

Katherine Jones - TTS Student: 2005 - 2012

Current role: PhD Student, University of Birmingham

Career pathway:

I always loved history at school and I studied history at the University of Sussex, graduating with First Class Honours in July 2015. In September 2015 I then began my Master's course at Birmingham, where I was able to nurture my interest in modern British history further, particularly social and cultural aspects of 20th century Britain. The course really inspired me to continue to study further for a PhD in this field which I have immensely lucky to have been awarded funding for. I ultimately wish to pursue a career as an academic historian - with this opportunity I am one step closer!

Advice for students:

Although I am aware it's not for everyone, pursuing further study has really opened my mind and expanded my horizons in a multitude of ways, not just academically. I believe it has made me a more confident, more self-aware person, something I don't believe I would have developed into if I took an alternative route.

For anyone considering studying history at university in particular, I would highly recommend, even if you don't wish to pursue my specific career path. History at university is dynamic and fun above all; you will have the opportunity to visit archives and get "hands on" with a whole host of different materials, which literally does bring history "to life". A history degree will also equip you with an arsenal of transferable skills you can carry with you into many different job roles.

Best memory of your time at Thomas Telford?

Undoubtedly I've made some lifelong friends who continue to support me and have done since my first few years at the school and I will always remember the enthusiasm and passion of my teachers and how this inspired me to learn. Finally, my memory of winning the school's Science Fair in year 8 will always be fond one (and something I'll always remain quite proud of!).

