



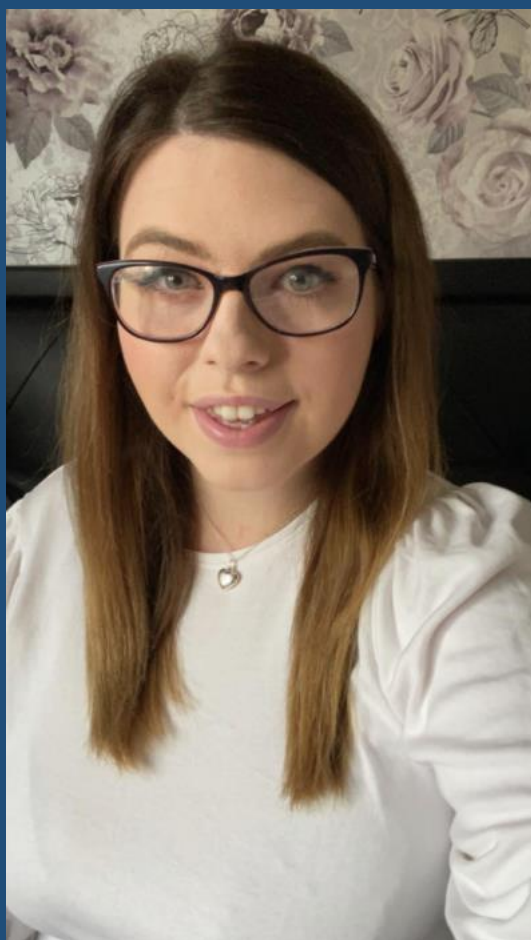
Courtney Townley

2009 – 2016

On gaining my GCSEs I was unsure of what direction to take for my career so opted to study in the Sixth Form; this was the best decision I ever made! Mrs Finnemore supported me fully through my courses and I was able to achieve a grade A and Distinction. She also encouraged me to strive for the best and to reach my full potential.

Following my departure from The King's Sixth Form I went on to study at The University of Chester. My chosen career pathway was a BA (Hons) in Early Childhood Studies, gaining a First Class Honors degree.

Currently I am working as an HLTA for a local primary school. I absolutely love my job and would encourage all students to go to university because the world is their oyster!



Kaitlyn Ross

2009 – 2017

At post-16, I decided to study at The King's Sixth Form, this was the only choice for me because I knew what fantastic teaching I would receive. My chosen pathway was Health and Social Care and child development both teaching me resilience and independence. On results day, I received high grades and was able to get into my first choice university.

At The University of Derby, I studied a BA (Hons) Special Educational Needs and Disability achieving a First Class Honours degree and have gone onto study for my MSc Applied Developmental Psychology. At university, I was also honoured with the Deans Award for academic achievement and excellence having come out in the top 10% of students within my year.

My inspirational quote for all students at The King's is 'no one ever made a difference by being like everyone else'.



Sian Hough

2009 – 2017

After leaving The King's Sixth Form, I went on to study a three year BA Honours in Mental Health Nursing. Throughout the course, I undertook a range of work placements; developing my knowledge and understanding of the importance of physical and mental health. If I've been taught nothing else, it is the importance of resilience and tenacity. These attributes alone have supported me to achieve; graduating with a First put me in excellent stead for when I entered the workplace.

I now work at the Royal Stoke University Hospital in Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit as a Deputy Ward Manager.



Hollie Bolton

2009 – 2017

Returning to The King's for Sixth Form was one of the best decisions I ever made. Studying core subjects like English and Science meant that when I applied for a degree in Primary Education with QTS, I was suitably prepared, not just with knowledge but also key skills.

Graduating from university with a 2.1 allowed me to fulfil my dream; to become a primary school teacher. Serving the primary school I once attended, St Thomas' has allowed me to give back to my community.



Shaun Crank

2004 – 2011

After leaving The King's in 2011, I attended the University of Manchester for three years where I achieved a First Class Honours degree in Social Science. Continuing my studies at Chester University, I completed a Masters in Psychology before returning to the University of Manchester to complete a PgDip in Business Psychology.

I have worked as an Assistant Psychologist where I have had 2 pieces of research published in scientific journals and also as a therapist delivering CBT based interventions.

I now work as an Associate Clinical Research Practitioner and thoroughly enjoy my work.

Although academia is important, it is hard work, self-belief and initiative which will get you ahead in life.



Emily Stevens

2003 – 2008

After leaving The King's, my main focus was to build a career which centred on art. Becoming a teacher and inspiring others to indulge in their passion was always a passion of mine therefore, I studied a wide range of art at Newcastle-Under-Lyme College before moving out of the area to study Design Crafts at De Montfort University. It is during this time I found my love for 3D art and decided to specialise further in ceramics and glassblowing. Completing a PGCE in Art and Design at Staffordshire University was the final step for me to realise my childhood dream; to become a teacher.

Don't hold off for another day, put the effort in now and enjoy your future.



Elysia Carr

2007 – 2012

After gaining my GCSEs and A-Levels I knew I wanted to work within the print and publishing industry; when I gained a scholarship for my Undergraduate degree I threw myself into learning every aspect of the media and literature that I could - from publishing processes, to representation of gender, and experimenting with different forms of writing. Initially, this is what led me to work as an Editorial Assistant and then Editor of a political magazine based on current affairs in Europe. Whilst working at this job I was also completing my Master's degree in Creative Writing to support my future development - it was after this that I decided that I needed to give back and show students just how far English can take you.

Following my departure from The King's Sixth Form I went on to study at York St John University and then Manchester Metropolitan University. My chosen career pathway was a BA (Hons) in Creative Writing and Media Masters, gaining a First Class Honours degree with distinction. I then later went on to study a PGCE in Secondary English.

The King's provided me with the skills that would allow me to self-motivate, show initiative and dedication, as well as a passion for Literature and Languages that has enabled me to have a varied career thus far. Appreciate everything that your teachers do for you, they have so much knowledge and passion to share! This advice stays with you as you find your own career path.



Mark Johnson

1993 - 2000

Since leaving The Kings, or Clough Hall Technology School as it was known back then, I went to Manchester Metropolitan University where I studied a BA (Hons) in Primary Education for 4 years. This then took me to Newstead Primary School in Blurton, where I would remain for 2 years before journeying to China. In China I have taught in international and bilingual schools since 2006. This took me to well known cities such as Shanghai and Beijing, where I also went on to complete a Master's Degree via distance learning, as well as lesser known cities such as Suzhou and Tianjin. These days I am the Deputy Head of the Primary School at Hurtwood House Qingdao, Shandong.



Kimberley Lomax (Andrews)

2001-2008

Since leaving Clough Hall in 2008 I started working full time at Specsavers. During my time at Specsavers I embraced any training opportunities that came my way including City and Guilds Clinical Photography training, advanced dispensing training and ILM 2 management training. Now 14 years later I am the manager of the store.

Clough Hall/The King's taught me to believe in myself, work hard but to also enjoy yourself and to seek support when needed whether it be from family, friends, teachers, colleagues etc. Enjoy every moment of your educational years and believe in yourself! It's true what they say they really are some of the best days. I look back with nothing but love for my time at Clough Hall/ The King's.

#The King's

CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ACADEMY KIDSGROVE



Liam Brookes

2009 - 2016

I always intended to study at The Kings Sixth Form as the support available to me was fantastic. I'm extremely pleased that I took the decision and feel it set me up with a great platform post 18. Upon leaving I decided to take the apprenticeship route into the workplace, and ultimately university.

I studied Professional Management as a Degree Apprentice at Staffordshire University, graduating with a first class and chartered status.

Within my role in the education sector I now work with young people across the UK to develop key employability skills required for the world of work, and dispel some of the myths around higher education. To date I have worked with over 80,000 young people across small and large scale events, most notably one at Wembley Stadium! Within my role I've been fortunate to meet and work with some famous faces such as KISS FM breakfast hosts Perri Kiely & Jordan Banjo and BBC's Dragons Den investors Nick Jenkins & Theo Paphitis. Every day provides a new challenge and experience for sure!

Take every opportunity that you can. Only looking back do I truly recognise and appreciate the broad range of opportunities the school provided me.



Georgia Bell

2012-2017

During my time at The King's, my academic and personal support was second to none. I was encouraged to strive to my full potential and received great feedback on how to develop myself further. It is to this phenomenal teaching and support that I accredit my academic ability and drive today.

Upon leaving The King's, I studied A Levels at Newcastle College and went on to secure an unconditional offer to study BSc Hons Midwifery at Staffordshire University. I am now only months away from becoming a qualified midwife. The problem solving skills and communication abilities that I learnt from The King's put me in great stead for immersing myself in to this challenging career; the strong foundations I was provided with gave me the confidence to excel in my chosen career path and as such I am able to promote this confidence in the women I care for. Not only was I prepared for my course with knowledge, but also key skills. My interpersonal skills have developed well and I am able to communicate effectively with other members of the midwifery team to ensure safe care for our patients.

Reflecting on my time in high school highlights just how important it is to apply yourself to your education from a young age, as it not only helps to build a strong foundation for academic skills but personal ones too.



Daisy Ashton

2002 - 2009

I studied my GCSE and A Levels at The Kings, or Clough Hall Technology School as it was known then. Then I went onto study at Newcastle College where I did a BTEC in 3D Design and Ceramics alongside a Foundation Degree. I completed my education at Staffordshire University where I studied for a Degree in 3D Design and Ceramics.

When I was studying I worked in retail. After completing my studies I started working with adults with learning disabilities teaching ceramic and art classes. I then went back into retail working in a make up shop and here I worked my way up from a Sale Assistant to a Supervisor and then moved to become a Manager at another store running my own counter. During this time I realised that my real passion wasn't to work in a retail environment so I found my dream job working at a school alongside children with learning disabilities as a teaching assistant. This is something I had wanted to do since I was at school.

The teachers at The King's were really encouraging and supportive, they gave you the confidence you needed to excel in your subjects. My advice to students today is to study a subject you really enjoy and love, this will help you to find a career you are passionate about in the future!



Daniel Cooper

2001 - 2006

I joined RSM (Bentley Jennison) as an apprentice immediately after leaving The King's. They supported me in achieving my AAT (2008) and in qualifying as a Chartered Accountant with The ICAEW (2011). I spent 8 years qualifying and working as a Chartered Accountant in Practice before moving into a number of Commercial Finance roles across various industry sectors. Having spent time working in large national corporations, I have recently joined local company, A Lench Building Contractors Ltd, as their Finance Director.

The King's taught me a lot, both in and out of the classroom. The qualifications I earned were the first stepping stones to building a successful career and it taught me the rewards that come from hard work! I also loved playing sport during my time at school and I was lucky enough to be chosen as captain of the school rugby team in year 11, it was this in particular that taught me to always work in the best interests of the team and to be a competitive individual.

Success will only ever be equal to your hard work and dedication - Life is not always easy but if you attack each day with a long term goal in mind you will most likely achieve it eventually! I'd like to add that apprenticeships aren't just vocational courses, but also offer a brilliant route into a number of professional service roles. You will gain invaluable work experience alongside your studies!



Ryan Delves

2009 - 2014

Since leaving The King's, I went on to study Graphics and Interactive Media at Newcastle College, which was a vocational course covering a number of different exciting subjects into 3D modelling and graphic design. In the two years of study I realised I enjoyed the world of marketing and how advertising played a huge part in its approach.

Once leaving college, I attended Staffordshire University studying Advertising & Brand Management, a three year course split between design concept and written theory. The University gave me plenty of opportunities to visit and experience work placements. This gave me a good insight into the wider world of work. I graduated with a 1st Class in the summer of 2019 and my career since has been a whirlwind.

Following this I began a role as Graphic Designer which I thoroughly enjoyed, working to create exciting projects with posters, adverts, logos, magazines and a whole range of other items. My current role as Account Executive has allowed me to step away from designing and take a more proactive approach to our business, working alongside our clients to create great advertising campaigns and launches. I will always think back to the excellent support I received from the teachers, especially helping me realise my areas of strength particularly when thinking about my future career. The care of everyone to help me in my decisions and guide me on a career path.

My advice to current students is to never stop learning something new! There's a whole world of exciting and innovative challenges out there, and a mantra of our business, that I like to carry into everyday life, is that "outside of your comfort zone is where the magic happens". Everyone gets nervous, but think of how incredible you'll feel once you've achieved something new.