



Term: Autumn | Issue 1 | 2023

## WELCOME!

It is with great pleasure that we welcome our George Salter students, both past and present, to the first edition of our GSA Alumni News!

The aim of this termly newsletter is to enable our George Salter family to stay in touch with their peers and GSA teaching staff. We want to showcase student success post-GSA, to facilitate sharing your experiences and to create a network of support that reaches beyond your secondary school classrooms.

Thank you so much to the students featured in our first edition. It is so wonderful to hear about their success and we hope that their stories are a source of inspiration to you all.

We would love to hear from further GSA alumni students and invite any who are willing to share their experiences to contact Mrs Ford at [alumninews@georgesalter.com](mailto:alumninews@georgesalter.com)

## FROM GEOGRAPHY AT GEORGES TO CANYONS IN COLOMBIA!

*Nathaniel Jinks left Salter Sixth in Summer 2014. He recently contacted Mr Elgar to let him know what he has been doing since leaving the Geography classrooms of GSA ...*

Hi! I'm teaching Geography, this is my 6th year - I have got 4 years domestic experience and now I'm abroad. Currently, I have a Year 13 form group and they are applying to University, and they did ask me this morning if any of my old teachers know what I'm up to nowadays - they watched me type out this email!

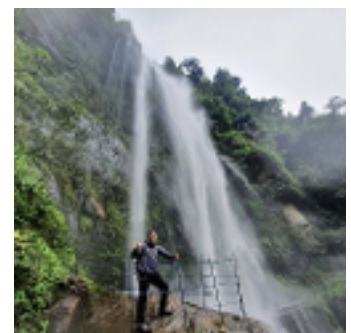
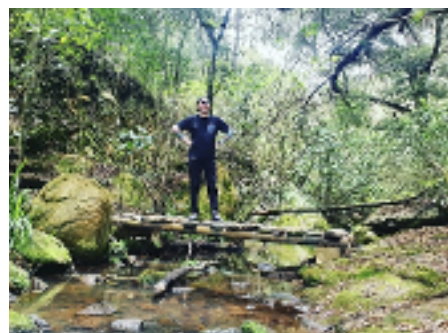
I'm currently out in Colombia, I've attached some pictures! Nothing quite like fieldwork within canyons, the paramo or the rainforest ...

Looking at top schools in Asia for the next move.

This is where Geography from Georges can take you - the University of Sheffield, University of Nottingham PGCE and then the world!

I often get asked about the Black Country flag on my blazer lapel, little do the kids know that it also represents very humble beginnings...

All the best, Nathaniel



## APPRENTICESHIP SUCCESS

*Joe Byrne left GSA in Summer 2023. He decided that he did not want to go straight off to university and spent time looking for a suitable apprenticeship route.*

'After completing my A-Levels, I managed to get an apprenticeship at Blackheath Primary School. It is a Level 3 TA apprenticeship and I found it via the gov.uk website (thanks to Mrs Dickinson).

Within my apprenticeship, I support children with autism one-to-one. I support one child in the morning and another child in the afternoon. I do this 5 days a week.

In addition to this, I get set one assignment a month which goes towards my qualifications.

Although the apprenticeship has a duration of 2 years, I have been told that I may finish it within a year.

The job can be overwhelming at times as autism is a large spectrum and each child is very different. However, with enough patience and kindness each day can be very rewarding.

My advice to students is do not be scared to not attend university. It can be quite hard knowing exactly what degree and route you want to take. Just remember that with A Levels, you can attend university at any age, you do not have to rush and regret your decision. Give apprenticeships a chance!

## QUALIFIED TEACHER WORKING IN DUBAI

*A proud alumni of GSA, **Shakelun Naher** left Salter Sixth in Summer 2016. In her own words, she explains her journey since...*

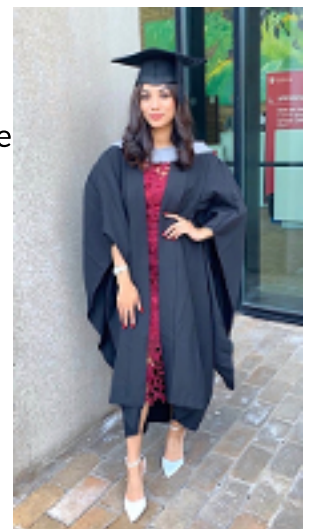
'Post 16 at GSA is a special and unique time for an individual's personal growth. As a young adult, I learned how to be independent and take ownership of my studies. I strove to meet all deadlines, committed to a hardworking ethic and remained thoroughly organised. I believe these skills are invaluable not only to succeed in Post 16 but in life beyond. Since the completion of my academic journey with GSA, my dream was to become an English Teacher. After results day and achieving my desired grades, I was accepted at my first choice, the University of Leicester.

My experience at university was amazing. I met people from diverse backgrounds, experienced new settings/cultures and made lifelong friends who share similar ambitions and goals. At Leicester, I completed a BA Honours in English Literature with English Language. After graduation, I attended the University of Birmingham where I successfully achieved a Postgraduate Diploma in Secondary (English) with Qualified Teacher Status.

Since graduating from both universities, I have taught English for three years. I have been a KS3 Lead teacher/ Second in English and Head of Whole School Literacy. In this role, I worked with a Primary and Secondary School in the West Midlands raising students' attainment in reading, writing and oracy.

During summer 2023, I relocated to the United Arab Emirates as the English Lead for a new British School. I also aspire to complete my Masters in Education with the University of Birmingham Dubai and explore international educational policies.'

*Since sending this article in to Alumni News, Shakelun has married, moved to Dubai and started her teaching role. We wish her every success!*



## SOME TAKEAWAY TIPS FROM GEORGE'S EMPLOYERS' DAY

*Back in April, GSA held an Employers' Day, offering students the opportunity to speak to different professionals about their jobs and routes into their profession. We thought that the information might be useful to all students considering their next steps and **Skaiva Klimisaukaite** kindly volunteered to write a short report for this purpose...*

Employers' Day was a great experience to understand that it does not matter where you come from, there will always be many opportunities to become who you want to become or even become something you did not realise you would become. However, one thing to remember is that regardless of the career you choose to go into, a basic understanding of English and Maths is essential, and most jobs will ask for 5 GCSEs (most of the time being between grades 5-9).

Meeting a construction engagement manager (who also builds F1 cars), someone from Le Grand, a hospital pharmacist, and members from KPMG, it was clear that all had some similarities especially within the best part of their jobs: flexibility, variety of work, meeting new people and inspiring young people like us.

However, these jobs do not come without challenge. Hours may still be long, having to plan travel and having to accept that not everything can always be fixed.

Speaking to members from KPMG, it proves that there are many opportunities within a single company, including a wide variety of apprenticeships in different areas.

Similarly, working for a particular company does not just restrict you to one single area. After speaking to a man from Le Grand, it was clear that although working for a French manufacturing company, he is still able to move locations as it is a global company which has around 35/36,000 employees.

Even going into a health profession, there are still a variety of areas to choose from. For example, a pharmacist can choose to move within 3 different areas: community pharmacist, hospital pharmacist and an industry pharmacist.

Questions also arose concerning what made them go into the jobs they have?

Inspiration for their chosen career paths varied. For some their inspiration was family, but other factors also proved inspirational, such as having done work experience for that career or simply just a personal interest.

Finally, is the importance of your CV. Too many people overthink what to include in their CV. To put it simply, it just needs to be personalised to help you stand out from the rest of the crowd. You will not be the only one applying for that job. The more you stand out, the more likely you are to be noticed. So, as a top tip for writing a CV, add your own personal touch, whatever that may be, but do not over do it. It is as simple as that. Make yourself stand out, but also ensure that your CV is clearly presented.

## GSA STUDENT ADVICE TO THOSE MOVING AWAY FROM HOME

- Do your research thoroughly before you choose a university or apprenticeship. Will you be happy?
- Join the University Facebook/ social media pages before you get there.
- Drop a message to someone expressing the same interest for an event, get to know them online a bit before you start university - make some contacts .
- Remember the importance of a work life balance. Meet uni deadlines but fit in that 'me time'. Treat yourself to a movie and a takeaway/ attend the social events put on by your University.
- Try to stay conscious of cost. Not every night needs to be a 'going out night'.
- 'Student Services' will give you advice on practically anything from mental health to social clubs so please use these services, they are fantastic!
- Visit your family or friends over the weekend if time allows, but allow yourself time to settle in before going.