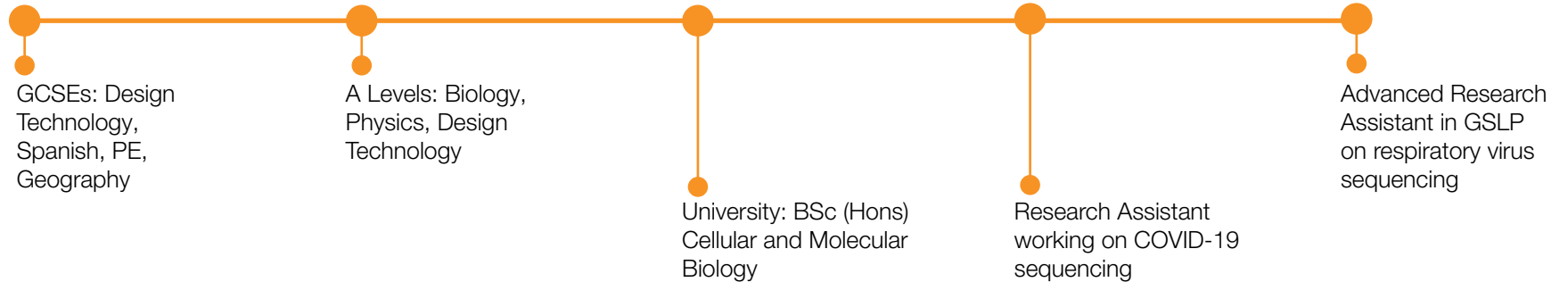**Name:**
Ben

Job title:
Advanced Research Assistant

What do I do:
I work in the Genomic Surveillance Laboratory Platforms (GSLP) team to sequence respiratory viruses and malaria, supplying data for researchers and informing public health decisions.

Career profile Ben

My career highlights

GCSEs: Design Technology, Spanish, PE, Geography

A Levels: Biology, Physics, Design Technology

University: BSc (Hons) Cellular and Molecular Biology

Research Assistant working on COVID-19 sequencing

Advanced Research Assistant in GSLP on respiratory virus sequencing

What do I enjoy most about my job?
I love how varied it can be day to day – from preparing samples in the lab to looking at data and troubleshooting robot problems, there's always something different happening.

What was my favourite subject at school?
Design Technology at both GCSE and A Level gave me an outlet for my creative side. A Level Physics challenged me to work hard to become better at a subject that wasn't naturally my strong suit, which I enjoyed.

Career profile
Ben

Skills I use in my job :

Observation
I keep an eye out for any problems so they can be fixed quickly, making sure tasks are done correctly and to the highest quality.

Teamwork
I work with my team and members of other teams to make sure our work is the best it can be, building positive relationships that enhance our ability to work together.

Communication
I work within a big team to organise, plan and execute our work – clear communication and planning ahead is key to keep the team's work on track.

Analysis
I need to look at the data we produce and check its quality, investigating any problems and ensuring it is of the highest possible quality.

My top tips for students wanting a career in genomics:
- Be open minded to opportunities because they can develop into brilliant experiences.
- Be curious, discover things in your own way.
- Give 100% to your work at any one time – even if your interest or work shifts, you'll have skills and knowledge that can be transferred to everything you do.

What's next in my career?
I am aiming to expand my skillset into more technical areas, learning how to code and program the instruments that we use in the lab. This will help me adapt to new work as we take on more projects in the future.

For more information on careers in genomics, email: engage@wellcomeconnectingscience.org