

## **Danyal Hussain: Class of 2015**

After finishing my time at high school, I went on to Salford City College (Eccles and then Pendleton) to study my A-Levels. At AS Level, I took Economics, Biology, Chemistry and Law (quite the mix) and then went on to drop Law. I finished my two years at college and achieved A\*AB.

I was applying to different universities for Medicine and got a few offers but had some complications at the end of college (not knowing if I would get my predicted grades which I ultimately did get) so I applied for a bachelors in Economics/Economics and Finance at red brick uni's across the North of England. I got all my offers and ended up choosing the University of Manchester because I did the access programme and they offered a generous scholarship/bursary for students coming from certain socio-economic backgrounds.

I completed my bachelors at uni and was applying for graduate jobs in Audit/Tax at different professional services firms. After a very long process (6 stages of applications and interviews), I was lucky to get an offer for the Financial Services service line for Assurance and Audit at EY (formerly Ernst & Young) which is the 3rd biggest professional services firm globally. I started in September of this year and I am working alongside studying to qualify as a Chartered Accountant. Currently, I've completed 6 out of the 13 exams and hope to qualify by the middle of 2023.

## **John Robinson: Class of 1984**

**One positive experience:** Mr Crane, great teacher, hard but fair.

**Your post 16 and post 18 route** (including name of college/uni/business (if work) and courses/job title): My exam results were very poor. Resat them and got slightly better

**Current job or training?** Title (and little about what you do, including 3 skills you use/need regularly), who you work for, location: Self-employed Project Manager. My role is to plan and implement medium to large project (£50k to £15m) Planning Persuasion Patience

**The best piece of careers advice I can give is:** Stop talking about what you're going to do and actually do it.

## **Jorden Dobson Class of 2013**

Firstly, in year 11 I discussed, with Maureen the careers advisor, what I wanted to do. I had 2 things I wanted to do, but I couldn't decide between them. My choices were child care, specialising in KS1 and Pre School age, or Technical theatre, including the creative side of theatre (Design for stage). I was told, before I decided I should go and see both of the courses and decide for myself; making sure I was thinking about what I would excel at and what I would not get bored of later down the line. Maureen also told me to make sure I picked something that had plenty of room for development and change, that I could take as and when I decided to. After going to see the courses and deciding what would have the most number of paths, or possibilities of changes and excitement I decided to follow the theatre approach and career. So I went to Pendleton College and stayed on their 2 year course of Production Arts.

At college I excelled and gained skills and knowledge I needed to work professionally in the industry. I left college with a BTEC qualification D(Star), D(Star), D (D=Distinction), Equivalent to 2A\*, A. In my first year at college I decide I wanted a Saturday job, I handed my CV in to a mass number of shops, I got a reply around 4 months later from The Lowry for their catering team, I filled in their application form and was invited to interview, I got the job, and worked there from October 2013 – July 2016. During this time, I also started working as a Theatre Technician in the Lowry, shortly after my 18th Birthday, I couldn't start work as a technician there sooner because of a Health and Safety 'Law' of no worker is allowed to be under 18 years of age.

During my time at the Lowry I got a message from an ex tutor from College, who no longer worked at the college. She messaged me saying she had passed my details onto someone who worked at The Manchester Grammar School who needed a technician to start work at the school, on a temporary contract for 6 weeks work over 8 weeks.

I started work at the Manchester Grammar school in February 2016, in March I was asked if I could stay on at MGS for 4 more weeks after my contract was about to finish, I then got asked again to stay, and then once more, then once that contract finished they decided to offer me a permanent job as one of their permanent theatre technicians. I worked at the Manchester Grammar School for almost 3 years, before I decided to reassess my career options. I went back to the Lowry whilst I reassessed and chose what to study.

After a short while at the Lowry I considered becoming an animal care assistant. Where I took some training to reach towards this goal. During this time, I didn't feel like I was fulfilling my goal, so I "went back to the drawing board".

I knew that I was missing the school environment that I had at MGS, but knew I didn't want the same role that I previously had. I then looked into becoming a teaching assistant. I took part in an online course to gain a qualification in supportive teaching.

In February 2020 I started at Swinton Academy as a teaching assistant. Here I chose to move to a primary school. Where I currently work (since January 2021) at Moorside Primary as a teaching assistant. I have 2 career paths in mind currently. Going to university to study to become an EYFS or KS1 teacher, or working as a teaching assistant until I work up to be the SENDCO.

I feel that I have gained the skill base and the knowledge I needed from Wentworth that I needed to pursue a career. I had the confidence to go on up to college and develop even more, and further my skills in the necessary industry. From Wentworth I feel that I have had a massive helping hand to where I need to be, and where I want to be. Wentworth helped me with confidence because of their mentoring system, I was able to grow at my own pace. Wentworth has helped me so much in my career and set me onto the right path for the future. I feel that there was student and teacher bonds that allows me to look to the staff as examples that I want to follow, some including: Ms Stone, Mrs Aribisala, Miss Barratt, Miss MacKenzie, Mr Janvier, Miss A. Doyle (Mentor), Miss S. Doyle (Learning support/ Teaching assistant), Miss O'Farrell, Mrs Kavanagh, Mrs Grime, Mrs Nevitt, Miss Sherrard, and many more ...

These teachers have been a huge part in my education and I can see traits within myself, especially within the support I can provide in my current role as teaching assistant. I regularly use some of the techniques I was taught or shown in the classroom with some of the students I support

## **Matt Mainwaring: Class of 2016**

Hello current students, my name is Matt Mainwaring – a former student of Wentworth high school (now known as Ellesmere Park high). I attended this tremendous school from 2001-2006 and have no hesitation in saying that some of the memories I made here were amongst the best memories of my life! I met some amazing people, some of whom I am still so close with now. The teachers were unbelievable! From day one each and every teacher that I was lucky enough to be taught by went above and beyond to ensure we enjoyed our time at school and we gained the most from each lesson. We were encouraged to better ourselves daily. Teaching is job that requires a special type of character, not everybody would be cut out for it – I know this now because my sister is a high school teacher at St. Patricks (and a wonderful one at that). The preparation we received at school for going into the real world was second to none. My stand out achievement has to be being head boy! This was an extremely proud moment for me. To have your own peers vote for you is something special and this ranks as the number 1 for me! 4 years later, my sister went on to become head girl – we don't mess around in our family!

Following leaving school I was lucky enough to have secured a football scholarship at Preston North End FC, where I would live for the 2 next years and begin my apprenticeship as a professional footballer. At age 18 I turned professional for Stockport County and went on to play over 100 matches in my career before retiring and turning professional in a boxing ring at age 24. I won 5 out of 5 professional fights in a 3 year spell and decided to return to learning and do a degree in Physiotherapy at 27 – something I am very close to finishing now. Off the back of this degree, I have been able to set up a sports massage business, which I plan to turn into a Physiotherapy business once qualified this summer!

Throughout and during this time I have been signed to a modelling and acting agency in Manchester and have worked on some fantastic shoots, commercials and television programs around the country and Europe! The stand out acting job has to be Emmerdale – I was able to land 7 episodes on the dales last year, playing a very interesting character!

As a former student of this wonderful school the most important advice I can give to you current students is don't waste time! 5 years will fly by and in the grand scheme of things it's nothing! Your teachers have something to pass onto you that is invaluable – experience! Listen to them, take on board what you are being told and do your best! I did... and I am so glad I did because the hard work I put in and the results I gained in school allowed me to go to university as a mature student, without having to prove myself over and over again! As an 18 year old young man playing for Stockport County first team in League 1, I was involved in a terrible tackle and broke my leg. This threatened my whole career (before it had really got going) and forced me to think about other options. I was able to dig in, be resilient and recover fully, going on to play

another 80 professional games before changing careers 5 years later. But can you imagine if I had not put the work in at school, I had not listened to my teachers and had taken my time there for granted? What would I have done if I was told there and then my career was over, with no back up plan? Moral of the story... use your time wisely. You have a fantastic opportunity to gain a great education at a wonderful school – take it! I wish you all the best of luck!

## **Adam Dickinson Class of 1993**

Currently founder and development director of Rezzil.

Year left Wentworth 1993 (I think!)

Loved my time there especially captain of Athletics, and English and Art were my favourite classes.

Favourite teacher was Mrs Walsh, love the Lledr hall art Trip and my son has just been with Monton Green.

My work experience was at Manchester United, which also sparked into my career now.

After leaving Wentworth I went to Pendleton college, whilst working part time at Tesco Salford precinct. (Where I stayed until leaving uni).

At Pendleton I studied Art and English Lit and Media Studies.

During time there I explored Air Traffic Control exams and got to final stage, I was looking what existed outside of traditional routes.

I left Pendleton and took a place offered at Salford Uni, I chose English literature as I got the highest grade in that for A level. Looking back, it was a big mistake, I should have gone to something I was passionate about.

I was always drawing buildings and explored Architecture, and at the end of the first year I wanted to transfer.

Unfortunately, I didn't have the hand drawing skills, so self-taught early CAD and 3D to myself to get on the course. I loved the course and took a job offer to join an architect at my degree show.

A year in Employment I realised the same software was used in games, so I went on to work for Gremlin, Rage, EA games, Activision, on games like Battlefield and James Bond and Need for Speed. This allowed me to travel the world.

Now with Rezzil we have a Manchester HQ but are in 9 countries, and growing and releasing new games and drills all the time. I have spoken at Uni and consulted on careers for games. I am a member of BAFTA and always give the same advice.

**Follow your passions, everything is easier if your passionate about it.** Don't do what people expect of you.

If you can't get into an industry straight away like games, stay close in design and keep your side hustle and passion projects alive until you get an opportunity.

Most of all... **Be brave and Be kind...**