



Cory Newham - Ferndown Upper School Leaver - 2018

After completing my A-Levels and leaving Ferndown in 2018 I was accepted to the University of Winchester to study an undergraduate degree in Drama and Performing Arts. My time at university was spent primarily on my studies and meeting loads of new people, however there was still a part of my brain asking, "What is this all for?". I remember thinking "have I just gone to university because that's what all my friends were doing?". It wasn't until my final year at university combined with my experience at Ferndown, that I finally realised what my passion was.

During my time at Ferndown Upper and Ferndown Upper Sixth Form from 2013 – 2018, I got involved with the drama productions and helped with direction and rehearsals during my free time and after school hours. I found an interest in this, so I assumed I wanted to be a director when I graduated. Having the teachers at Ferndown allow me to step into a more trustworthy position in school allowed me to explore all my options without any added stress or pressure from the "real world". I started my time in Ferndown as a very introverted and quiet person but throughout the years I have done a complete 180 and now I'm proud to say one of my final assignments at university was a 30-minute one man show in which I achieved a first-class grade. Alongside this I conducted a Dissertation titled "*Due to the evolution of Social Media, has there been an increase in desensitisation in regard to a younger generation*". Finishing this dissertation made me realise that I wanted to start a career in educating the young to prepare them for what is to come.

I then decided I wanted to become a teacher, focusing on teaching drama at A-Level as this was the subject that most impacted me when I was at school, so that I can pass on the skills and lessons that were taught to me, onto to my students. I faced many setbacks when it came to pursuing this which did knock my confidence such as lack of experience. But I remained vigilant and took the time to gather my resources and apply again a year later. I am now happy to say that starting in September 2022 I will begin my teacher training at the University of Exeter to achieve my QTS and finally begin my teaching journey.

I have learned many life lessons over these past few years which has shaped me into the man I am today. If I could give one piece of advice to the students of Ferndown today it would be to follow your heart, trust your gut and make mistakes, make loads of mistakes. But don't let these mistakes define you, learn from them and grow to become an ever better you because at the end of the day the most important person in your life is you.