



Alumni profiles



Name: James Watson

Leaving year: 1999

Education/Training after St Mary's: LLB
Law degree: University of Newcastle upon Tyne

Current role: Solicitor

Current city: Sheffield

What have you done since leaving St Mary's?

After leaving St Mary's sixth form in 1999, I went on to obtain a law degree from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. I then completed a legal practice course at the York College of Law and trained to be a lawyer at a firm in Sheffield called DLA Piper. I have now worked at DLA Piper for 18 years and in that time the firm has grown to become a leading global business law firm, with over 4,000 lawyers in 30 different countries.

I now live in Matlock and I have a fantastic wife and two sons (Joshua, aged 10 and Billy, aged four months).

Tell us more about your current job & role

I am a solicitor and I specialise in handling disputes between businesses. Typically these matters involve a breach of contract; a dispute in relation to the obligations of each party to an agreement. The subject matter of my work is varied but with a focus on the IT and telecommunications sector. Whilst I am based out of the Sheffield office of my firm, my work is international and I often work out of London or overseas. My clients include some household names, including LEGO, All Saints, Akzo Nobel, the Cabinet Office, Atos, CBRE, Proact and Wilko. It can be very rewarding working for such prestigious well known clients.

Best advice for current pupils at St Mary's

Take every opportunity and make what you do today count; you will never get back the day that has just passed.

Embrace and cherish your time at St Mary's and be aware of the fantastic start in life that the school and all of its excellent staff and contributors strive to give you. Take the school's ethos with you wherever you may go.