

# OC OF THE MONTH

March 2018



## HARRY MORRIS (HG 2011)

**A LEVELS:** ENGLISH, ECONOMICS AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

**UNIVERSITY:** UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS, BACHELOR'S DEGREE,  
MANAGING PERFORMANCE 2:1

[LINKEDIN PROFILE](#)

HIGHGATE

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

I currently work as Business Development Manager for a music supervision agency called Big Sync Music. We essentially curate music for adverts, from licensing commercial tracks by the likes of Ed Sheeran and Taylor Swift to composing original scores to finding the perfect track to fit any brief. I have always had a love of music and have long planned to work my way into the industry. During an industry year whilst at University, I worked at a music event production company, getting to meet a huge amount of people from labels, management companies, promoters and brands, building up my network so that I could someday return to working in music. After leaving university I knew that my passion for music and network would not be enough so I got a job working at a business development agency where I learnt how to pitch to world leading brands and essentially win new business. I then coupled my experience in business development with my love for music and hence found my perfect job at Big Sync!

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

Many of my proudest achievements were actually during my industry year pre-graduation. Particularly being Assistant Stage Manager at Leeds Festival, surviving off 2 hours sleep a night for about 12 days and also working on Hans Zimmer's first ever live tour for a month where I didn't get much more sleep! Since graduation, I am most proud of some of the opportunities and meetings I have been able to create for my clients, most notably with Marketing Directors at Adidas (US), Samsung, Sony, Carlsberg and many more.

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

Definitely expand your network as soon as possible and do as much (unfortunately) unpaid work as you can. As there are few degrees that can set you up for a job in the music industry, it is simply about experience and who you know. Whilst the work is mostly unpaid (not always), it is amazing fun and you will meet some great people. Volunteer at festivals, apply for artist liaison roles at gigs, write to labels and management to apply for internships, set up a LinkedIn account and email music industry professionals to meet up for a coffee; do it all!

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

I studied English, Economics and RS. Choose subjects that you can see actively having an impact on your professional life but don't worry about it too much! Just having good results in your A Levels shows you are capable and try to pick subjects that you have a genuine interest in.

## 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 Leeds University and studied Managing Performance. Don't worry, no one else has heard of it either! It was a course that looked into the cultural industries and how this affects modern day life. It also looked at events management and was quite a vocational course which gave me some amazing experiences such as producing my own photography exhibition to putting on drama classes at a youth offenders prison. Again, choose a subject that you are genuinely interested in and if there is a course that can offer you some vocational, real life experience then even better.

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

Yes, of course! Highgate particularly helped me when applying for university. I didn't really know where to start and I got help through every stage of my UCAS application, which helped me a lot. The school also teaches you to be a well-rounded individual, to not just work hard at your studies but to be a good citizen in everyday life.

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

Jacket potato bar

## 8. What is your strongest memory of Highgate?

I wasn't always the best behaved at Highgate so I think I might have to pass on some of my strongest memories. However, I will never forget my first day, in year 3, meeting some of the people that I am still friends with to this day.

## 9. What drives you?

Meeting new people, working in an industry that I am genuinely passionate about and making sure that I am excited to go into work every day

## 10. What's next?

To be honest, I don't know but that is okay! I always wanted to get into the music industry but did not know that this would be the route I would take. I want to keep progressing in my job, expand my network and hopefully one day obtain a job at a major record label (I think).