



Alumni profiles



Name: Leanna Gelderd

Leaving year: 2001

Education/Training after St Mary's: Oxford University to study Maths

Current role: Management Accountant

Current city: London

What have you done since leaving St Mary's?

I left St Mary's in 2001 and 16 years later I am a qualified Management Accountant, I live in London with my husband & three children.

After St Mary's I went to Oxford University to study Maths – I absolutely loved it. I started my first job as a Trainee Management Accountant at Conde Nast Publications. I spent 5 years with this company and completed my CIMA qualification and worked my way up to Head of Management Accounts. This involved running a finance team to produce all budgets & company forecasts. I then took up a post in the Consolidation team at BT Global Services, before moving to Chanel where I headed another finance team and took on the role of Controller of Finance.

Tell us more about your current job & role

Management Accounting can take you into any sector as every business needs them. Choose a sector that interests you as you get to really understand the business - and the staff, customers and stakeholders that make it work. You need to be a people person and confident with numbers – you don't need a maths degree!

The job market is competitive so get experience where possible and make your CV stand out.

Best advice for current pupils at St Mary's

Try new things....and lots of them. As a student (both at school & university) you are given so many opportunities to try things (interest clubs, sports teams, social experiences). Do them. This is the best way to become confident, to discover who you are and what you enjoy. Even finding out what you don't like is a very useful thing to know. It will set you up for your career more than you could ever imagine.

Good luck!