

COVID Awards 2020

Nominee:	Alex Griffiths	ID No:	024
Volunteers with [if applicable]: Black Country Radio			
Length of service in role	Age	Individual/Group Award	Proposed Category
2yrs with B.C. Radio, 11mths with the NHS	20	Individual	
How do they give their time to the COVID-19 response?			
Alex has continued volunteering at the station, while working at Russell's Hall Hospital on the Covid Wards, providing care and support to those in need.			
Please describe your nominee's service and achievements during the COVID-19 response in more detail:			
<p>Alex volunteers at Black Country Radio, not only as a presenter, but working behind the scenes in the programming team, as a producer and part of the social media team.</p> <p>Alex took on an apprentice role in September last year at Dudley NHS Russell's Hall Hospital as a Health Care Assistant. During the Covid pandemic he went above and beyond, working on Covid Wards on 12 hour shifts in full PPE, providing critical care and also with palliative care, sitting alongside people as they passed. He not only did contracted shifts - but took on lots of bank shifts to support the emergency situation. As the pandemic eased he continued to do additional shifts undertaking swab tests for staff and patients. He volunteered, and was accepted, to be on the front line at the Nightingale Hospital in Birmingham, should it have ever have opened.</p> <p>Due to his work environment, and for protection of other volunteers at Black Country Radio who may be susceptible to being very ill from Covid, Alex stepped back from coming into the station at the start of the lock-down (and has recently returned to onsite volunteering). However, he continued to be involved, as time would allow, supporting other volunteers remotely, providing a local broadcast, media and information service at a time of national crisis.</p> <p>Alex is also a carer to his mom; just before the pandemic his brother was seriously ill (but subsequently fully recovered), and in the middle of the pandemic his dad had a serious injury at home (which he too has recovered from). His dad also had Covid at the peak of the lockdown. Alex has just applied for, and been accepted for a full time Nursing degree at BCU, in Birmingham, which he will start in the coming months.</p> <p>Alex is an exceptional young man and is truly inspirational. It is difficult at times, to appreciate he is just 20 years of age. He stepped up and cared for people in their time of need - helping save lives where he could, sitting with vulnerable people as they passed away, providing exceptional empathy and support in truly exceptional circumstances. He supported his family, and we couldn't keep him away - the limited time he had available he supported volunteers at the station in providing a vital public service.</p> <p>He truly deserves recognition for what he has done over the past few months, and the tireless support he has given not only on the frontline, but also with the station.</p>			