



LIFE AFTER WALES

Business/Accounts/
Economics/Public Services

ELIJAH SARGENT



After my GCSE's I didn't know what I wanted to, so I decided to stay on the Sixth Form. In my first year I really struggled with my coursework, I didn't prepare myself enough and work hard enough in my units. But towards the end of Year 12 I began a unit on Events Management and enjoyed the whole process. Everything about the unit I found fascinating, the processes, meeting people and actually talking to them was my favourite part. This set me up for my second year. I managed to just scrape through my first year getting a pass which was way below my expected grade but the thing was

I knew it and I wasn't happy with it, that is what made me change and really focus in my second year.

I had realised what I wanted to do, I wanted to organise events. My second year flew by. Of course there were issues on the way, staying behind till 7pm in the business block, but these were hiccups and part of the course really because of the amount of detail and analysis into businesses that is required to get the top marks. I completed the second year of the course with a Distinction*, an A*, but because of my first year ended up with a DM, two B's.

I found an apprenticeship at the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre, part of the University of Sheffield, in a business administration role, however it was around events and I loved it. They renewed my contract for a second year and offered me a full time job, earning more than minimum wage, and also are funding my tuition fees to go to University part time. I will be working at the AMRC while studying a degree in Business Management with Finance part time for six years. I am very proud of the fact that I love what I do – and that is down to my business course. It gave me ambition and determination.

LEAH WHITEHOUSE



Leah studied BTEC Double Public Services Level 3 at Wales High School as well as BTEC Level 3 Health and Social Care Level 3, completing her course in 2013. She feels that BTEC Public Services course gave her a good understanding of the Army that she wouldn't have otherwise had which made her well prepared for life in the Army. "A lot of the training, like drill and physical training that we did at school is similar to what we did in basic training. Improving my fitness at school prior to joining also really helped as there is a lot of physical training which you must do to pass the course." The course helped Leah become more determined and

better at team working which is essential to be successful in the Army. It also helped her become better organised in planning her work and social time.

Having recently completed her fourteen week basic Army training at ATL Winchester. Leah Whitehouse is currently in Phase two of her Army training where she is learning her trade to be an Army Air Corps Soldier. On completion of her phase two training Leah hopes to become a rear crewman, working on the Lynx or Apache, where she will operate the door gun, providing air fire support in hot spots, where troops are under heavy fire.



Highlights of Leah's time in the Army so far have been the friendships she has made and the camaraderie she has experienced while on her training. Before joining the Army Leah was a member of the Army cadets but actually hoped for a career in the police.

MATTHEW TERRETT



Matthew started studying his A Levels September 2005 – studying Mathematics, Economics and Accountancy.

Matthew excelled in all three subjects, in particular Accountancy and Economics. Matthew decided to study Accountancy within one year – a challenge most students would avoid! His dedication, determination and commitment to his studies helped him achieve a B.

Economics has always been Matthew's passion – after achieving an A at A Level he decided this is where his future lay. Matthew went on to study a BSc in Economics at Loughborough University, achieving a 2.1 with honours. Matthew then decided to further pursue his interest in Business and Finance by undertaking a MSc in Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Management at Imperial College London, where he subsequently went on to graduate top of the class with Distinction.

Having completed various internships and having achieved various full-time offers from the Banking and Consultancy industry, Matthew decided to accept a full-time position in Fixed Income Sales & Trading at Barclays Investment Bank. After two years at Barclays Matthew was approached by Goldman Sachs to join their Fixed Income Sales & Trading team, with a particular focus on Asset-backed Securities. He has now taken up his role at Goldman Sachs and enjoying the diversity and fast-paced environment of the financial markets.

NATALIE ASHMORE



Natalie started studying her OCR Business course in September 2006. She excelled on the course from day one. Natalie was diligent, hardworking and full of ambition. She achieved the highest grade possible a distinction.

After finishing her A-levels she went on to study Fashion and Textile Buying, Management and Retail at Huddersfield University. This was a four year course with the option of an industrial placement year. Natalie achieved a first class honours degree.

Within her time at university she studied all areas of the fashion and business, covering marketing, merchandising, the buying cycle, international business studies and finance. It was an amazing 4 years for Natalie providing her with the opportunity to go to New York to attend Indigo (an international buying trade show) and meet some key leaders within the fashion industry.

Natalie went on to being accepted for the BHS retail management graduate scheme, for this she moved to Reading and fast tracked her way to becoming a Commercial Manager. Within her time at BHS she has presented business ideas to the board of directors twice and will hopefully see one of these projects being live in stores next year.

Natalie now lives in London and is the Commercial Manager of the Wood Green Store which has a £3.2 million turnover. After gaining multiple experiences across the business my next goal is to go into a space planning and Project Management role which I aim to be in by the end of the year.

We are very proud of Natalie and her achievements so far.

REBECCA BURTON



Rebecca helping out with promotional photos for Marriott Hotels.

Rebecca, a successful A Level Business student thrived on the course. She didn't find the course easy but worked hard, remained committed to her studies and was rewarded with a grade she could be proud of.

In 2012 Rebecca graduated from Leeds Metropolitan University with a BA (honours) in Major and Cultural Events. Whilst studying for her degree Rebecca played a major part in the opening of the Wizarding World of Harry Potter in Orlando, Florida. She worked with the entire cast of the Harry Potter films and J.K Rowling herself.

Shortly after graduating Rebecca accepted an internship at the JW Marriott and Ritz-Carlton Orlando Grande Lakes Hotel. After 6 months she was accepted on to their "Supervisor Development Training Programme" where she learned how to be a supervisor and develop the skills she needed to manage a team.

After 12 months Rebecca was offered three jobs in two countries to continue to progress her career, she accepted a Guest Relations Manager Position at The London Marriott Hotel County Hall and moved to London in November 2013. As one of the managers of the hotel she has worked with a Royal Family, movie production companies and a variety of celebrities. The location of the hotel means that Rebecca has been trained in crisis management to assist in the safety of guests if there was a terrorist occurrence. Rebecca has to work long and often unsociable hours but remains committed to and passionate about her career.



Rebecca has been offered an Assistant Front Office Manager position in the United States, which she started in 2015.

SARAH OTTLEY



Sarah successfully completed a Vocational Business course. Sarah worked closely with her subject staff and always took on board and acted upon the advice she was given about how to improve her work. She feels that the topics she studied as part of her course have definitely helped her to further her career.

Since leaving Sixth Form, Sarah completed a Level 2 NVQ in Customer Service and Management through on the job training as part of her first job at the shoe retailer Brantano. Once she had successfully gained these qualifications she started a new job as a

supervisor at Jane Norman in Meadowhall. She also studied part time towards a HNC in Business at Rotherham College.

Unfortunately earlier this year Sarah Jane Norman went into liquidation and Sarah was made redundant. Her qualifications and experience meant that it wasn't long before she secured another job. She now works as a supervisor at Select in Meadowhall. This has been a fantastic career move for Sarah as she manages over 25 staff, is making lots of changes in the store and doing visual merchandising and staff training. She has also been to other stores to stand in as manager as well as working towards a degree in Business Management at Sheffield Hallam University.

Sarah is looking forward to taking on the challenges of a successful career in the retail sector.

SASHA YATES



I took public services in Year 12 as I was looking for a career within the police and believed this would be the best way to gain an insight in to the background information about different services. I particularly enjoyed the fact that in some modules you have the opportunity to pick your own topics to research and write about. Therefore,

you can focus it on the public service you are most interested in. I for example, could link in my volunteering work within the police to my coursework and make it personal to me.

I feel that Public Services has also taught me how to manage my time appropriately by making sure all my work was completed by deadlines and it has taught me how to work independently, as this is particularly important if you are looking in to going to university after you're a-levels.

Public Services is also an activity based course therefore you have opportunities to put your skills in to action outside of the classroom in teamwork activities and four days taking part in outdoor activities. With the support of the staff within the department I was able to achieve a D* which made my application to university a lot easier as I gained a lot of UCAS points and it took a lot of pressure off from my exam based subjects.

I am now at Sheffield Hallam currently in my first year, studying criminology and psychology, and due to the skills I learnt in BTEC Public Services I can work effectively at university both in the classroom and independently at home. I can work with groups when reading is required and I can also complete tasks in short spaces of time when necessary, therefore I believe that if you enjoy coursework and are looking for a career within the public services this is definitely your first step to getting there.

TOM HASLAM



Tom completed his business course in September 2010, achieving the highest grade possible – a distinction.

In 2010 he undertook a BA (Hons) degree in Product Design at Bournemouth University, and completed his degree in 2014 and achieved a 2:1 (which included a Placement year).

Tom got his first job at a company called Ancon Building Products later on in the same year as a Designer. He worked for the company for just over 20 months until he decided that he wanted to set-up his own company.

Since leaving Ancon he has been running his own company, OLO Design. He provides a number of design services for customers from Web Design, Graphic Design and Product Design to Marketing and Social Media etc. He has thoroughly enjoyed the experience so far and is looking forward to the future with his new business.

We are very proud of Tom and his achievements so far.



olo design

JOSSHUA WATTS



I have always been interested in business, so I thought studying GCSE Business would be a great opportunity to learn more about the subject and see if it was something which I enjoyed.

After two years of studying GCSE Business, I found that it was a subject which I really was passionate about and took a key interest in. I achieved an A, thanks to the support offered in the department and decided to pursue my passion further. I chose A-Level Business and Economics.

My A-level years were the toughest academic years of my life and the most rewarding. I achieved a B in Business and

a C in Economics, allowing me to secure a place at the University of Salford.

I finished my degree in Business with Economics (Bsc. Honours) at the University of Salford with a first class honours. This helped me secure a job in Manchester within a week of graduating as a Marketing Executive for an e-commerce firm in Manchester city centre. My job role involves me looking over and improving on £100k+ revenue each month, mainly on online platforms such as Amazon and eBay.

The business department helped me realise my passion for business and economics, and definitely choose my career path.