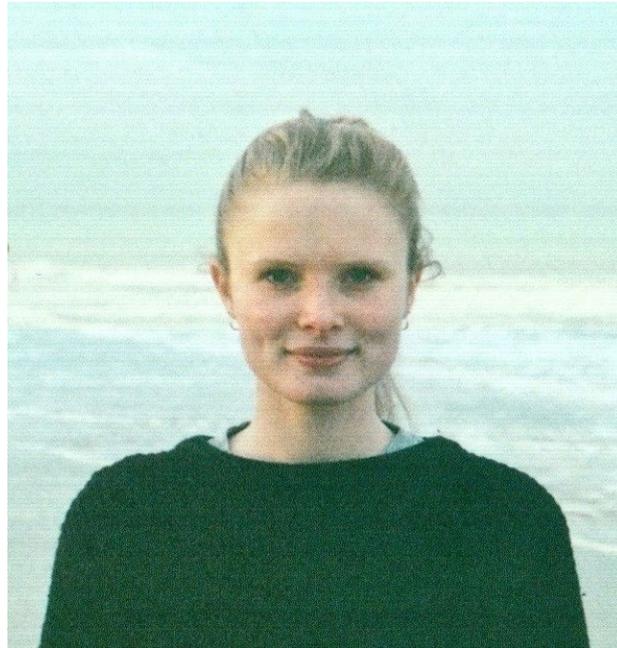


OC OF THE MONTH

FEBRUARY 2019



ROSA VERITY (SH 2013)

A LEVEL: ENGLISH LITERATURE, LATIN, HISTORY OF ART, GERMAN

UNIVERSITY: UNIVERISTY OF CAMBRIDGE, BACHELOR'S DEGREE, CLASSICS AND
CLASSICAL LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, AND LINGUISTICS

[LINKEDIN PROFILE](#)

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

I am currently a Product Manager at Monzo Bank, a fin-tech founded just over three years ago now. I work with a team of engineers and designers to discover and build product features that are valuable to our users and feasible for the business. Most recently I've been working on building the customer support chat feature. At Monzo we're building a different kind of bank: we're hoping to make money work for everyone, solely through your mobile. Before joining Monzo I studied Classics at Cambridge. I had worked at a tech start-up while living in Berlin before university, and had enjoyed the pace and culture of that environment, so looked for something similar when applying for full time jobs. I started Monzo in the Business Operations team and spent a year working out what role would suit me best before finding Product Management. I was drawn to this role as it combines business, technology and user experience - the best of all worlds.

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

I've done some long-distance hikes and cycling in my summers that I'm pretty proud of: among them hiking the GR20 in Corsica and cycling the length of Romania. While at university I founded a society, Cambridge Women in Business, that's still going strong. The society brings top business women to the university to talk to the students about their experiences and offer them advice. I also ran as a councillor candidate in the London Elections last year. I didn't win but I got a surprising number of votes. It was my first step into Politics after the Brexit shock and realising that young people need to be more engaged.

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

Don't allow yourself to feel hindered by past choices, lacking qualifications or minimal experience. With my A-Levels and degree choice (and not much work experience either!), I would not have initially backed myself to end up in a tech company leading a team of engineers. That's what interested me though so I tried my luck. That doesn't mean I don't now need to learn lots, but I'm glad I didn't consider this a closed door, especially so early on in my career. Passion and perseverance gets you further than you might think!

4. How has your experience at Highgate contributed to your life and successes since leaving school? (i.e. skills learned)

The academic rigour of Highgate taught me diligence, the wealth of facilities and societies helped develop my interests beyond academia, and the support of all the teachers allowed me to grow in confidence. Highgate has also left me with a group of friends who I still see regularly and are probably now friends for life. I'm very grateful for my time at Highgate.

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

Tuck shop banter

6. What's next?

I'll probably stay at Monzo for a while longer as I still have a lot to learn there and it's an exciting place to be. After that, who knows? I'd like to start my own business at some point, and maybe move abroad...