



### **Imogen Watkins - Ferndown Upper School Leaver - 2018**

I attended Ferndown between 2013-2018, studying History, English, Sociology and Psychology at A-Level. I was also fortunate to be made Principal Student in Year 13, which really helped me get used to the amount of speaking I now have to do as I am currently training to be a barrister!

After completing my A-Levels, I read Law at the University of Bristol, graduating in 2021 with First Class Honours. Around this time, I was also really fortunate to be named a Lord Denning Scholar and a Residential Scholar by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn in London, which resulted in my Bar Course being paid for and meant that I could live in Lincoln's Inn – a truly beautiful part of London! This year, I have been completing the Bar Course, learning how to cross-examine witnesses and present arguments on behalf of clients. I have nearly finished this, and I am due to be called to the Bar of England and Wales in October 2022.

Whilst awaiting pupillage (the final step to becoming a barrister), I plan to be a County Court Advocate, attending different courts around the country and representing clients.

It has been an incredibly exciting few years for me and it is a career path I would very much recommend. Everyone is so friendly and always happy to help!

It sounds clichéd but my one piece of advice would be: don't give up. Whilst I was doing my undergraduate degree, I was quite unwell with a heart problem and taken to hospital on a number of occasions. It was recommended to me that I drop out of Law School and come back to it when I was better, but this wasn't something I wanted to do. I had always worked really hard and knew I didn't want to give up. I stuck with it, working in hospital sometimes, and that hard work has paid off. So, I would say don't give up – you will get there eventually even if it is challenging along the way.