



Alumni profiles



Name: Sally Hogg

Leaving year: 2002

Education/Training after St Mary's:

Psychology and Philosophy at Corpus Christi College

Current role: Civil Service and Charity sector

Current city: Surrey

What have you done since leaving St Mary's?

After leaving St Mary's in 2002, I studied Psychology and Philosophy at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. I had a wonderful time at Oxford, including running the university ski trip, which meant 2 weeks in the mountains and with 1000 students! When I graduated, I moved to London and joined the Civil Service fast stream. I spent 5 years working on education and children's policy for the UK Government and on secondment to the New South Wales government in Sydney, Australia. During this time I was the Private Secretary to a Minister, worked on legislation in parliament, and led a team in the Child Poverty Unit.

Tell us more about your current job & role

My time in the civil service was interesting and demanding work, and I learned a lot about how Government works (which isn't always how you'd want it to!!). I had a great time and developed a lot of skills which have stood me in good stead for the rest of my career. In 2010, I left the civil service and joined the NSPCC (a large national children's charity). I was responsible for services, research, campaigning and communications relating to pregnancy and babies. This involved, for example, developing and managing services to help disadvantaged couples to prepare for having a baby, and to help parents to cope with their babies' crying. I was responsible for teams of midwives, health visitors and social workers who worked with families around the UK. Our services reached thousands of families each year and won awards. It was a fabulous job and I enjoyed every minute. I loved the mixture of making a concrete and direct difference to families' lives, and also working on campaigning at a national level and in Parliament. I became Vice Chair of a coalition of charities campaigning to improve services for mums with mental health problems. I was also the organisation's spokesperson for issues relating to babies, so I appeared on TV and radio, including programmes like This Morning and BBC breakfast.

I left the NSPCC when I had my first son in November 2014. Since returning from maternity leave I have done freelance work with charities, and led a Big Lottery project to improve support for mums with mental health problems, like postnatal depression. I had my second son earlier this year. We live in a small town in Surrey, which is half an hour on the train from London. It's a lovely community and I also chair the local branch of a charity to support parents.

Best advice for current pupils at St Mary's

Work hard as then you will achieve your dreams. Take all the opportunities school offers- learn to sing- learn to act- play sport- get involved and enjoy it all!