



Alumni profiles



Name: Lee Rowley

Leaving year: 1999

Education/Training after St Mary's:

Modern History at Oxford and Masters at Manchester

Current role: Member of Parliament

Current city: London

What have you done since leaving St Mary's?

I arrived at St Mary's in 1992 and left, after seven fantastic years, after sixth form in 1999. 18 years later, in June this year, I was elected as one of our local MPs and now represent the residents of North East Derbyshire in the House of Commons.

After school, I did a Modern History degree at Oxford and then followed that with a Masters in the same subject at Manchester. My first job was in a digital design agency working with the Department for Education. After stints in management consultancy and business analysis, I then moved into financial services and spent ten years as a manager in companies such as Santander and Barclays as a change manager. I always wanted to find a way to combine my interest in thinking strategically and long-term with getting to grips with the detail and change management was just the thing for me – whether it be implementing a new IT system, a new product or a different way to do things.

Tell us more about your current job & role

My last job before entering politics was as Head of Change for Co-op Insurance based in Manchester where I managed a £10 million pound portfolio of projects designed to improve how the company worked and to improve its profitability.

Even before I became an MP in June, politics and helping the community was something I had always been interested in. I had been involved in a number of voluntary organisations and when I moved to London after university, I had spent 8 years as an elected local Councillor trying to improve things down there. This year I was privileged enough to be elected as a Member of Parliament for my home area and I now spend my days working on behalf of local residents, both in the House of Commons and locally.

Best advice for current pupils at St Mary's

I apply the same principles that school taught me – work hard, aim high and do your best!