, 25, of Sunderland, who covers the paediatric and neonatal life support and diagnostics speciality in the biomedical engineering department at South Tyneside District Hospital, said: "I am grateful for the practical support from the team, including my manager Mike Cox, and for the financial support from the Trust, which meant I was able to do the degree. I am tempted to do a Masters in project management but I think I'll have a rest and consider it in a year."

Mr Cox, Head of Biomedical Engineering, said: "The Trust's training programme in biomedical engineering has been very successful, with both James and our previous apprentice, Michael Crowe, becoming valuable members of the team. We hope to start a new apprentice in 2016."
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Pictured above: James Taylor

Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by Kay Jordan

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