

## Eleanor Chick – Law Student

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**When were you at Langley School? 2011 – 2013**

**What did you take at A Level?**

- Law
- Government and Politics
- History

**Did you know what career you wanted to follow when you were at Langley?**

From the age of 12 I have known that I wanted to pursue a career in the law. At school, the subjects which I most enjoyed were those which provided scope for analytical discussion and creative argument. As such, I was able to focus my A Level choices on those subjects which I was not only interested in, but would provide a suitable foundation for the study of law at degree level.

**What extra-curricular activities/societies/sports teams/trips were you involved with whilst at Langley?**

- Head Girl 2012/13
- Netball U18 Team
- Rounders U18 Team
- Debating Team
- Cabaret 2013
- Gambia 2012

**Linking to the above, do you think any extra activities you took part in have been useful within your career and given you transferrable skills?**

The skills I learnt in during the Debating activity and in external competitions provided me with an excellent grounding to be able to participate in Mooting (advocacy in a mock trial) whilst studying at University. Mooting is a particularly important skill for would-be lawyers and was an activity that all interviewers have wanted to speak to me about. Debating also gave me the confidence to articulate my ideas and also instilled in me the importance of thinking before you speak. I have felt comfortable using these skills at Assessment Centres where Group Interviews and Presentations/Pitches have been on the agenda and know I will be using these skills regularly in the workplace.

Similarly, participating in team sports ensures that you are able to work well and cooperate with other people, plan strategically and work towards a common goal. Teamwork is a skill that all employers want to see evidence of and is essential in any place of employment. Fundamentally, employers want to recruit people who will work well with their existing employees and demonstrating your ability to work well in a team (whether through sport or otherwise) is excellent evidence of this skill.

**Did you go to University and if so, what did you study?**

I studied Law at Undergraduate level at the University of Sheffield. I have recently commenced Postgraduate study of the LPC at BPP University, Leeds.

**How did your career begin?**

I secured my training contract with Addleshaw Goddard in July 2016, shortly after graduation from University. The offer was made following a two week Summer Vacation Placement in which all candidates undertook work experience within the firm and participated in various assessments throughout the placement.

**Where are you now in your career?**

I am currently studying my LPC at BPP University in Leeds. The Legal Practice Course is the final vocational stage for becoming a solicitor in England and Wales. It provides the bridge between academic study and formal training in a law firm, which I am due to commence in September 2018. As such, I am just beginning my career but feel well prepared and ready for the hard work!

**On reflection, did your time at Langley School help inform your career choices and your attitude to career progression?**

The support given to students at Langley School is invaluable. Without the support and guidance of staff I would not have had the confidence to try so many extra-curricular activities which have proved to be formative in my chosen career. Langley also instilled in me a 'can-do' attitude which has kept me driven, both during my academic studies and throughout rigorous assessment processes.

**Is there any advice you would like to give to students currently considering their A Levels and their career choices?**

Whilst I have known what career I have wanted to pursue from a young age, the same cannot be said for everyone. If you are unsure of the career you want to pursue (and are not required to choose specific subjects by Universities for the course of your choice), choose your A Levels based on the subjects you enjoy. Two years is a long time to study something you are disinterested in or dislike and you will undoubtedly achieve better results when you engage with the subject.

Participating in work experience in a range of fields is one of the best ways in which to begin forming an opinion of work that you do and do not enjoy. You can also make contact with those people whose careers you are interested in, find out how they got to where they are and what next steps you would need to take to pursue the same career.

Finally, do not feel pressured to make a decision as to what career you want for the rest of your life right now. Both your career and interests may change over time and therefore, whilst academic study and choosing the right options for you is vital, it is also important to

throw yourself into life outside studying and seek experiences and opportunities which will make you an asset to any workplace.