

OC OF THE MONTH

September 2018



ROSIE GOODHART (GH 2009)

A LEVELS: HISTORY, ENGLISH, POLITICS and
PHILOSOPHY

UNIVERSITY: BRISTOL UNIVERSITY, BA in History
MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY, MA in Education and
Leadership

1. Tell us about yourself – where do you currently work, and how did you get into that?

I am currently working as a teacher on the senior leadership team in an inclusive school in Accra, Ghana. I am also a teacher trainer and educational consultant part time.

Prior to moving to Ghana I spent four years as a history teacher, two in Leeds through the Teach First programme, and two years in East London.

2. What are some of your proudest achievements since graduating?

The GCSE results during my time as Head of Department in the school in Leeds. 79% A* - C which was a 50% improvement on the year before, and top ten in the country for history. The relentless slog paid off though at a price to my views on the educational system in the UK.

Moving to Ghana by myself and dealing with a range of difficult career situations – I'm pleased I stuck it out.

3. What advice would you give someone who is looking to follow a similar career path?

Do it - you won't regret it. It's not easy and can be quite emotionally taxing at times but it's incredibly fulfilling. Make sure you pick the training course that works for you – there are so many these days: Schools Direct, Ark, Tech First etc so put some work into finding one that suits you.

When it comes to the teaching itself – keep an open mind, always ask for feedback, accept that things are going to go wrong a lot of the time but keep going, work with what you have and know that nothing will ever be perfect and that the students do appreciate you, even if that's not how they act.

4. Which A Level subjects did you choose at Highgate, and do you have any advice for pupils currently choosing A Levels?

History, English, Politics and Philosophy.

Do what you enjoy. If you're not really sure what you enjoy then speak to your teachers and read up on the courses. It's always going to be a bit of a risk as many of the subjects are so different to GCSE or completely new so try not to worry too much about it.

5. Where did you go to University? What did you study? Do you have any advice for pupils currently thinking about University options?

I went to Bristol University to study history and then Manchester University for a part time MA in Education and Leadership. I would strongly advise going to look round a university before you decide to apply. Try not to listen too much to the stereotypes you may hear from others around you, just go and see the place for yourself and speak to the professors and students on your chosen course.

6. Did your time at Highgate help you? If so, how?

Highgate helped me so much. I couldn't have asked for a better schooling experience. The teachers I had really pushed me, I loved my subjects and felt very driven by the work. Our year group was also very close and I have made friends for life.

7. In three words, how would you describe Highgate?

Supportive, stimulating and varied

8. What is your strongest memory of Highgate?

My history lessons. They felt like university seminars – ten boys plus me which was quite intimidating at first, especially as one of the history teachers liked to give our essays back in a very public way from worst to best - mine being one of the first to land on my desk.. But I was really pushed in those lessons both by the teachers and other students and we had a lot fun at the same time.

9. What drives you?

Knowing I can always learn more and be a better teacher.

10. What's next?

Continuing in my current role for at least another year. Long term who knows – I know I will be teaching but not sure where! I'd like to be a deputy head one day.