

# ORIEL ALUMNI

Welcome to the first edition of our 6th Form Alumni update. We hope this publication gives you an insight to the breadth of destinations and exciting adventures our students have embarked upon since leaving Oriel Sixth Form. We contacted our Alumni and asked them to give us a brief update on where they are now and we were overwhelmed by the response we received. We couldn't feature everyone here but look forward to sharing more of their stories in future editions.

We shine the spotlight on two alumni, Hannah Tullett and Matt Walbank; two of our first students at Oriel and their stories demonstrate that whether the workplace environment or university life beckon, you can look forward to a 6th form experience focused on academic challenge, pastoral support and preparation that will get you to where you want to be.



*Hannah Tullett*

*I am currently in my fourth year of studies at Imperial College School of Medicine in London. When you graduate medical school you gain an 'MBBS', but at Imperial you also intercalate an extra year of study (fourth year) and graduate with an additional 'BSc'.*

I am now a few months into this year and have chosen to study 'respiratory medicine.' It is based at the Royal Brompton Hospital, home to National Lung and Heart Institute, so we receive teaching from world-class experts. Soon I will be selecting my lab-based or clinical respiratory research project, and if you do particularly well you may get published in a scientific journal which will help your career post-medical school. I am enjoying the focus on diseases that I will commonly face as a doctor- asthma etc. - but medical research is not my interest, and I look forward to returning to the hospital placements which dominate fifth and sixth year.

In my first year I picked up lacrosse, playing ladies and the mixed game and enjoying crazy socials, from 'sports nights' to 'tours'. Joining a society also has a pastoral element to it. I've made friends with people studying in each of the six medical school years, and know who I can call on for advice & support.

I have very fond memories of Oriel. The teachers were so great in helping me gain the work experience, the grades and the interview skills for applying to medical school. Our RAG week and end of Sixth Form Ball were particularly fun.

I can honestly say I have loved every moment of my university experience so far. I am studying the subject I always hoped to, with access to some of the best teachers and hospitals in the UK. I am living in London, which is always full of things to do and places to see. And I have met some incredible people, from all over the country and world. University truly opens doors to great experiences and friendships. I will always thank Oriel Sixth Form for helping me make it here, and I am so glad to have stayed in touch with the friends that made my Oriel experience.

*Attending Oriel Sixth Form was definitely the most enjoyable part of my time at Oriel. The teachers were always really supportive and always made time for me if I had any difficulties understanding their subject.*

Having looked around a couple of universities I realised that this was not the right path

for me. KBR are a Global Engineering, Design and Construction Company. I work in the Oil and Gas sector where we design, engineer and construct large scale onshore and offshore refineries on behalf of clients such as BP, Chevron and Shell. During my work experience I was made aware of the training programme the company offer for young designers; I applied for the position within the electrical division, went to the assessment day and secured a place.

I am currently in my final year of training, I've completed my ONC in Electrical and Electronic Engineering and will be finishing my HNC qualification in May. The hardest part was managing both my work duties with studying, but I knew it would be worth it and have showed my employers my commitment and eagerness to progress. I have been fortunate to work in different countries, my highlight being the Design Liaison on site in Azerbaijan. I have recently been promoted to a more senior designer, meaning I will be the Electrical Design lead on site for an upcoming project and will be moving to Azerbaijan for 18 months.

If there is one piece of advice I can give any student thinking about their future, it's explore your options. If you find a job with a structured training programme and ability to progress within the company I would advise taking it. The mix of learning and gaining exposure to a commercial environment is vital. Also, in 6th form make the most of work experience; with the job market as competitive as it is getting a foot in the door helps, and then ask if there are any school leaver schemes. You can't wait for companies to advertise, you have to be proactive and willing to show that you want to work.



*Matt Walbank*



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

I am currently in my final year of studying Fine Art at the University of Southampton. During this course I have produced a wide variety of artwork, often prompted by practical workshops in areas such as painting, photography and sculpture, and attended lectures relating to the study of contemporary art practice as well as module studies that have included programming exhibitions in museums and galleries.



*Claire Anscomb*

*Over the course I have found my specialism is in drawing and, prompted by my tutor to enter competitions, I have been lucky enough to exhibit at the Jerwood Drawing Prize in London and around the UK.*

I have very fond memories of my time at Oriel Sixth Form, with the help and encouragement of my teachers I gained very good results and can forever be proud of the achievements I attained at Oriel.



*Stuart Bayliss*

*I have many fond memories of my time at Oriel. Being one of the first students to step foot in the door was a huge privilege. After 6th form I left to study*

*Music at the University of Chichester.*

I have had many opportunities to work with amazing musicians and have made some fantastic friends. Outside of studies I have been in the University Piano Group as well as the Symphony, Sinfonia, Sinfonietta and Wind Orchestras. In my final year, I am studying hard for my Dissertation which will be a performance in the form of a 20-25

minute Piano recital as opposed to an essay. Outside of Music I have worked in a number of different part time positions including as a Student Ambassador which has been very beneficial to my future career. I was the President of the Music Society at the Students' Union in my second year and now in my third year I sit on the Executive Committee of the Union as Societies Federation President. Having been elected in to the position in April, I have developed many leadership skills which are going to be invaluable in the work place. I plan to go on to teach. I am currently toying with many different pathways including Teaching English as a Foreign Language in Asia, going straight into a Secondary PGCE and Instrumental Teaching, all of which are very exciting prospects.

*Since leaving Oriel Sixth Form I have attended and graduated university with a degree in Philosophy at The University of Kent. And in the near future I will be going to America for three months.*

My memories of Oriel are all positive; I had a great experience, shared with good friends and good teachers. What always excited me about Oriel was the relationship between the students and the teachers. During my years at the school the teachers had a professional relationship with the students but there was always a sense that there could be a more friendly side to the educational relationship and as such it has encouraged me to keep in touch too. My sister, who is currently in the 6th Form, has also boasted of the friendly relationship between students and teachers which I believe is something unique to Oriel and something which I believe makes it a great 6th Form.



*Alex Braidwood*

*After 6th Form, I went to the University of Sussex, studying Anthropology and French.*

I soon got used to the university way of life, and in my second year volunteered at Oriel as a language assistant in French classes, then during the summer I was employed as a research assistant in the Science and Technology Policy Department, analysing the impact of DNA and biomarker patents on the NHS and researchers in the UK. Third year has been the most enriching year of my life; I studied at a prestigious university in Aix-en-Provence, just a stone's throw from the Cote d'Azur. I travelled all over Europe with a lovely group of

friends, and my French improved massively. It sounds like a cliché, but if the opportunity to immerse yourself in a new language and culture arises, you should wholeheartedly throw yourself into it, what you learn in doing that could never be taught in a classroom. Arriving home, I did a placement with a research company in London, they focused on a qualitative style of research, using ethnographic methods (which, essentially, are what anthropology is all about), offering insight to the industry I would like to enter. This leads up to the present day, finishing my degree, back at Sussex, working hard so that I can take up some of the various opportunities I glimpsed in the big wide world.



*Morgan Flack*

*I am currently at the University of Bedfordshire, studying my first year of Journalism. I took a gap year and went around grabbing all the work and volunteering experience I could do to boost my CV.*

I then applied to university to pursue my dream career as a journalist. Without Oriel Sixth Form, I probably wouldn't have had even considered university because with my dream career it was a tough crowd, and with all my ideas Oriel Sixth Form helped me through. My Sixth Form subjects were amazing; a lot that I had learnt also applies now to the course I am studying, even Philosophy and Ethics relates to



*Maria Baker*

my unit of Digital Culture all the time where we learn a lot about Plato and Socrates' views. I was (and still kind of am) a fickle person during my years in Oriel, I kept changing my mind on what I really wanted to do whatever route I chose, Oriel were fast on their feet to help me get there.

I loved all my subjects and found it hard when it came to say goodbye after spending 7 years of my life at Oriel where I collected so many memories. University was not a pathway I wanted to follow, and so I enrolled at Chichester College to study floristry.

*Floristry was something I'd always thought about as a career but I hadn't been sure until I did my year 12 work experience placement in the Boulevard florist in town.*

After that I knew that floristry was what I wanted to do. I was also offered a job as the shop's Saturday girl which meant I could get some experience in the industry. I completed my course and achieved a distinction. During that year I applied for a job as a full time florist at Zoës Florist. I got the job and I have been working there ever since. I absolutely love it. I have been able to spread my wings and have learnt so much about the industry and developed my skills. Recently I completed a whole wedding on my own without any help which is a big accomplishment.



*Nicole Beeden*



*Currently I'm in my final year of studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science, studying BSc Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method.*

I'm also the President of RAG (Raising and Giving) Society – a society that raises money for charity in the most fun ways possible! Since I've left Oriel 6th Form I've had an incredible time at university - having been in RAG, written extensively for my student newspaper, and become involved with student politics. I was very lucky to have work experience at 'The Guardian' in the summer of my first year, and then to go to South Africa to study in the summer of my second year, courtesy of the LSE.

I remember Oriel Sixth Form as a place where I had fierce political debates with a few individuals, and had fantastic teachers who really pushed me to do my best. What stands out to me were the teachers – at the LSE academics aren't as interested in your success as the teachers at Oriel!

Also, organising the summer ball for Year 13 was definitely a highlight of my time at Oriel. I had a great time and look forward to going back to visit & speak to the current students.



*Nona Bruckley-Irvine*

I work for a company called euNetworks, a 21st Century bandwidth supplier that provides IT infrastructure to companies across the world, specialising in the financial sector. I am based in Moorgate, London but we also have offices in Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Munich, Dublin and Berlin. I am an account manager: I have a monthly target that I have to hit which contributes to the UK sales team target. I hold around 6 meetings a week across the City of London with my customers to deal with their requests & issues, whilst also meeting prospective companies.

*After finishing sixth form, I always had the ambition to get a job in London, as this is where I believe a career could be achieved. I applied for an internship at euNetworks which I was successful in getting.*



*Lewis Gurr*

After 6 months I was offered a job in the UK Sales team to run my own customer base. Oriel Sixth Form is great, they pushed me perform to my best ability. There was a fantastic leadership team and teachers that helped me achieve the results I wanted in my exams. The Sixth Form has a relaxed, friendly and encouraging environment.

I am in my 2nd year at London South Bank University studying Children's Nursing. Last year I did two very different placements: one at a school for children with special needs and the other on a ward at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, which specialised in neurology and plastic surgery.

One thing that really stands out when looking back at my time at Oriel Sixth Form is the Summer Ball at the end of the final year. It was a great night where we all got to let our hair down, even the teachers!

*Oriel Sixth Form holds some very good memories for me, there was never a dull moment when with my friends in the common room and the teachers were all very supportive and helped me to achieve my dream of getting into university.*



*Louise Hodgson*

My name is Lucy Marriott and I was a member of the first Year 8 cohort to enter Oriel High School. I stayed on for the Sixth Form, which I really enjoyed, studying English Language and Literature, History, Psychology, Philosophy & Ethics and Critical Thinking. After this, I went on to the University of Oxford, studying Theology at Regent's Park College.



*Lucy Marriott*

*I loved being a student in Oxford, and I would really encourage any current students thinking about applying to Oxford or Cambridge just to give it a go - it is only one option out of five after all!*

My ambition since I was at Oriel was to be a teacher, and I am now fulfilling my dream, studying a PGCE in Religious Studies at the University of Brighton.

*I'm in my final year at the University of Leicester studying Chemistry. I decided to study Chemistry because I knew it would open doors for me.*

I'm not going to lie, it is difficult and there is a lot of work but I'm really glad I chose it, in my second year I got a first which counts for 40% of my degree which has really helped now I am applying for jobs. Uni isn't all about studying either, there's a lot of partying but there are also societies and sports for everyone! I play football for my course society.

If you think that doing Chemistry you'll end up working in a lab you're wrong, if you want to you can but you can go into so many areas; lots of people go into business. I am applying for jobs in sales for chemical/engineering companies. This summer I did work experience at Barclays Head Office in Canary Wharf which was a real insight into the business world.

In Sixth Form I wouldn't say I was the model student but I definitely put more work in with a little help from my teachers. Honestly it was the best thing I have done. My advice would be work as hard as you can now to get into the best uni doing the best course you can because the job market is really tough.



*James Phillips*



*Shani Higgs*

After 6th form, I was recommended for a role with Santander Consumer Finance and within a year and a half I worked my way up to an administrator position and then to management level. I then started looking for a job in London and in October I landed a role as an underwriting admin assistant for Amlin PLC, a leading underwriting company in the insurance and reinsurance market; they have offices based

all over the world and their London offices, where I work, are based in the heart of the city. My general day is split between spending time in the office, or going over to my second desk at the Lloyds Box where I liaise with underwriters and brokers.

*Oriel had a great student- teacher relationship meaning that the one-on-one attention was something you couldn't receive anywhere else and the educational advice was always personalised to how you would best succeed.*

I enjoyed every one of my A Level subjects and my teachers were the best. For anyone that decides to not take the route of university and go into work I would advise to always work hard, get to know each department and build rapport with everyone. Never stop educating yourself or learning- this doesn't mean you have to take a course and study but simply read a book in a subject you're interested and better your knowledge. Without all the hard work I put in at the beginning I would never be in the job that I am now doing what I love in the City.

*After leaving Oriel Sixth Form, I went to the United States as I had gained a football scholarship to continue both my studies and football.*

I initially went to a 2 year College in Kansas, Barton College, where I commenced a degree in Business. I had a great time in Kansas with success in my studies and my soccer team reaching the finals of the National Tournament; I was also proud to be captain of the team in my second year. After finishing my course, I was approached by The Head Soccer Coach at Belhaven University in Mississippi and agreed to transfer. Belhaven is based in Jackson, the state capital of Mississippi and is fantastic. In my first year at the University, my soccer team won the National NAIA Soccer Championships; it was only the third National Sports title the University had ever won. It was a massive achievement and a fantastic experience for me.

Now in my final year, I am on course to complete my degree and also have the small matter, in football, of defending a National title.



*David Major*

*It definitely doesn't feel like 3 years since leaving 6th Form. The yearbook that we produced for our year is a constant reminder of the great memories and people.*

The best thing about my experience was the activities we would get involved with outside the classroom. There was always something going on, there was never a dull moment, except maybe waiting for Uni offers to come through!

I went to the University of Sussex to study Economics, I knew I wanted to pursue a career in finance but wanted to keep my options open and Economics was a subject I really enjoyed at A-Level. During my first year I also completed an internship with KPMG in their audit department. I found it was a great way to build up some commercial experience whilst at university and it gave me a solid indication of whether accountancy was right for me. I think the experience really helped me out when it came to graduate job applications too.

After 3 years at Sussex I graduated with a first class degree and secured a place on the Finance Graduate scheme at Alliance Boots. I'm now working towards becoming a CIMA qualified accountant, which takes 3 years and plenty more exams! I've moved to Nottingham to work in Boots' head office for the first year of my scheme, then will be moving back down South for my second year, with a possible international placement in the third.



*Jon Wallbank*

# ORIEL ALUMNI

Other destinations... A taster of our students' success and pathways.

A2/BTEC results	University Programme	University
AAA	Accountancy and Finance	Brunel
A* B C	American Studies	Kent
BCC	Animation	University for the Creative Arts
A*AC	Applied Psychology	Brighton
A*A*BC	Architecture	Manchester
AAB	Biological Sciences	Exeter
ABB	Biological Sciences	Leicester
BBB	Biomedical Sciences	Aston
BBC	Chemistry	Brighton
BBC	Chemistry	Leicester
ABB	Chemistry for Drug Discovery (with Year Abroad)	Bath
BCC	Computer Science	Portsmouth
A* A B	Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence	York
BCCDist*	Drama	Queen Mary's University London
BBC	Economics	Bournemouth
ABB	Economics	Kent
AAB	Economics and Finance	Exeter
AABBB	Economics and Politics	Sheffield
AAAB	Engineering	Durham
AAB	English	Exeter
ABC	Environmental Health	Coventry
Dist*BB	Equine Management	Greenwich
A*CC	Fashion Design and Marketing	University of the Arts, London
A* A B	Fine Art	Southampton
BBB	Fire and Rescue	Wolverhampton
ABB	History	Kent
A*AA	History	UEA
A*BBC	History of Art	Warwick

A2/BTEC results	University Programme	University
A*BBC	History of Art	Warwick
ABB	Human Biology	Loughborough
A* B B	Industrial Design and Technology	Brunel
A* A A C	Italian and Spanish	Royal Holloway
A* C D	Journalism	Cumbria
ABB	Law	Sussex
A*A*B	Law with French	Sheffield
Dist*Dist*C	Management with Marketing	Royal Holloway
A*A*AA	Mathematics	Cambridge
A*BC	Mathematics	Surrey
A*A*A*A	Mathematics	Sussex
ABB	Mathematics with Economics	Loughborough
AAB	Mathematics with Finance	Southampton
A* AAAA	Medicine	Kings College, London
A*A*AA	Medicine	Queen Mary's University London
AAA*	Modern Languages	Durham
A* B A	Pharmacy	Nottingham
A* A A	Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method	LSE
AAAB	Physics	Exeter
AAB	Physics	Manchester
A*AAA	Physics with Astrophysics	Bristol
BBB	Politics with Economics	Cardiff
ABC	Product Design Engineering	Loughborough
A*BC	Psychology	Brunel
Dist*BB	Psychology	Loughborough
BCC	Strength and Conditioning	St Mary's
BBB	Television and Video Production	Southampton Solent

# ORIEL ALUMNI



*Oriental Student*

If you are a former Oriel Student please consider signing up for our Alumni association by visiting: [networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student/oriel](http://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student/oriel)

Oriel High School  
Maidenbower Lane, Maidenbower  
Crawley, West Sussex RH10 7XW



**ORIEL  
HIGH  
SCHOOL**

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?