



# CONFIDENCE FOR LIFE





**Confidence for Life**

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# M

## MORAL INTEGRITY

We demonstrate a desire to do the right thing

We act in private as we do in public

We have the courage to say and do the right thing

We stand firm for what is right

We challenge things we think wrong and are open to challenge from others

We are accountable for failure as well as success, and do not allocate blame

We can be relied upon to do what is right

We demonstrate and promote honesty



# A

## AMBITION

We achieve our goals by consistently working toward them

We go above and beyond the call of duty

We aim for the best in 'me and them' and take pride in all we do

We seek help and support before giving up and identify lessons in setbacks

We encourage all to develop maximum potential and support others to achieve

We embrace opportunities, challenge, and seek to develop our skills and talents

We identify opportunities for School Development



# R

## RESPONSIBILITY

We do what we say we will

We are punctual and prompt in all that we do

We use our resources responsibly, developing and caring for our environment

We act before being asked and consistently deliver on expectations

We prepare thoroughly for all tasks

We encourage autonomy in all and seek leadership

We acknowledge and seek to resolve problems

We pioneer better ways of doing things



# K

## KINDNESS

We are open and approachable to all

We welcome and listen to the opinions of others

We look to engage and involve all in the community

We attend to newcomers and those needing help, and build relationships actively

We are positive in responding to questions

We support each other and stand up for fellow colleagues and pupils

We acknowledge individual needs within the community

We speak positively of the School community



# WELCOME

Generations of young people have made their mark at Durham School. The famous graffiti by our Victorian pupils and the more formalised carvings of the names on the pews in Chapel are a physical reminder that our School is shaped by those who study and grow here.

Durham School too has made its mark on its charges. As they go out into the world, they go equipped not only with an academic education but also with values that will stand them in good stead for whatever they want to go on to achieve in life. We summarise these values as MARK: Moral Integrity, Ambition, Responsibility and Kindness - attributes that I feel are all demonstrated in the stories of our young alumni in this book.

We have picked out around 50 Old Dunelmians, some 34 boys and 17 girls reflecting the makeup of the School over the past two decades. From doctors, lawyers and teachers to entrepreneurs, musicians and philanthropists, they are playing leading roles in their communities at home in the North East, and in far-flung places across the world. With nearly 5,000 ODs across the globe, wherever you go, you are likely to bump into an Old Dunelmian.

Collectively, ODs have a deep and heartfelt love for the place in which they spent their formative years as well as the friendships and memories made here. They are keen to offer a hand up to those who follow them, and actively give back to their Alma Mater. As such, they represent a rich resource of contacts for the current generation coming through the School and we benefit greatly from ODs who come back to their school to give careers talks, to offer advice, or even to deliver the address at Speech Day.

I suspect we could have filled this publication a hundred times over and I hope the careers outlined in the book inspire the next generation of Young Dunelmians.

Mr K McLaughlin

Headmaster



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# Matthew Evans S

2012

*School*

## ROWING COMPETITION MANAGER FOR GLASGOW 2018

Having rowed for DSBC since joining School, Matthew started coaching in Y12 and completed his Level 2 Coaching qualification in 2013. "I rowed with mixed success over five years or so at School, but was able to get involved in the other aspects of rowing such as coaching, volunteering and organising events. I was a Bungite, and was Deputy Head of the House in Y13."

After leaving Durham School in 2012, Matthew graduated with a BSc in Biomedical Science from the University of Hull. He was elected twice, first as Deputy President, then as President of the University of Hull's Students' Union. During that time he took roles on the organising committee of many of British Rowing's National Championships events as a volunteer, as well as being the Assistant Team Manager for the GB Universities Rowing Team as part of the European University Games.

Matthew is the only British Rowing member of staff working full time on major events, having been appointed in November 2016 as the Rowing Competition Manager for the Glasgow 2018 European Championships. This is a new multi-sport event, pulling together the European Championships of seven different sports, the first modern multi-sport event outside the Olympic and Paralympic Games to include rowing.

At the age of 23, Matthew is the youngest person to have this kind of role in the rowing world, and he works regularly with the International Rowing Federation (FISA) in the planning and delivery of the event and on knowledge transfer and development between national, continental and world rowing events and competitions.

[www.glasgow2018.com/sports/rowing](http://www.glasgow2018.com/sports/rowing)



# Jack Deverson T E

2010

*School*

## **MANAGING DIRECTOR, EVIDENCE BASED EDUCATION**

Jack left Durham School to go to Newcastle University to read Chinese and German. Without a concrete idea of what he wanted to do for a career, he opted to study something which he enjoyed, and which provided the right amount of challenge.

Upon completion of this degree, Jack set up a company, Evidence Based Education. As Managing Director, Jack is responsible for the smooth running of the business, for ensuring all projects stay on track, and for ensuring all of the team members are in the right places at the right times. Although it has very little to do with his studies, Jack keeps up his Chinese by mentoring some students who have come from China to complete postgraduate degrees at Durham University.

While at Durham School, Jack took as many opportunities as possible to enjoy extracurricular activities. A keen sportsman, he rowed for England under-18s at the Home International Regatta 2010, as well as continuing his long-distance running and editing the pupil newsletter, The Durham Eye.

Personal highlights for Jack include his time spent abroad in China, where he sang and performed in front of more than 800 people, and subsequently ended up reading the news on Chinese TV... Anything even close to these experiences in the future would be unbelievable – it's a high bar to live up to!

[www.evidencebased.education](http://www.evidencebased.education)

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# Adam Bhanji

2005

*Poole*

## ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEON

Adam left Durham School to pursue a career in dentistry. He spent five fulfilling years at Newcastle Dental School, where he was an active member of the Ski Club and the Dental Students' Society, leaving with a Bachelor of Dental Surgery in 2010.

Following graduation, Adam worked in Newcastle both in general dental practice and Newcastle Dental Hospital. After further training within many dental specialties, including restorative dentistry, paediatric dentistry and oral surgery, he moved to Manchester to further his postgraduate training; at this stage, he decided to pursue the speciality of oral and maxillofacial surgery. This specialty is concerned with both treatment and reconstruction of trauma and oncology to the head and neck region.

This career pathway requires both a dental and medical degree, so he began his medical degree at Manchester University where he is now in his final year and will graduate in June 2018.

During his time in Manchester, Adam met his wife, Jo, who is also a dentist. Jo and Adam were married in July 2016 in Durham School Chapel.

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# Andrew Bell

2004

*School*

## CAMPAIGNER

On leaving school in 2004, Andrew studied law at university, graduated and went on to complete his legal practice course. After leaving university, he worked for two years as a project administrator for an international offshore construction company. He then returned to onshore work as a Legal, Risk and Compliance Executive for an international marine insurance company based in Durham.

In May 2015, Andrew's life changed dramatically as a result of a motorcycle accident, which left him paralysed from the top of his chest. Having been such an active and adventurous person before the accident, being told that he would never walk again and that he would be wheelchair-bound for the rest of his days did not sit well with Andrew. So for the past two years, Andrew has been on an incredible journey around the world in an attempt to get back on his feet and has become one of the first people in the world to undergo pioneering epidural stimulator surgery. As a result, Andrew has achieved the impossible by taking his first steps as a complete spinal cord injury patient. Andrew is currently in the process of being filmed for a documentary about his journey since the accident, whilst continuing on his mission to walk again.

"I've consciously been trying to give some hope and positive reinforcement to other spinal cord injury patients and anyone who may be facing some sort of adversity in their lives," said Andrew.

"In addition, I am actively raising awareness for the advancements in medical technology for spinal cord injuries and passionately attempting to spread the message that in life you may not always be dealt the cards you feel you deserve, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't do your absolute best to play the heck out of the ones you're holding."

**NEVER  
GIVE UP**



# Philip Corbett CS

1999

School

## VICAR, ST STEPHEN'S, LEWISHAM

When Philip left Durham School in 1999, he went to read Theology at St Andrews University. At that stage he was not sure what he wanted to do.

"I had been greatly touched by the worshipping life of the School Chapel and particularly, in those days, the Wednesday 8am Holy Communion. The Chaplain advised me just to see how University went."

After St Andrews Philip went on to spend a year at Yale before going to Oxford. At Oxford he decided the time had come to test his vocation. At Pusey House in Oxford, he explored what it meant to be a priest and was selected to train.

"I trained at the College of the Resurrection Mirfield, an experience not too dissimilar to being a boarder in Bungites," said Philip "although with a lot more church!"

He was ordained to serve his curacy, an apprenticeship with another priest, at Worksop Priory in Nottinghamshire.

There Philip got to grips with the daily life of a priest - pastoral

care, administration, baptism, weddings and funerals. When that period of work ended, he was appointed Chaplain and Librarian at Pusey House, Oxford and was interim Chaplain at Lincoln College during a vacancy there.

Philip's ministry in the University included pastoral care for students but also academic work in the library and helping to manage the large and important book and archive collection. There was also daily worship and, on Sunday, a High Mass.

"During my time the Master of the Music was another OD, David Quinn," recalls Philip. "I also had to learn pretty quickly how to cook for large numbers as on most Sundays we hosted a Sunday Lunch for 15 or so hungry undergraduates."

Philip left Oxford in 2013 to become Vicar of St Stephen's, Lewisham a very multicultural parish in South East London.

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# Miriam Davis

*Pimlico*

## VIOLINIST

Miriam Davis is a violinist who has performed throughout the world as a soloist, chamber and orchestral musician. Recent solo performance venues include Stavanger Konserthus, St Martin in the Fields, London and Sage Gateshead. Miriam has also made chamber and solo appearances at the National Portrait Gallery, Cheltenham and Lake District Music Festivals, Tunnell Trust in Coll, Virtuoso & Belcanto Festival Italy, Apeldoorn International Masterclass, Norwegian Youth Chamber Music Festival, Stavanger Chamber Festival, and Prussia Cove International Musician's Seminar. Miriam is a prize-winner in International competitions, including during 2017 the International Grand Virtuoso Competition - Rome, and Virtuoso & Belcanto International Violin Competition, dedicated to Paganini.

Miriam has a keen interest in contemporary music and has recently given solo performances for Ny Musikk Stavanger; In 2015 she participated in Open Strings chamber festival where she had the privilege to work with leading contemporary composer Kaija Saariaho. At festivals she has had the pleasure to perform with renowned musicians including Laura Mikkola, Gabriele Raghianti, Jan Bjranger and Amaury Coeytaux. Miriam currently studies with Philippe Graffin (Hague Royal Conservatory) & Joe Puglia, Jan Bjranger (University of Stavanger, Master's degree) & Eszter Haffner, and she completed her undergraduate studies at Royal College of Music London on a full scholarship.

She has also made extensive private study with several eminent musicians, including Andras Keller, and participated in classes with, Benjamin Schmid, Gyorgy Pauk, Kolja Blacher, Keiko Wataya, Thomas Zehetmair, Amaury Coeytaux, Kungsbacka Trio, Hugh Bean, and Emanuel Hurwitz.

Miriam also has considerable orchestral experience, including winning a first Violin position in the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra at the age of 23 (with which she worked for four years, and had the privilege to perform a full Mahler symphony cycle and record all Shostakovich symphonies on Naxos with conductor Vasily Petrenko), and free-lance work with Royal Northern Sinfonia, London Chamber Orchestra, Aurora Chamber Orchestra, Stavanger Symphony Orchestra, & 1b1, a Norwegian String Ensemble directed by Jan Bjranger, working with soloists such as Clemens Hagen and Leif Ove Andsnes.

Shortly before joining Durham School, at the age of just 12, Miriam led the National Children's Orchestra in concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. During her time at the School, she performed regularly as concertmaster and soloist with Young Sinfonia, Northern Sinfonia's associate Youth Orchestra. She also won 1st prize in the James Etherington music Competition aged 17. At the age of 13, she was accepted to the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain, which she went on to Co-Lead at the BBC proms in the Royal Albert Hall London.

[www.miriamdavisviolin.com](http://www.miriamdavisviolin.com)





# Lee Dowling

2001

*The Caffinites*

**PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR, LMD LAW**

Lee attended Durham School on a Burkitt Scholarship as a day pupil in the Sixth Form. He went on to secure a place at Durham University to read Law, graduating in 2005. Lee then undertook a Master's Degree in Commercial Law at Northumbria University before completing the Bar Professional Training Course. He was Called to the Bar as a Barrister by the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple, one of the Inns of Court, in July 2007.

"Following my Call to the Bar I worked at a local North East law firm before undertaking the Qualified Lawyers Transfer to be admitted as a Solicitor in 2009. Since then I have practised as a solicitor in a range of areas of civil law, in particular business and commercial disputes, and property law.

"In 2011 I took up the position of Partner in a London law firm and subsequently worked as a Consultant Solicitor to a boutique City law firm."

Lee's work has encompassed cases before the Court of Appeal, the High Court and the County Courts, as well as various tribunals. Alongside advocacy and representation, Lee also provides specialist legal advice, consultation and assistance to businesses and individuals in civil and commercial matters.

In 2016 Lee set up one of the first Bar Standards Board law firms in the country, LMD Law. Lee is Principal Solicitor and Head of Legal Practice.

Based in the North East, LMD Law provides business, property, private client and employment law services as well as court representation and dispute resolution services.

[www.lmd.law](http://www.lmd.law)

[lee@lmd.law](mailto:lee@lmd.law)

# Dr Steven Proud T

1998

*Langley*

## **SENIOR TEACHING FELLOW IN ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL**

Steven Proud is a Senior Teaching Fellow and School Undergraduate Education Director in the Department of Economics at the University of Bristol. His research is split between the fields of the economics of education, and pedagogy within the education of economics, and has published recently in the fields of assessment, teaching styles, and peer effects in education. His research has been featured on the BBC, newspapers, and has been interviewed for LBC radio.

Dr Proud also acts as an associate of the Economics Network, providing training and leadership for new academics in developing as university lecturers and teachers. He also writes, and is on the editorial board, for the Economics Review, a magazine aimed at sixth form students studying Economics at A-Level.

In 2017, Dr Proud was elected by students to present a Best of Bristol Lecture. The Best of Bristol lecture series showcase the most exciting and engaging lecturers and research at the University of Bristol, as chosen by students, giving fellow students, university staff and members of the public a chance to experience the best teaching the University has to offer.

A recording of his BOB lecture can be viewed on the Bristol website.

<https://youtu.be/LBWASU1eocA>



# Max Pugh CA

1994

Langley

## FILM DIRECTOR

Max is a filmmaker working all over the world on documentary and fiction projects. His latest feature documentary is Walk With Me. Filmed over three years and with unprecedented access, this visceral film is a meditation on a community which has given up all their possessions for a monastic life in rural France.

Walk With Me is represented by WestEnd Films and has sold to distributors around the world including Kino Lorber / Gathr (USA), Village Roadshow (Australia), DCM (Germany), Gaga (Japan).

As well as working with Benedict Cumberbatch and Djimon Hounsou, Max has also directed award-nominated fiction shorts starring David Oyelowo, Miriam Margolyes and Zawe Ashton.

Max's first feature documentary THE ROAD TO FREEDOM PEAK was commissioned by Foxtel and Screen Australia and sold world rights to Netflix.

Max is also known for his video art installations made in collaboration with the celebrated composer Michael Nyman.

[www.maxpugh.com](http://www.maxpugh.com)







# Olivia Rae

2005

*Pimlico / MacLeod*

## CRICKETER

After leaving Durham School, Olivia travelled to Ethiopia where she taught English in a school for two months and then onto Hong Kong. Here she played cricket for the Kowloon Cricket Club and was also appointed as Assistant Coach to the Hong Kong women's national team.

Olivia attended Durham University to read Anthropology and Sociology, became part of the MCC University performance training squad and represented the 1st XI women's cricket team, playing as vice-captain in her final year.

"I chose to read Anthropology and Sociology as I was interested in learning about wider global society and gaining an insight into different cultures. I didn't have a career in mind at this stage but I knew I had a passion for cricket, helping others and learning."

In 2010, Olivia undertook a master's degree at Edinburgh University, reading African and International Development. The motivation behind this came from being part of a UK Sport initiative while she was at Durham University. This involved Olivia travelling to Zambia where she coached for a few months and saw the positive impact of sport and how it can transform people's lives. "I undertook my Master's research in Tanzania on the impact of encouraging females to participate in sport in developing countries."

At the same time, Olivia continued playing cricket and was selected to represent Scotland; in 2016 she received her 50th cap. Since completing her Master's, Olivia remains based in Edinburgh coaching in various contexts and has qualified as a level 3 performance coach. She spent two seasons playing cricket in New Zealand, as well as travelling to Thailand and Sri Lanka for World Cup qualifying tournaments.

"While at Durham School, I enjoyed playing all sports. I coxed the first four when I was in lower remove and we won numerous

regattas. I played first team hockey and even represented the boy's first and second cricket teams. I was the first girl to represent the School for cricket in its six-hundred year history. I played the flute in orchestra, drums in Jazz band and I was in the choir for all my school years. While at Durham School I had the opportunity to travel, I went to Paris on a French trip, Iceland for a geography field trip and I went to Argentina as part of World Challenge.

"Durham School taught me that education is a rounded experience. It is not simply about your academic ability and by participating in many different activities, you can find out what you enjoy and what you are passionate about. I took that into life, keeping an open mind and following what was authentic to me. There are no deadlines in life about finding your purpose and school is one small part of it, but it is a massive opportunity to start exploring what you are capable of across multiple disciplines.

"In 2016, I started a part-time doctorate in Education at Durham University as I realise that it is the topic that I am most passionate about. I believe education should be inclusive, and a positive experience accessed by all and I am looking into what makes effective coaches, teachers and leaders within education and society. I am still enjoying playing cricket for the Scotland women's team and look forward to receiving my 100th cap one day. As a squad, we are working towards qualification for the next T20 world cup in the West Indies."

When Olivia is not studying or playing cricket, she coaches. Having worked in both primary and secondary schools, Olivia spent time running a regional development programme for U16 girls in the East of Scotland. At the time of publication, Olivia has just moved to London to coach at the MCC Academy at Lords.

# Paul Croft CA E

2002

Poole

## GAME DESIGNER AND CO-FOUNDER, MEDIATONIC

Paul has always been interested in Computers. He loved technology, design and computer games at School and spent a lot of his spare time building websites and animations. After he graduated from School, he went to study Multimedia Design at Brunel University in London.

During his time at university, he started a company – Mediatonic – with a close friend. They focused on building websites, animations and games.

“At the beginning, when it was just two of us we had to do everything, from the programming and design to drawing (badly!). We worked on the business alongside our studies at university and built a strong base of clients and projects.”

“When we graduated, we rented a very small office in London, began to hire people to help us and worked hard to grow the company. After a few years, we decided to specialise purely in designing and developing computer games.”

The business is now twelve years old. Paul now has a team of 150 people across several studios who have made more than 100 games. “Our games have been played by more than 150 million people around the world. We like to have fun with the games we make. Our games include titles like Amateur Surgeon, Heavenstrike Rivals, Hatoful Boyfriend, Foul Play and Monsters (Probably) Stole My Princess.

Paul is philosophical about his success - “I still love playing games, and I’m grateful it’s something I get to call my job.”

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ALAN PROBE:

# AMATEUR SURGEON



# Rob Ribchester

1999

Poole

## CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT, RIBCHESTERS

Rob is a partner at Durham and Newcastle-based accountancy firm, Ribchesters, which specialises in providing large corporates, owner-managed businesses, charities and individuals with a complete set of audit, accountancy, tax and advisory services.

Rob left School unsure as to what he wanted to do as a career, but with guidance and support from Mr Bushnell, Rob's Housemaster, he opted to read Economics at Edinburgh University. Rob then spent a year in London, working in the financial management sector. Though he soon realised this was not his calling, the experience was not wasted - "Often knowing what you definitely do not want to do is as helpful as knowing what you want to do."

Rob returned to Durham to complete a Master's Degree at Durham University in Business and Finance. Additional Career advice from Durham University led him to chartered accountancy.

In 2007, he qualified as a Chartered Accountant in London with BDO Stoy Hayward. Then followed three years in the City with Deloitte, before moving back to Durham in 2010 to become a partner at Ribchesters, Chartered Accountants.

Although Rob left Durham School before the new Millennium, it is still a large part of his life today. As Chairman of the Board of Governors, Rob is involved in many aspects of the running of the School. Rob and the Governors are charged with supporting the School and ensuring that the management and leadership of the School are in keeping with its mission and ethos. Additionally, and no less important, is the task of ensuring the long-term future, development and strategy for Durham School.

Apart from being a valuable member of the Durham School Governing body, he is also the trustee of The Henry Smith Charity, a trustee of numerous other trusts and charitable organisations and is a member of the Durham Committee of Barnardo's. Rob attributes his charitable works and interests as stemming back from his days at School and working at Oxfam as part of this Duke of Edinburgh Award.

[rob.ribchester@ribchesters.co.uk](mailto:rob.ribchester@ribchesters.co.uk)



# Dr Hannah Baird

2006

*Pimlico*

## EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Hannah is a specialist trainee doctor in Emergency Medicine. After leaving School, Hannah studied Medicine at The University of Manchester and gained a first in an intercalated degree in International Health at The University of Leeds. During this time she undertook research in a Ugandan refugee camp on health-seeking behaviours in HIV, an interest she further developed after volunteering in Zambia and establishing a project supporting villagers to access anti-retroviral medication. Her project continues to flourish eight years later.

Hannah relates her passion for travel and volunteering to her World Challenge experience whilst at Durham School. Hannah has an interest in medical leadership, chairing and subsequently sitting on the Executive Committee for the North-West Medical Leadership School and is the National Chair for the Faculty of Medical Leadership and Management's Trainee Steering Committee.

During Hannah's Foundation Training she conceived and devised a programme for junior doctors aimed at empowering medical trainees to improve the quality of patient safety. 'TIPS' (Trainees Improving Patient Safety) was a direct response to the critical Mid-Staffordshire Report. Having delivered presentations at both national and international conferences she has won many prizes for the TIPS programme, which is now commonplace across twenty-one NHS Trusts within the North West and Mersey. Alongside her 'day job', she is studying towards a Master's degree in Medical Leadership.

On the clinical side of things, Hannah is a qualified ALS (Advanced Life Support) and APLS (Advanced Paediatric Life support) instructor and has the ambition to dual accredit in Emergency and Intensive Care Medicine. Reflecting on her time at Durham School, Hannah states that "Durham School gave me the confidence to pursue opportunities and challenge myself, instilling within me the importance of complementing academic endeavours with extra-curricular activities."





# Charlie Fagg S

2015

Poole

## GT RACING DRIVER

Charlie Fagg has just completed his first season in GT racing. The first half of the season, he competed in the GT4 European Series Northern Cup with Sean Walkinshaw Racing, which took him to Misano, Italy, Brands Hatch, UK and Redbull Ring, Austria. He was then offered the opportunity to race with Ebor GT Motorsport in their Maserati GT4 car, racing at Spa-Francorchamps Belgium.

"It was a fantastic weekend racing at an iconic track in which we won both races," recalls Charlie. From there, Charlie moved onto Zandvoort, Holland, again with Ebor GT Motorsport where he celebrated another fantastic weekend - turning 18 and winning both races. "I was lucky enough to have support from two of my Durham School friends who flew over to surprise me."

At the end of August Charlie was asked by JRM-Group to test their Nissan Nismo GTR-GT3, which they wanted to launch at Donington for the final round of British GT in September. GT3 is the pinnacle of the sports car racing world. "It was a privilege to race in such a highly-regarded car with a huge fan base. On September 24 2017, we competed in the two hour race at Donington Park in which we finished 5th overall which was a brilliant result for the team in their debut race."

In 2018, Charlie will be racing as part of McLaren's Driver Development Programme in the McLaren 570S GT4 Series. "This is the best car on the grid" says Charlie, "I can't wait to get started. I have raced against the car and it has always been the best. To actually be able to be part of McLaren is so exciting."

"I have many fond memories of Durham School; however, I particularly enjoyed the House events. One memory that sticks out is performing at the Sage in Gateshead for House Music, in which I performed in the part song for Poole House. The song we sang was George Ezra, 'Budapest'. It was really special to perform in front of the massive crowd that was there that evening especially considering there were only seven of us singing!

[@Chariefagg28](#)



# Victoria Watson

1998

*Pimlico*

## COMMUNICATIONS & PERSONAL BRANDING CONSULTANT

Having worked in PR and marketing for leading hotel, design and lifestyle brands since 2006, Victoria set up VJW Communications with the aim of supporting women launching their own businesses, by helping them to understand the basics of marketing, communications and brand building.

“Defining how to market yourself effectively can be one of the most daunting parts of setting up a business” notes Victoria. “I help to put the building blocks in place by working with clients either via one-on-one workshops, consulting or delivering bespoke marketing services which include PR, content creation and social media.”

Currently based in London, Victoria is an active member of a number of women in business groups including Blooming Founders and Driven Woman and regularly mentors women who are at the beginning of the business start-up process. She also has a personal and professional interest in health and wellbeing and believes that in order to thrive in the business world we must work towards creating a better work/life balance by improving education for entrepreneurs around self-development, nutrition and mental health.

[www.vjwcommunications.co.uk](http://www.vjwcommunications.co.uk)

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JOSE

PILPERIKY  
FABRIK  
FOR SPICE  
BENGALEEN  
SINGAPORE

# Antonia Storey-Mason

2007

MacLeod

## **EXECUTIVE SEARCH CONSULTANT, ODGERS BERNDTSON**

Following the completion of her A levels at Durham School, Antonia went straight to the University of St Andrews where she read for a degree in German. "I chose St Andrews because it enabled me to study a broad range of subjects at sub-honours, and as well as German I took modules in Modern History, Theology, Italian and History of Art. As a linguist, I also had the opportunity to take a third year abroad during which time I worked for the British Council teaching English in two independent schools in Tyrol and failed miserably at learning to ski!"

Antonia enjoyed the academic work, graduating with a first-class degree. Without a job to go to she turned to the university careers centre. "I settled on executive search because I wanted to pursue a career in the private sector that enabled me to retain a focus on education."

Antonia worked initially in the Education and Social Enterprise practice of a large American firm, Heidrick and Struggles, before moving to Odgers Berndtson, the largest British executive search firm. At Odgers, she is an associate focusing on senior appointments within the schools sector. The highlights of her role to date include finding Heads for leading independent schools such as Tonbridge, Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School and Millfield.

"Whilst at Durham School, I enjoyed taking part in the choir, orchestra, School plays and house events. I spent a lot of time in the Modern Languages department and was inspired to read German by my teacher, Dr Alderson, without whose very thorough grounding I doubt I would have been so successful at St Andrews!"

[www.odgersberndtson.com](http://www.odgersberndtson.com)

[antonia.storey-mason@odgersberndtson.com](mailto:antonia.storey-mason@odgersberndtson.com)





# Greg Turner B

2008

*Poole*

## NATIONAL ACCOUNT MANAGER, KOPPARBERG UK

On leaving Durham School Greg attended Newcastle University to read Politics & Sociology, followed by a Master's Degree in Marketing and International Business.

Greg now works for Kopparberg UK, part of the Kopparbergs Bryggeri family from Sweden. A pioneer, Kopparberg was the first fruit cider in the UK and is today the bestselling fruit cider brand in the United Kingdom. Greg started his time at Kopparberg as a customer business manager in the North East and rose quickly through the ranks into his current position as a National Account Manager. He is currently responsible for several of the UK's leading on-trade retail brands including Walkabout, Revolution, Harvester, All Bar One and Miller & Carter to name but a few. In addition to this, he manages customers in the hotel sector including Marriott, Jury's Inn and Travelodge and manages the National Union of Students (NUS) account. Collectively, the customers in Greg's ledger represent over 2,000 of the UK's licensed outlets selling over 2 million litres of Kopparberg annually!

His responsibilities include sales and new business, customer P&L management, brand marketing and product logistics. Day-to-day his role involves working directly with Kopparberg's sales director, senior marketing team, and financial controllers to deliver on sales targets and brand goals.

"Kopparberg is one of the leading brands in the UK drinks sector and the pioneer of the fruit cider category. I am incredibly proud to work for a fantastically dynamic, fun, family-owned business that positively challenges me daily and is part of an industry that contributes a great deal to our economy."

[www.kopparberg.co.uk](http://www.kopparberg.co.uk) / [www.kopparbergs.se](http://www.kopparbergs.se)

[greg.turner@kopparberg.co.uk](mailto:greg.turner@kopparberg.co.uk)

The Kopparberg Brewery in Sweden where every drop of Kopparberg is produced.



# Chris Elliott

CA

E

1993

*The Caffinites*

## ENTREPRENEUR AND OPERA SINGER

Anyone looking at Chris Elliott's CV could be forgiven for thinking that the pages of two very different people's CVs had been mixed up. Half is boardrooms and business while the other half sees him literally singing for his supper. His is a 'portfolio' career.

Chris built an impressive reputation as a headhunter for the world's foremost executive search firm, Heidrick and Struggles, before the siren call of his first love become just too great. He cashed in the security of PAYE and a pension, set up on his own, pursued a career as a performer, and now runs his two overlapping careers side-by-side.

"Life is way to short not to love what you do," he explains. "Fun should be a reason for going to work, not an occasional by-product of it."

Like so many others, Chris says he started his working life without much of a plan and worked out his path in life by trial and error. That experience of too much trial and a few too many errors latterly inspired him to set up and run a business that applies methodologies employed by the likes of IBM, Apple and NASA and uses them to help young people ensure they make the right start in life. When, that is, he's not travelling the world as an opera singer.

A Music Scholar, Art Scholar and Caffinite (1988-1993), Chris always knew in his heart that he wanted creativity and music in general - and singing in particular - to be an essential part of his life. However, he also knew all too well that the performing arts were extremely competitive, tough and far from well-paid.

While a singer with the National Youth Choir he was given what he says was some excellent advice; not to go to music college as a young tenor, but to get a degree and experience in a more stable complementary career, and then study singing as a

postgraduate.

He studied English at Glasgow, picking up extra CV points by running its incredibly successful debating society, sitting on the board of the students' union, and being the Arts Faculty's student representative on the University Senate. However, singing remained a major chord in his life. "I earned pretty good money as a choral scholar at Glasgow Cathedral and snuck off from classes to sing in the chorus of the RSAMD [Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama] opera school's productions,' he explains. All of this would later make for great experience and useful connections.

After university, he foreswore Milk Round jobs and headed to London for a media sales role and a "very steep learning curve in how to develop business". Combining these skills with a real fascination for what motivates successful people, he chose a career path as a headhunter, working in London and Sydney.

At 28, he was back at the RSAMD, winning a place in their opera school, at the end of which time he was named as one of the top 50 people to watch globally by Opera Now Magazine. He was then able to balance a career travelling the world as a singer studying and working in New York, Geneva and Italy ("great fun but badly paid") with taking on headhunting assignments to "keep the lights on and the fridge stocked".

Now, at 43, having established a thriving headhunting and human performance consulting business, he is using his experience gained working with business and creative leaders, in partnership with a select team of business experts, to focus on his two big business passions: unlocking creativity and helping young people launch their careers.

The first sees him helping individuals, teams and businesses

become more creative: He wryly quips that “until you've seen an entire board of directors trying to sing Nessun Dorma, you haven't really lived”.

The second of those passions is helping young people make sure they choose a career that will make them happy and successful. “Finding the right path in life can be very difficult, and the days are long gone when you could afford to gradually discover your way.

“Being able to realise what is going to make you happy in life and how to avoid life's pitfalls as young as 18 gives you a huge advantage at university and beyond: especially in what is an ever more competitive and complex marketplace, one where many current professions may not even exist in ten year's time. For this generation, self-knowledge and adaptability will be the key to success.”

The days of working for one company, or possibly even in one career, look to be increasingly behind us, and it seems that portfolio careers like Chris has will become increasingly common.

More information on Chris's company and how they can help you with your future can be found at

[www.elliottarmstrong.co.uk/life-launch/](http://www.elliottarmstrong.co.uk/life-launch/)

or by emailing [chris@elliottarmstrong.co.uk](mailto:chris@elliottarmstrong.co.uk)



# Emily-Jane Smith E

2010

MacLeod

## THE PETITE PROSECCO COMPANY

Emily-Jane Smith, former Head of MacLeod, and her best friend/business partner Jade Craggs have set out to share their love for all things Prosecco and spread the word that the glass is neither half empty nor half full....it is always refillable!

After stumbling (not literally) across a similar company in Yorkshire and looking into becoming franchisees, both girls thought "why not do it ourselves?!" Both Emily-Jane and Jade have a wealth of marketing knowledge and experience so they are so excited to be able build a brand from the ground.

Emily-Jane explains "we saw a gap in a growing market and decided to pop the corks, go full steam ahead and make it happen. I believe Durham School gave me the confidence and gumption to believe in myself and the business idea - only you can make your dreams reality."

The Petite Prosecco Company is available for large or small private events as well as weddings and charity functions. Their cute Italian van is fully equipped to serve fresh, crisp Italian Prosecco come rain or shine and will surely add sparkle to any event."



[www.thepetiteproseccocompany.co.uk](http://www.thepetiteproseccocompany.co.uk)



# Dr Christopher Hilton

1998

Langley

**PSYCHIATRIST & STRATEGY DIRECTOR,  
WEST LONDON MENTAL HEALTH NHS TRUST**

Dr Christopher Hilton read Medical and Veterinary Sciences at Trinity Hall, Cambridge after leaving Durham School in 1998, and completed his studies in Clinical Medicine at Imperial College London. He worked as a junior doctor in North West London before specialising in Psychiatry, becoming a Member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in 2010. He joined West London Mental Health NHS Trust (WLMHT) in 2013 as a Consultant in Liaison Psychiatry, and undertakes clinical work in Ealing and Charing Cross Hospitals.

Chris is also the Clinical Lead for Home Ward Ealing, an integrated physical health and social care service providing admission avoidance, supported discharge, and rehabilitation interventions for over 5000 older people per year.

In 2016 he became a member of the Trust's Management Team as Director of Business and Strategy, overseeing commercial activities, and interfaces with other parts of the NHS in the region. WLMHT is one of the most diverse providers of physical and mental healthcare in

England, providing a range of services from public health and wellbeing through to highly specialised care at Broadmoor Hospital. The Trust employs 3500 staff, supports 70,000 patients per year and has an annual turnover of £250m. Chris was named a "Rising Star" by the Health Service Journal in January 2015.

Dr Hilton's professional interests include: integrated care, particularly ensuring mental health is embedded in new models of care; novel psychoactive substances; quality improvement and service redesign; and the arts in health; and he has written and presented internationally on these subjects.

Chris is an Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College London and a co-opted member of the Liaison Psychiatry Faculty of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

He is an avid theatre goer, devoted to his one year old cocker spaniel puppy, and tweets as @drchrishilton and for @WLLiaisonPsych and @EalingHome\_Ward



# Dominic Parker CA

1994

Poole

## DIRECTOR, BBC SCOTTISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

In 2016 Dominic took up the role of Director of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, based in Glasgow. The BBC SSO play across Scotland and the UK, at the BBC Proms in London, tour internationally, and broadcast on BBC Radio 3, BBC TV and online.

His job covers all aspects of the orchestra's work – what they play, where they play, their relationships with conductors, solo artists and orchestra players, team management, finances, and the many facets of the BBC.

"I had a very good musical education at School – although I never studied music for GCSE or A-Level – but played flute in the orchestra and bands, and played piano and sang in the choir. After school I studied English Literature at Oxford University, where music continued to be an important thread."

Dominic's first job was in the poetry world, at the Wordsworth Trust in the Lake District, where he learned a huge amount from a number of inspiring people. After several years, he moved to London, initially to work for a theatre, and then joined the team at the London Philharmonic Orchestra for four great years. Since then, his jobs have all been musical; The Southbank Centre in London, The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama in Cardiff, and then, returning to the North East, to Sage Gateshead.

"The Sage was an amazing experience for five years, but I couldn't turn down the chance to work for the BBC SSO – so far so good!"

[www.bbc.co.uk/bbcso](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcso)





# Steven Partington Braines

1998

*Langley*

## MUSIC MANAGEMENT, THE WEIRD & THE WONDERFUL

After leaving Durham, Steven got a master's degree in Occupational Psychology from Northumbria University, in between running club nights, music scouting and working as a music journalist.

“I loved Durham School. I was arguably wonderful, definitely weird; winning the drama prize and wanting to be a professional wrestler! “

After a gap year in Australia; Steven sofa surfed in London for about 18 months before working for Crown Music who at the time managed Ed Sheeran, Ellie Goulding and Rita Ora and for Incentive who manage The Prodigy.

Around five years ago, Steven founded his own talent management company; The Weird & The Wonderful to manage left-field artists, DJs, producers and musicians. In 2015, they had their first UK No.1 with KDA's “Turn The Music Louder” and one of his artists, Maya Jane Coles, has been sampled by the likes of Nicki Minaj and Katy Perry.

Steven's award-winning acts now play in over 40 countries a year. In 2017, he became the youngest board member of the Music Manager's Forum.

“I regularly speak at music conferences around the world and consult for big brands. It is a lot of work but I'm happy. I also work as an artist/poet and am currently launching a fashion label.”

[brainzo@theweirdandthewonderful.com](mailto:brainzo@theweirdandthewonderful.com)

<http://theweirdandthewonderfulofficial.tumblr.com/>





## Jen Kirkley B

2007

*Pimlico*

### SENIOR PROCUREMENT MANAGER, HARGREAVES GROUP

Jennifer started at Durham School, at the age of 11, in September 2000, the only female in Year 7 for the first term. She was undaunted by this thanks to her brothers, Stewart and Fraser, who joined the School, in 2002 and 2004, respectively, followed by sister, Kirstie, in 2009.

Jennifer made her mark, and, having always had a keen interest and been willing to take an active role in the life of Durham School, became Deputy Head of School. Jennifer also resurrected and became President of the Strathclyde Psychology Society, when she was at University. During the summers at University, Jennifer joined the family business of Financial Advisors, Redworth Caledonian Associates. She developed an interest in Procurement. Once graduated, Jennifer moved to work at Hargreaves Services as the Group Procurement Officer and completed the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply Professional Diploma. This qualification, combined with experience in the sector enabled her to assume the role of Procurement Manager at Hargreaves Surface Mining Limited, and subsequently Senior Procurement Manager for the Hargreaves Group.

Durham School was pleased to entice her to become a Governor in 2015 and benefits greatly from her personal knowledge of the School, but more importantly her expertise in planning and development to ensure the future success of Durham School.

[www.redworthcaledonianassociates.co.uk](http://www.redworthcaledonianassociates.co.uk)

# Major David Hawthorn M AF

2003

*The Caffinites*

## ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

David joined the British Army in 2007, after completing a Biology Degree at the University of Edinburgh. He is now employed as a Medical Support Officer (MSO) within the Royal Army Medical Corps. The role of an MSO is to plan the medical laydown required to support the fighting troops and command the medical elements deployed.

“During my career, I have been employed in Close Support Units, Field Hospitals, Ministry of Defence Hospital Units and Brigade Headquarters, both in the UK and on operations. I have been deployed to Afghanistan twice, once in command of a Medical Troop in support of an Infantry Battlegroup and once as the Medical Intelligence Officer (Med IO) in a brigade headquarters. As the Med IO, I was responsible for monitoring health trends and injury patterns in order to identify threats to the health of the deployed force. I have more recently been employed as an instructor within the Defence School of Healthcare Education where I taught junior officers, newly commissioned from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, the skills required to be officers within the Army Medical Services.

David is currently Adjutant of the Defence Medical Group South East, and is responsible for personnel management and discipline of a unit of 250 officers and soldiers.

“My career so far has been hugely varied and rewarding and allowed me the opportunity to gain skills and experience in Command and Leadership, Personnel Management, Training and Education, Healthcare Provision, Finance, Operations, Logistics and Security.”

[www.army.mod.uk](http://www.army.mod.uk)



# Ross Chapman

2012

*School*

## JOCKEY

After his last exam on a Friday afternoon in June 2012, Ross left Durham School and started work at Donald McCain Jnr's racing yard in Cheshire the next day! Entering 'the big, wide world' at just 16 years old was an eye opener, especially as he was experiencing being away from home and living independently for the first time in a highly-competitive environment.

Ross gained valuable experience working at the McCain yard for a year. However, a couple of knee operations meant that he had to have an enforced holiday before coming back fully fit and being offered a job at Lucinda Russell's yard in Kinross. Despite this setback, Ross again climbed the racing world ladder, and is now Conditional Jockey at Iain Jardine's yard in Dumfries.

Dedication is everything. Eating the right food, early nights, saunas to keep weight down are all part of the daily routine. Come rain, hail or snow, Ross's day starts at 5.30am. His role is a combination of riding out, schooling over fences and galloping as well as routine yard duties including mucking out, feeding and grooming, even on race days.

Ross's car is an essential tool of his trade, with his mileage easily reaching 1,000 miles each week. He races anywhere from Ayr to Exeter. All the hard work is worthwhile when the day concludes with a good result, especially a winner. There is a sobering side to Ross's job too. Horse Racing can be dangerous - not many of us are followed at work by an ambulance!

Part of the job also entails being able to interact with a wide variety of people from all walks of life. The racing world is a diverse one, full of colourful characters and the ability to conduct yourself in an appropriate manner is a vital ingredient when meeting owners, trainers and race officials. Ross points out "It is something you don't get a qualification in, but can be of equal importance. First impressions count and greeting someone with even the right handshake can make all the difference, and that is something I took with me from Durham School."

Ross has had a good first season as a Conditional Jockey, riding, not only for Iain Jardine, but also for other trainers. "Every race I am in means I gain more experience. It's a tremendous feeling to win, but it's also important to recognise that when things are not quite going your way, you use that experience and turn it into a positive".

With Ross's drive and determination, he is hoping that he can achieve even more success in the future. Ross is aiming to finish in the top-five Conditional Jockeys table this season, and has a career ambition to one day become Champion Jockey.







## Alex Cronin B

2006

*School*

### REGIONAL SALES MANAGER, TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

Having read Maths, Physics and Economics at A level, Alex studied Electrical and Electronic Engineering at the University of Glasgow. During this time Alex had the opportunity to captain the University Water Polo team, sing Tenor in the Choral Society, be President of the Engineering Society and Vice President of the Sports Association. Building on the foundations of brilliant opportunities offered, and skills taught at Durham School.

On leaving University Alex got a place on the Graduate Scheme at Texas Instruments Inc., the American technology and semiconductor company. Over the past six years he has worked all over the world marketing their products and now leads a sales team supporting some of the biggest technology companies in the UK.

Over the past decade, Alex has taken part in a large number of sporting events including marathons and IronMan competitions, raising over £200,000 and supporting some great charities, particularly Cystic Fibrosis.

Alex has a great affinity to Durham and the School. He is now back living in the North East with his wife. They married last summer in the School Chapel.

[www.ti.com](http://www.ti.com)

[a-cronin@ti.com](mailto:a-cronin@ti.com)

# Rebecca Vaslet SE

2011

*Pimlico*

**GRADUATE ENGINEER,  
OFFSHORE RENEWABLES TEAM, ATKINS**

Rebecca joined Atkins, one of the world's most respected design, engineering and project management consultancies, in October 2016 as a Graduate Engineer. Rebecca graduated with a Master's Degree in Electrical and Mechanical Engineering from University of Strathclyde before joining the Offshore Wind team as part of the Energy Group. Her current projects range from the design of floating offshore wind farm foundations to the remediation of existing wind turbine foundations.

Rebecca's interest in reading Engineering came from knowing that her strengths lay in maths and physics, but wanting to do something practical and wanting to see her designs be created in front of her eyes. Knowing that she would be one of a few females on her course didn't discourage her, as her maths teacher whilst at Durham had also read engineering and was full of encouragement. Her final dissertation was on the structural integrity of onshore wind turbine foundations.

While at Durham School, Rebecca was a keen member of the boat club which carried on into her time at university.

[www.atkinglobal.co.uk/en-GB/group/sectors-and-services/sectors/environment](http://www.atkinglobal.co.uk/en-GB/group/sectors-and-services/sectors/environment)



# Ava Garbutt (née Tansey)

Pimlico

## THE HIGHER EDUCATION ADVISOR FOR THE CROWN PRINCE OF BAHRAIN'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Ava left Durham School to attend Northumbria University to read Applied Consumer Sciences with the intention of taking over the consumer world! In reality, after three years she had discovered she was actually heading in the wrong direction (these things happen) and did not want to design Rowenta products at university anymore; therefore, she decided to change tack on graduation. Luckily for Ava, an OD friend had joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) straight from school and had recommended Ava to their recruitment department and after a full year of interviews and security clearances, Ava started work with the FCO in London. It was a whole new world of excitement! Short business trips to Paris, Brussels and Vienna, followed by two 3-year postings to both Madrid and Bahrain (where she has lived since she was nine years old and still does!). The overseas postings were both challenging as languages had to be learned in situ as there was no time for language training prior to the postings. Ava dealt with all overseas government departments, police forces, embassies and general public in both postings. You have to learn very quickly how to network properly in the very early days which really helped later in life. You also have to act as Duty Officer after hours to support British Citizens abroad should there be an emergency. Being calm and confident was vital with this. Some ODs may laugh but Ava was actually shy when she first started Durham School but in the two years there, she became confident and no longer afraid of public speaking (thanks to Heretics) and the great support network of Pimlico House girls (you meet your best friends for life at Durham School that is for sure!). This definitely helped Ava in both of her careers. The FCO also make people work in different departments continually so that people learn so many different skills. They like versatility - Ava also worked in Training, Personnel, Finance and with some of the main FCO directors. Ava found that that the harder you worked, the more proactive you were, the better your next position in the FCO could be compared to colleagues. A sound work ethic was vital.

After her posting ended in Bahrain, Ava decided to stay in Bahrain as she had met her husband there and they wanted to stay. Ava resigned from the FCO and applied for a position with His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa as the Higher Education Advisor for the Crown Prince's International Scholarship Program ([www.cpisb.bh](http://www.cpisb.bh)). HRH sends 10 of Bahrain's top high school students (both private and ministry schools) every year to boarding school and university in the UK, USA, Canada, Europe, Singapore and Australia and Ava is now responsible for all 176 students' academic, pastoral and financial needs. Ava also arranges internships every summer for each student, where needed, to help them build up their CV from 17 years old and onwards as well as community service. This helps immensely with UCAS applications and future job applications. Ava also arranges full time employment for these students on their return to Bahrain if they decide to return. This program is the only scholarship program in the world that does not require students to return to their country. The students are ambassadors of the program no matter where they are in the world. The versatility aspect of her previous job helped Ava settle into this role quickly.

Ava also joined the Bahrain British Business Forum in 2002 ([www.bbbforum.org](http://www.bbbforum.org)) and has volunteered with this networking forum ever since. She is now on the Executive Committee and Co-Chair of the Young Professionals Group - while older members of the business community (i.e. BBBF) have already established their network of contacts and regularly attend business functions, the BBBF recognised that there was nothing really aimed at younger or more junior professionals at the beginning of their careers. Furthermore, the BBBF felt that it was imperative that each and every one of one of those Young Professionals (YP) was able to equip themselves with a professional network that will be of assistance to them as they progress up the career ladder. This

blends in with what Ava does as a full-time job advising and assisting the Crown Prince Scholars. Ava uses her vast network of connections from 37 years in Bahrain and her time with the BBBF to help her students and anyone else that needs her help.

Whilst at Durham School, Ava enjoyed hockey, swimming and rowing. Ava also attended MENCAP as her community service requirement but she kept attending throughout her university years as she had met such lovely, compassionate people and wanted to continue to help where she could. Ava was part of the charity committee as treasurer for a while and used to help staff and students organize the 24-hour football matches for all pupils and the sponsorship money went towards MENCAP funding. Ava also savoured the freedom of walking into town every lunchtime, if she wanted, as she had previously attended a school in the middle of nowhere. Ava readily admits that attending Durham School was definitely one of the best things her parents could have arranged for her. Their continued support, along with that of her husband and daughter allow her to now follow her dream of one day becoming Director of this scholarship Program. Ava would thoroughly recommend a career in either the diplomatic core or as an educational advisor, so if anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact her.

[avagarbutt@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:avagarbutt@yahoo.co.uk)





## Kieran Forsyth L

2008

*Poole*

**TRAINEE SOLICITOR, GORDON DADDS**

Kieran pursued a career in Law after graduating from the University of Exeter and is currently employed as a Trainee Solicitor in the West End London firm of Gordon Dadds LLP. He is in the Private Client department which involves tax and estate planning, compiling wills and the general advice of how best to provide for one's family and friends.

The work is interesting and stimulating because he gets to meet different characters, which range from wealthy individuals, who have complex financial affairs to those who have less complex affairs but nevertheless each matter that he deals with provides for a deep understanding of their familial relationships. There is a great deal of trust afforded to those like Kieran who deal with such affairs and something that he finds a particularly rewarding aspect of his job.

The most unusual matter that Kieran has had to deal with so far has been researching how a client's husband who had predeceased her could be exhumed from his current burial plot and reinterred to a burial plot where the client wished to be buried so that they could rest side by side, making it easier for family and friends to visit their graves. Aside from the complexity of the process, the other most interesting aspect of the matter was appreciating how much it meant to the client that she could be buried next to her husband.

[www.gordondadds.com](http://www.gordondadds.com)

## Ben Serajian

2006

Poole

### VICE PRESIDENT - GLOBAL COMMERCIAL BANKING, J P MORGAN

Ben is a Vice President and Commercial Banker at J.P. Morgan, which is a U.S. Corporate and Investment Bank. A Commercial Banker is considered the main relationship manager for commercial clients, and they principally act as a gateway into the bank for them, irrespective of the activity or advice they are looking to undertake.

“In my role I am responsible for a portfolio of U.S. headquartered multinational commercial clients with subsidiaries and banking needs in Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA). All of my clients are headquartered on the West Coast of the USA and range within the \$500 million to \$15 billion bracket in terms of their own annualised revenue. My role is to advise these clients with regards to their overall banking structures, managing and best utilising their liquidity (cash), foreign exchange (spot, forwards and also more complex hedging), trade and supply chain financing and extending J.P. Morgan’s balance sheet in the form of various loans and credit structures or instruments.”

Ben joined J.P. Morgan in May 2017; prior to this, he worked at Bank of America Merrill Lynch for five years, where he performed a very similar role.

[www.jpmorgan.com](http://www.jpmorgan.com)

[Ben.Serajian@JPMorgan.com](mailto:Ben.Serajian@JPMorgan.com)





## Flora Bell CA

2011

*MacLeod*

### ACCOUNT AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE, M&C SAATCHI

While undertaking her degree in Spanish Language, Literature and Film Studies at the University of Exeter, Flora took up internships in England and Spain, and focused on improving her written and spoken Spanish language.

An internship at Hello! Magazine in Madrid led to Flora securing a full-time role as a writer and website co-ordinator for the popular magazine, where she worked for two years.

Having returned to the UK, Flora is currently working at M&C Saatchi World Services, in London. A specialist communications agency that is focused on tackling some of humanity's most challenging and important problems in fragile states and developing countries. Flora works within the business development and account handling team, and works with a range of clients including National Governments and NGOs including USAID, DFID, Gates Foundation, UN Foundation, Nike Foundation, The World Bank and Children Investment Fund Foundation.

[www.mcsaatchi.com](http://www.mcsaatchi.com)



# Harry Booth SE

2008

Poole

## **PROJECT MANAGER, TURNER & TOWNSEND**

Harry left Durham School in 2008 and attended Sheffield Hallam University where he studied Construction Management.

Harry is currently a Project Manager on the Battersea Power Station Development in London. The Power Station is Europe's largest brick building, and it was decommissioned in 1983. Since then, the building has been derelict and a number of developers have tried to make something of the building and its eight-acre site.

The iconic Grade II\* listed building and surrounding area is being brought back to life as one of the most exciting and innovative mixed-use neighbourhoods in the world. Harry works as client representative for the Developer, heavily involved in the monitoring and reporting of the construction progress and site wide coordination.

Prior to his time at Battersea, Harry worked for a restoration contractor as a Construction Manager.

[hjcbooth@gmail.com](mailto:hjcbooth@gmail.com)

[www.batterseapowerstation.co.uk](http://www.batterseapowerstation.co.uk)





# Michael Stephenson S

1999

*Poole*

## RUGBY INTERNATIONAL

Michael left Durham School in 1999 to take a year out of study and to play rugby for Newcastle Falcons. This led to him signing a professional contract and he enjoyed six seasons playing for Newcastle. During this time, he tried to combine studies at Northumbria University successfully completing a Certificate in Marketing. Michael won three Caps for England and travelled the world with the England 7s team during his time at Newcastle Falcons before moving to Bath in the summer of 2005. While at Bath, he continued his studies via Open University and had success on the pitch reaching two European semi-finals before eventually winning the title in 2008. During this he was supported by Anna, a Durham High School girl, and they married in 2009. Rugby took him all over the world, but some of his fondest memories of the game are playing in Green and White hoops.

In 2012 after retiring from professional Rugby, a contact that played against him for Sedbergh during his School days approached him with a job offer. The opportunity was to sell Sports Medicine Medical implants used in ACL repairs and shoulder arthroscopies for a subsidiary of Johnson and Johnson. The opportunities to progress in a large organisation that is constantly evolving remains an exciting one. The competitive nature of sales and the rewards it brings draw on attributes developed through professional sport.

While at Durham School, Michael enjoyed the wide range of clubs and sports the School offered and still counts amongst his closest friends those that he met at School.

His time is now spent with his young family and enjoys coaching and helping his two sons and daughter in their varied interests and sports.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael\\_Stephenson\\_\(rugby\\_union\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Stephenson_(rugby_union))

# Julia Braime (née Smith)

2000

*Pimlico*

**EDITOR IN CHIEF, UNVEILED MAGAZINE  
& MANAGING DIRECTOR, BRIDES UP NORTH LTD**

Since its launch in 2010, Brides Up North has skyrocketed in popularity and profile to become one of the most visited wedding blogs in the UK, and is the top bridal blog for Northern Brides. Brides Up North's branded luxury wedding exhibitions across Yorkshire, the North West and North East have been consistently sold out with record attendances since 2012 and the team now host 40+ bridal shows per year across the regions.

The Brides Up North portfolio now includes UNVEILED: the luxury wedding magazine for stylish brides in the North of the UK. UNVEILED focuses on cutting edge bridal fashion, beautiful real weddings, exclusive venues, deluxe styling details, quality suppliers and original creative content.

Brides Up North Ltd's Founder and Managing Director, Julia Braime, is a respected industry expert, stylist, host and commentator and has been profiled in or contributed to almost every national wedding magazine title, as well featuring extensively in regional bridal titles, national news and lifestyle press.

Amongst other accolades, Brides Up North has been named "Best Blog for Northern Brides" by Channel 4; crowned "Best Big Day Inspiration" blog and "Best Social Media" platform in the Wedding Magazine Awards and "Best Wedding Blog" in the Northern Blog Awards, Brides Up North was also a finalist in the Cosmopolitan Blog Awards, Vuelio Blog Awards, UK Blog Awards and in Perfect Wedding Magazine Awards ("Best Wedding Blog").

Julia lives in Yorkshire with her husband and two small daughters who keep her busy away from the world of weddings!

[www.bridesupnorth.co.uk](http://www.bridesupnorth.co.uk)

[contact@bridesupnorth.co.uk](mailto:contact@bridesupnorth.co.uk)





# Captain Thomas W Hand AF

2007

*School*

## COMMISSIONED OFFICER, BRITISH ARMY

Tom was commissioned into the Parachute Regiment in 2012. Following Sandhurst, he completed the arduous 'P-Company'. This involved three weeks of hard physical training, often with a 60kg log or stretcher and entitled him to wear the prestigious maroon beret. After this course, he earned his wings by carrying out parachute training at RAF Brize Norton before moving to 2 PARA.

"Durham School provided unique opportunities, through sport and the House system, to develop leadership essential to my profession. After leaving School, I studied Biomedical Science at Leeds Metropolitan University. Having decided to join the Army, I got in touch with Paul Atkinson who encouraged me to come and assist with the school CCF for a year. His advice and support during this period were essential in getting me into Sandhurst."

"The Army is unique as you change role at least every two years, each job becoming more challenging and offering more responsibility than the last. I initially served as a platoon commander in charge of 30 soldiers in 2 PARA, training in locations around the globe. I then moved to Catterick and into a role responsible for training new recruits throughout the 28-week Parachute Regiment Combat Infantryman Course. I have since moved back to 2 PARA, initially as second-in-command of 120 soldiers. I have recently changed roles and am now responsible for the training and development of 600 soldiers. This ensures that 2 PARA are always ready to deploy anywhere in the world within 48 hours."

While the reward from the leadership is the highlight of a career in the Army, Tom has been fortunate enough to complete instructor qualifications in skiing, cycling and mountaineering. He has also represented the Infantry at rugby, swimming and water polo.

<https://apply.army.mod.uk/what-we-offer/regular-officer>

<https://www.facebook.com/armyjobs>

# Gordon Muchall T S

2001

*The Caffinites*

## CRICKETER AND TEACHER

Gordon left Durham School to pursue a career in cricket with Durham County Cricket Club. He made his debut in the first team shortly after leaving School. "I was fortunate to play professional cricket for fourteen seasons with Durham and enjoyed every minute of it. I'm immensely proud to have been part of the club's most successful period, winning three County Championships and two One Day Trophies."

In the winter months Gordon travelled the world playing and coaching cricket. He was selected for the England U19s tour to India and the World Cup in New Zealand. This was followed by England Academy tours to Adelaide and Sri Lanka. He also spent several winters playing and coaching in Perth, Australia with his former Durham School coach, Mike Hirsch.

As Gordon neared a decade in the game, he undertook professional qualifications in cricket, rugby and personal training. He also joined Durham School as a coach gaining invaluable experience over the last five winter periods.

"While a pupil at Durham School, I enjoyed the extensive range of opportunities offered to me, for example the sports and extra-curricular activities. I was fortunate enough to play in a Daily Mail cup final at Twickenham which was a real highlight of my School career. I am grateful for the passion and professionalism of the sports programme at the School, particularly working with Mr Hirsch and Mr Gerrard. The high work ethic and disciplined approach provided the perfect platform for me going into professional cricket."

In 2016, Gordon joined Durham School as Head of Boys' Games at Bow School. "I was excited to be given the chance to pass on my experience and enthusiasm for sport to the younger generation, particularly being able to work in an environment where I gained enjoyment, team skills and a strong work ethic that I'm encouraging all pupils to work towards."



## Andrew Thomson OBE

1993

*Langley*

### **DIPLOMAT**

Andrew is a British diplomat who in early 2018 returned to work in London with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office after three years in the British Embassy Washington DC.

In Washington, Andrew worked closely with the US government to help improve cooperation on key areas of common foreign and security policy. Andrew previously served overseas as a diplomat in Kosovo, Colombia and Mexico. He was appointed an Officer in the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the 2009 New Year's Honours list.

Andrew left Durham School in 1993 to read Economics & International Relations at Aberdeen University and received his commission in the RAF Volunteer Reserve. He completed a post-graduate degree before joining the Foreign Office in 1998.

He and his wife live in London with their young daughter and west highland terrier. He regularly visits Durham where his mum and dad (also an Old Dunelmian) live.

[Andrew.Thomson@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Thomson@fco.gov.uk)





## Mark Bedworth S T

2000

*School*

### RUGBY AND TEACHING

Mark left Durham School and studied at York St John University while playing National League 2 Rugby for Darlington Mowden Park RFC. He then went on to play in National League 1 for Wharfedale and finally moved to Westoe as player coach in 2010. An excellent points kicker, he became one of the all-time top scorers in National League 2 North and National League 1 with over 2,000 points scored between the two divisions.

In a ten-year career he has represented England Counties XV between 2006-2009, which included a tour of Russia where he scored one try. He also represented the full Barbarians XV twice and County Durham at County Level throughout his career.

While playing for Wharfedale, Mark worked for the Rugby Football Union as a development officer in the Teesside area. During this time, he also played for Yorkshire on numerous occasions.

After retiring from competitive rugby in 2012 due to injury, Mark is now Director of Sport at Durham School and Head Coach at Durham City RFC.

[m.bedworth@durhamschool.co.uk](mailto:m.bedworth@durhamschool.co.uk)



# Zoe Smith B

2010

*Pimlico*

## LAND AGENT, STRUTT AND PARKER

Zoe left the School to go to Harper Adams University, which specialises in Agricultural and Rural Studies. She went on to read Rural Enterprise and Land Management and now works as a Rural Surveyor with Strutt & Parker.

Zoe's role as a Land Agent can take her to some enchanting estates through to working farms, giving strategic business advice and practical management services. Being a Rural Surveyor is a varied job covering all aspects of rural business, farming and country life.

Over the past few years Zoe has come in to Durham School to talk to pupils about her role at Strutt & Parker sharing her pathway into the profession and some of the portfolios she has worked on.

[www.struttandparker.com/people/zoe-smith](http://www.struttandparker.com/people/zoe-smith)



ARTWORK  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
LAZENBY  
VISUALS  
PICTURE FRAMING  
GALLERY

# Adam Welsh

2005

*The Caffinites*

## ACTING

Adam left Durham School to train as a performer at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts in London, graduating in 2008 with a first-class degree, BA (Hons) Performance (Musical Theatre). Whilst he does not work exclusively in musical theatre, his training has formed the backbone of his career to date.

He now has ten years of professional experience working in the theatre industry. He has worked internationally, regionally and on London's West End. Notable work includes performing in the original West End cast of Dreamboats and Petticoats, War Horse in the West End, touring with Headlong Theatre in Anya Reiss's Spring Awakening and appearing in The Silver Tassie for Druid at the Lincoln Centre Festival in New York. He is an associate artist and founder member of the award-winning theatre company Dead Centre, which has received international acclaim for its work.

Other companies he has worked with include The National Theatre, Barbican, Schaubühne (Berlin) Druid, Live Theatre, Young Vic, Sage Gateshead, Nuffield Theatre, Bill Kenwright Ltd, The Yard and BAC. He now also regularly teaches and directs at Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts.

Most recently, Adam has been supported as an emerging theatre maker by Camden People's Theatre in London, where his show 'There but for the grace of God (Go I)' premiered last year. This show marks his debut as an independent theatre maker and he received full funding from Arts Council England for it in 2017. The show originated when Adam googled himself to see what his online presence was like, only to find the story of Adam Walsh - a high profile missing child from America in the eighties. It is described as a comparison between an unknown living man and a famous missing child. It engages in weighing up the value of a life: what constitutes real success. By combining true-crime, re-enactment and autobiography, Adam reflects on the care parents have for their children, but how they can't always help them. It is a meditation on how tragedy can render the world meaningful, an investigation into not being dead, yet. The play is currently being considered by theatre festivals and venues around the country for a tour in 2018.

Adam remembers his time at Durham School fondly and feels without having been there, he wouldn't have the confidence to pursue what can be a challenging career. He specifically thanks the Art and Music Departments for nurturing him as an artist and giving him the space and encouragement to develop.\*

[www.adamwelsh.co.uk](http://www.adamwelsh.co.uk)

Twitter: @adamfgwelsh

*\*There was no drama department when Adam was a pupil.*



# Mark Race

2014

*Poole*

## MUSICIAN

Born and raised in the North-East of England, Mark John Race, a 22 year-old singer-songwriter has been making music since his early days. Having been classically trained growing up, Mark performed a starring role in stage production of Les Miserables only to leave theatre in pursuit of mainstream musical stardom.

The 22 year-old musician boasts prolific songwriting ability that has not gone unnoticed. Numerous BBC introducing plays along with many other radio plays followed the release of his music. Whilst not in his native North-East, Mark spends his time travelling the country playing gigs for some loyal followers throughout a variety of venues and watering holes.

Mark's next chapter lies in the United States where he has recently joined the exciting new LA based band Raynes. The other members of the band (Mat Charley and Joe Berger) along with the band's manager (Gonzo Lubel) were searching for a lead singer when they stumbled across Mark on Instagram. After some back and forth Mark was then flown out to LA where he first met the team and the rest is history. The band's progress has been swift and rather remarkable and they are now on the verge of signing with the world's leading publishing company, Sony ATV.

[markjohnmusic.co.uk](http://markjohnmusic.co.uk)





# Sarah Hollingsworth (née Lascelles) T

2000

*Pimlico*

## EDUCATION

Sarah Hollingsworth (then Sarah Lascelles) left Durham School with many sporting successes to her name having represented the School and County Durham in both netball and hockey. Considering the small number of girls at Durham School at the time, Sarah and her teams were very accomplished in hockey and netball. Sarah's love of sport made Loughborough her obvious choice to continue her studies and she completed a Social Science degree at Loughborough University. Sarah then attended Froebel College at Roehampton University in Surrey to complete her Primary PGCE with Early Years specialism.

After a year in the profession, Sarah was invited to join the Fast Track Teaching in Accelerated Leadership Programme, designed for those who have demonstrated the potential to progress rapidly into senior leadership positions. Since completing the course, Sarah has held many leadership positions including Nursery Manager, Early Years and Key Stage One Leader and Director of Pastoral Care in both state and independent schools in Durham, London, Sunderland, Shrewsbury and Oswestry.

Sarah is now the Headmistress of Gresham's Pre-Prep, Norfolk and an ISI Inspector. Sarah's approach to teaching is one where staff, parents and pupils work together to create an environment which is happy, relaxed, calm, courteous and curious so that children can flourish and be their best. Sarah's love of teaching is part of her success and she has found it a real privilege to find a job that she loves doing. In her role as a Boarding Team ISI inspector, Sarah reports to the government's Department for Education on the extent to which schools meet statutory requirements.

[shollingsworth@greshams.com](mailto:shollingsworth@greshams.com)

# Jemma Farish (née Yorke) M

2002

*Pimlico*

## DOCTOR

Jemma left Durham School to go to Newcastle University to read Medicine. At university, she was captain and member of the Medics Hockey Club and helped in organising annual and national events. She enjoyed traveling across Northern American and having work experience in Samoa as part of her studies.

Upon graduation, she worked as a junior doctor at QE Hospital, Gateshead. After two years, she moved to New Zealand where she worked and found her passion for Obstetrics and Gynaecology (O&G). She returned to the UK in 2010 where she started her seven-year training in O&G. During this period, she has worked in many hospitals across the region. Jemma is now an O&G Consultant at North Durham University Hospital.

There are many highlights to a medical career and O&G brings particular highs and lows. "On a daily basis I could be helping women with the delivery of their baby and be part of such a personal moment for a family, the next could be operating on a cancer patient. It can be stressful and rewarding all at the same time. Since university, surgery was always my passion and once I had worked in O&G, I knew I had found my calling. I could not think of doing anything else - I get to see miracles happening on a daily basis."

While at Durham, Jemma enjoyed being involved in both the hockey and netball teams as well as competing in cross-country. "During

my time in Pimlico, we were a close group and really got involved in House activities. My favourite was House Music and the competitive nature that went with these."

Jemma was also a monitor and involved in organising events such as the 6th form dinner, an experience which has helped her organise many more events over the years. A recent highlight was organising a regional conference for O&G trainees including a social event in the evening for nearly 200 people.

Alongside her day job, Jemma assists in recruitment to national research studies. She has helped create regional simulation training days in O&G, which train O&G staff to develop their skills and teamwork, ultimately improving patient care. She is also involved within the training of other doctors and represents trainees on a regional board, and organises a national trainee conference for O&G doctors.

"Durham School has given me memories that I will cherish for a lifetime. The friends I made over those two years have stood by my side through thick and thin over the last fifteen years. The highlight was recently getting married at Durham School and my Pimlico housemates being my bridesmaids. When I was at the School, I always dreamed of getting married there, we had a dream day and it was lovely to return to the School for such a happy occasion."



# Bradley Murphy

2010

*Poole*

## **ACTION ADVENTURE GAME ENTREPRENEUR**

Bradley Murphy owns a series of Live Escape Games in Newcastle called EXIT NEWCASTLE. For those who have never tried one, during a Live Escape Game you are locked in a series of rooms for up to 60 minutes and have to race against the clock, cracking codes and solving puzzles, in order to escape.

Bradley attributes his success to his fantastic team of game masters who take care of the games and help to ensure customer satisfaction. Most of his time is split between managing the strategic side of the business, designing, building and maintaining games, and more recently consulting other similar businesses across the UK.

Bradley decided to start his own business after having experienced an Escape Game in Switzerland as a customer. At the time, there was nothing similar in the North of England, and he was fortunate enough to be able to introduce it.

"Running your own business is, however, unlike any other career path. It can be amazingly rewarding but in order to succeed you must be passionate, well-organised and motivated. While at Durham School the subjects I enjoyed most were Design Technology, Computing and Business Studies. It is no coincidence that the skills learned in these subjects are skills that I use every day at work."

[www.exit-newcastle.co.uk](http://www.exit-newcastle.co.uk)

[brad@exit-newcastle.co.uk](mailto:brad@exit-newcastle.co.uk)





# EXIT

Newcastle





## Laura Keith

2001

*Pimlico*

### MANAGER FOR EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIPS, STEP

Laura works for a membership organisation in London called STEP. STEP is the global professional association for practitioners who specialise in family inheritance and succession planning. STEP has over 20,000 members worldwide.

“Our primary purpose is to improve public understanding of the issues families face in relation to inheritance and succession planning, and promote education and high professional standards among our members.”

Laura is part of the Professional Development department and, as the Programme Manager for Employer Partnerships, specifically focuses on the Employer Partnership Programme.

“The programme is designed to enable us to work with employers to enhance students and members’ development journey through STEP qualifications and beyond. My role is to build and nurture relationships with employers as well as manage the administration of the programme.”

[www.step.org](http://www.step.org)

[Laura.Keith@step.org](mailto:Laura.Keith@step.org)

# Alex Vassallo

E

FA

2016

School

## FOUNDER, LAUDER FINE FOODS

Alex has two great passions, rally car driving and seafood. In both he displays a passion and determination to be the very best.

His new business, Lauder Fine Foods, combines 70 years of family experience in fish with new categories such as Gourmet Sea Salt.

As a rally driver, Alex was also following a family tradition. His father, Peter is a former Scottish National Champion and Alexander was awarded the title *UK Young Rally Driver of the Year* in 2012 and was described by five-times British rally champion Jimmy McRae as the 'one to beat'.

Alexander's junior rally career ended in 2015 at the highest possible point after taking four national titles in the space of three years. He claimed the British title in 2012, and was the winner of the Scottish Challenge for three years running from 2012 to 2014.

"For a five-year period I balanced motorsport alongside my studies at Durham School. When you are winning national rally championships, you really want to make driving your career. I didn't quite get the break with the rallying, so now I'm concentrating on growing the business and can fall back on my education. Once things are up and running, who knows, I may be back in a rally car."

[www.lauderfinefoods.co.uk](http://www.lauderfinefoods.co.uk)





## David Lascelles L

1997

*School*

### **BARRISTER**

One of David's great passions at Durham School was arguing. "Sometimes it was constructive" David says - pointing to fun evenings spent out of prep at the School Debating Society, latterly as Chairman. "Sometimes it was less so" David notes - this time without elaboration.

The passion for debate, a love of detective stories as well as an interest in the use of words fostered particularly by his English teacher, led David to read law at university. As an undergraduate, David studied at Peterhouse, Cambridge. After obtaining a Double First, David toured Australia for a year with school friends.

David returned from the sunny antipodean beaches to the rather different prospect of winter in Oxford and a Masters in Law at Brasenose College. A one-year bar training course in London followed Oxford, after which David undertook a year's pupillage shadowing more senior barristers at chambers in London.

Today, David is a highly-regarded barrister in London specialising in litigating business disputes. He is recommended by the independent guides to the Bar as one of the top barristers in the UK. David's role entails advising clients on the strength of their claims and formulating and presenting arguments in court. Like most barristers, he is self-employed but shares chambers (Littleton Chambers) with barristers practicing in the same field.

David is happy with his career choice. He loves the freedom of self-employment; the profession also (mainly) satisfies his passion for argument.

[DLascelles@littletonchambers.co.uk](mailto:DLascelles@littletonchambers.co.uk)

# Kyle Mackings

2004

Poole

## CEO, KYMEL TRADING

Hospitality group, Kymel Trading, was established in 2013 by Kyle Mackings and his father, Paul. Operating from its head office in Tyne and Wear, the group are proud owners of the acclaimed Trenchers of Whitby, the Crab & Lobster restaurant and Crab Manor Hotel in Thirsk.

By growing organically, the company has been able to stay true to its values of integrity, accountability, community spirit, professionalism and honesty. "Our primary focus is the hospitality industry. Specialising in high-end food, wedding venues and luxury hotels, our brands offer nothing but outstanding customer service in unique surroundings," said Kyle.

It was recently announced that Kymel had been chosen by North Tyneside Council to be the operator of the iconic and historic Spanish City site in Whitley Bay upon its opening later this year. Following this news, the group has been working closely with a wider team to bring the site back to its former glory.

With stunning architecture being lovingly restored and sea views being made the focal point, it's hoped the venue will create a hub of activity in the area. Spanish City will be the home of function space, a steak and seafood restaurant, champagne bar, ice cream and waffle house, traditional tearoom and a fish & chip restaurant and takeaway.

[www.kymel.co.uk](http://www.kymel.co.uk)





## Jamie Oyebade SE

2008

*Poole*

### SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER WITH AECOM

After School, Jamie stayed in Durham to read for a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering. Since graduating Jamie has worked as a civil engineer on a number of transport projects for AECOM, including frequent bridge inspections on behalf of Network Rail.

One of the more notable projects Jamie has worked on recently has been renovating the Waterloo International Terminal which was vacated by Eurostar's move to St Pancras.

Waterloo station is Britain's busiest station and Jamie designed the structural modifications that have allowed a new pedestrian footbridge to be installed, linking the two station concourses. He was also responsible for coordinating the far less visible, if no less important, mechanical, electrical and power discipline designs for the upgraded terminal.

[jamie.oyebade@aecom.com](mailto:jamie.oyebade@aecom.com)

# Verity Richardson B SE

2008

MacLeod

## HEAD OF MARKETING, STRATAJET

Verity read Aeronautical Engineering at Durham University, graduating with a Master's Degree in 2012. She then secured a role as a Business Analyst with NetJets, her first role in the world of private travel.

From here she moved into the world of luxury hotels, joining Maybourne Hotel Group (owner of Claridge's, The Connaught and The Berkeley) in 2015. She has since joined the UK's fifth fastest growing tech start up, Stratajet, as Head of Marketing.

Since their foundation in 2011, Stratajet has changed the way people travel by making the world's supply of private jets more accessible through their unique technology. It is headquartered in London and is live throughout Europe and the US.

In her day-to-day role, Verity manages all Stratajet's marketing and PR activity. Having significant experience in the luxury sector helps Verity when she crafts the strategy for this high-end digital start up.

[www.stratajet.com](http://www.stratajet.com)

[vrichardson@stratajet.com](mailto:vrichardson@stratajet.com)



# Claire Hawthorn

2006

*Pimlico*

## BROADCAST JOURNALIST

Claire is currently a broadcast journalist for the BBC at BBC Newcastle. She reports and produces for the Breakfast Show with Alfie and Anna and also reports for the afternoon Drive Time programme.

After leaving Durham School, Claire pursued her interest in languages, studying French, German and Spanish at The University of Western Australia, including an ERASMUS exchange at Heidelberg University.

After graduating, Claire worked in a number of language related roles, including organising training courses around Europe and roles as a German to English translator. In her spare time, she began writing her yet unfinished first novel.

Deciding she was sufficiently knowledgeable about Europe, including its politics, languages and cultures, and realising her life was increasingly spent following news and current affairs, Claire decided she was in a position to pursue her original ambition of becoming a journalist.

Returning to University, Claire received her Master of Arts in Media and Journalism from Newcastle University in 2015. During her studies, she was Politics Reporter for a local online news site, Jesmond Local.

Since graduating for a second time, Claire has been a freelance journalist, writer and producer and has produced a range of her own multimedia work, articles and documentaries. Claire has built a good relationship with the BBC - a must for all aspiring broadcast journalists – and has appeared nationally on Radio 4 and Radio 5 Live.

[claire@clairehawthornmedia.com](mailto:claire@clairehawthornmedia.com)

[@ClaireHawthorn](#)





## ABOUT THIS BOOK

Throughout our work on this book, we have seen countless examples of Old Dunelmians pushing themselves and others to go one-step further. Our hope in compiling this work is to celebrate the achievements of our former pupils and to share their stories with the next generation. Everyone featured in this book has succeeded because of his or her talents. Equally, all of them have made the most of those talents thanks to the skills they have honed here at Durham School.

For this book to ever make it to print, we had to limit it to 50 of our younger Old Dunelmians. That is not to say there are not many more alumni who have made and will continue to make a huge contribution to the world, simply that their stories will be told another day.

The profiles we have used are edited excerpts from interviews and correspondence which took place between alumni and the Development Office between October 2016 and February 2018. As careers continue to progress at an impressive pace, undoubtedly the young people featured here will already have more up-to-date successes to celebrate. I am also sure that another volume will be needed to house the many stories that will come from other young alumni, who will quite rightly want to share their achievements having heard of this first edition.

This book has many authors. It has been compiled by the Development Office and many members of the Durham School Community have contributed to it. In particular, this book could not have happened without Assistant Development Director Debbie Stanford.

This book was written to inspire the next generation. If I had one message for any young person leaving Durham School, it would be that you have the talent and the skills to make an impact in the world. Where and what you do, and when you do it is your choice, but whatever you choose we believe your time at Durham School will give you confidence for life.

Andrew Beales

Development Director





# CONFIDENCE FOR LIFE

The Development Office, Durham School  
[development@durhamschool.co.uk](mailto:development@durhamschool.co.uk)

