



TABITHA NEUHAUS

Plewlands | Medical

When I left Gordonstoun, my mind was set on becoming an actress, well or anything in the theatre industry really. Managing Performance at the University of Leeds it was. In my 4th Semester however, I realised that something was missing. Uni life was great, don't get me wrong, but academically I needed a push. Studying medicine was always on my mind and so I enrolled in a few medical electives. I immediately love it. My parents told me to finish my BA at Leeds first, just in case Medicine wasn't the right thing. After Leeds I moved back to Germany, applied at several Universities and I ended up studying Medicine in Riga, Latvia. After pre-clinic, I moved back to Germany and finished my studies there. Currently I live in my hometown in Munich and am training to become an ophthalmic surgeon and I couldn't be happier with my choice. The schools' motto "**Plus est en vous**" has definitely led me through all the ups and downs and proven me, that there really is more in you. It may take a little longer to reach the goal you have set yourself, but I have learnt to never stop trying and believing. You need to find the one thing that makes you happy. I only found out that my passion lies in medicine, after I studied something completely different, so don't be afraid if you don't find it at the first try. The pandemic caused by Covid-19 has pushed new boundaries on society and working in the health industry isn't easy at the moment. Nevertheless, day by day, I know I made the right choice and I couldn't have done it without the Gordonstoun and its spirit, that stays even after you have left school, no matter where in the world you are.



NICHOLA ALLAN

Hopeman | Medical

On leaving school I studied BN (Bachelor of Nursing) at Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen. In my career as a Staff Nurse I have worked in specialities including respiratory and ophthalmology. I have also completed a post graduate certificate at Glasgow Caledonian University. I hope to progress to a senior band 6 nurse role in a leadership and management role or a nurse practitioner role. I feel my time at Gordonstoun helped instil a sense of service and compassion in me through the community service I undertook. Kurt Hahn's ideals of "Plus es en vous" and resilience will help me face the unprecedented and monumental challenge we are all currently facing in the NHS and help me play my small part in battling COVID-19. The sense of service and compassion that Gordonstoun helped instill in me will stay with me throughout my life both professionally and personally.



PHILIP LYE

Bruce | Military

From an early age, a few years in the Army was a dream of mine, but one that I felt I may never achieve. I was often distracted with the allure of working abroad, or earning the big bucks in the 'City' and I just couldn't see myself ever firmly committing. At Gordonstoun, as a proud Bruce Boy, my attitude started to shift and I could see more potential in myself and what I could achieve, moreover I was immersed in a world of 'service' but also excitement that only the military seemed able to compete with. Following school and an incredible few years at Newcastle University I made the jump, heading to The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and ultimately commissioning into the Blues and Royals, my boyhood dream. I had made it and before long found myself being sent across the world on training and operations from Canada to the Middle East. I had scratched my childhood itch.

As I sit here now amidst the COVID19 Pandemic as a member of the military the lessons of my school days could not be more valuable for those that I serve with. I returned back from an operational tour in the Middle East into an alien world of facemasks and social distancing but moreover a sense of unease, and it was bizarre. The country was worried and clearly in need of our aid as Public Health England and the NHS started to buckle under the strain of the virus. Soldiers, some of which are still in their first year of service, now find themselves in a bib and face mask swabbing key workers for COVID19, supporting the Ambulance service, building hospitals and delivering PPE around the country. I personally, and rather frustratingly, am sat on 'notice to move' waiting to help in any way that is required but cannot help relating my school days to this current struggle - soldiers in the British Army didn't join up for this, had no idea there was even a threat of this happening 10 months ago but now rise to the challenge and perform exceptionally in support of our NHS. Is there a better example of **PLUS ET ENVOUS** than this?

My time at Gordonstoun taught me the value of service, compassion and discipline. It is this foundation, built on by my time in the military that has really shown me, and many others in the current circumstances, that there are truly no limits to what individuals can achieve. In times like these, there is little as reassuring as that.



HEATHER STANNING

Plewlands | Military

Having left Gordonstoun in 2003 I spent the summer and early autumn working to buy a round the world ticket, which took me firstly to Canada and I landed a job as a lift operator on the mountain. How did I get that job with zero experience? In my interview I talked about the responsibility and problem solving techniques I had learnt whilst part of the school fire service.

It was at university that I took up the sport of rowing...having wanted to try something new. Little did I know that something I started as a bit of fun, to meet people and get fit, would turn into a twelve year journey resulting in two Olympic Gold medals.

Whilst in my last year at school I gained an army scholarship and university bursary, with the ambition of an Army career. I was fortunate to be able to balance my military and rowing careers in tandem until 2016, when I decided to retire from international sport and concentrate on my military career.

Although on the outside it possibly looks like I've seamlessly moved from one thing to the next since leaving school 17 years ago, nothing has been that straightforward, but that's what has made it so much fun. Being brave enough to give something unknown a go can lead to all sorts of unexpected experiences with some incredible people. For me it's been in elite sport and the military, but I know many of my school friends (whom I am still close with), have had equally exciting careers in other fields. At school we were all exposed to similar experiences, but that just gave us the tools for later life.

Later this year I will return to my military career, which I continue to find interesting and diverse in both the day to day job and also the people I get to work with.



TOM BOLAND

Round Square | Advertising

I fell into the world of Advertising and am currently based in London developing ads for Unilever globally. The truth is that I spend most of my time daydreaming of Seamanship and Expeds.

I try bring those daydreams to life as often as possible through climbing or long-distance running trips from Northern Canada to the Alps to, yes, the Scottish Highlands & Islands (often with fellow OGs).

Born and raised in New York and Hong Kong, Gordonstoun introduced me to and taught me about the outdoors and natural environments. Environments and skills that now bring me fulfilment and joy as I attempt to live out my daydreams.

I'm secretly harbouring plans to launch my own business to marry my dayjob and daydreams but won't tell you too much about that yet...