



Alumni profiles



Name: Samantha Roberts

Leaving year: 2003

Education/Training after St Mary's:

Politics and History at Durham University

Current role: Public Policy

Current city: London

What have you done since leaving St Mary's?

I studied Politics and History at Durham University. I've always been interested in big societal issues such as housing, education and policing, so when I left university I was naturally drawn to the public and charitable sectors. I started working at Derbyshire Constabulary as a Research Officer and worked on really interesting projects, such as how to reduce alcohol fuelled violence in our cities and how to improve Derbyshire's neighbourhood policing initiative. I completed a Masters degree in Public Policy at Nottingham University so I could learn more about the big issues the public sector faces and what is being done both nationally and internationally to address common problems. My MA was a part-time course which meant that I could work whilst I studied, and I began a role at Rushcliffe Borough Council in Nottinghamshire as their Community Safety Manager. This involved working with a multi-disciplinary team of police officers, fire fighters, domestic abuse managers and housing managers to form and deliver a joint plan on how we can holistically protect the local community from crime, violence and harm.

Tell us more about your current job & role

After completing my MA my husband and I decided to make the move down to London to experience life in our capital city. I had developed an interest in housing policy and began working for Shelter, the national housing and homelessness charity. This role was really interesting and opened my eyes to many different elements of working in a big charity – campaigning, brand development, trading through the Shelter shops, fundraising, working with major donors, writing grant-funding bids, and of course the crucial high quality services such as the helpline and face to face advice. I worked closely with the Board of Trustees on developing Shelter's 2012-15 strategy.

Following two years at Shelter, I moved to work for an organisation called E-ACT, a multi-academy trust that manages 25 schools across England and works within some of the most deprived communities in the country. As Director of Operations I had responsibility for governance, HR, communications, data insight and major projects. This has been by far my most challenging role as many schools who join the trust are often severely underperforming and require a lot of intensive resource to try to address underlying issues. However it is also an incredibly interesting and varied role and it's fantastic when you see a school improve following a whole-team approach

Best advice for current pupils at St Mary's Make the most of every opportunity and do your best every day! Don't be afraid of making mistakes as we learn our best lessons from the things that go wrong. Keep trying and work hard!