

## **Tim Graham – Protection Advisor**

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**When were you at Langley School?** Sept 2002 - July 2007

**What did you take at A Level?** History, Geography and Law (French at AS)

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

Yes, I was lucky enough to be awarded an Army Scholarship in 2006 on successful completion of the Army Officer selection Board. I had become interested in joining the Army through the opportunities given through the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) programme and was enabled in my application through the Langley School careers office and the CCF staff.

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

I was Captain of Athletics 2005-2007 and also involved Cross County and rugby. I enjoyed my time in the CCF and commanded the Services Day Parade two years in a row.

I was involved in the debating society and was lucky enough to be the Head Boy in my final year.

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

I learned the leadership and management skills through the CCF and running the athletics team that I still use today as an Army Officer. The debating society gave me the analytical skills to breakdown a problem and articulate a rapid response, an immensely valuable skill to have when working in dangerous conflict zones.

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

I studied Geography at University College London. I selected this as I had an amazing time in the Geography department at Langley under the tutelage of Mrs Lambert.

**How did your career begin?**

After University I attended the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and was commissioned into the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards in August 2011 (Aged 22). I then deployed on a six-month armoured exercise commanding four Armoured vehicles and twelve personnel in 2012. I deployed to Afghanistan in 2013.

**Where are you now in your career and what have been the highlights?**

I was the Deputy Defence Attaché in Kuwait in 2016, which gave me a valuable insight into Cross Government policy and how Foreign Policy is used abroad by diplomats. More recently from April to October 2017 I was the Protection Advisor in the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic Of The Congo and was asked to speak at the UNHQ in New York on the progress made in dealing with Conflict Related Sexual Violence and Child Exploitation.

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

Langley School places the effort in education onto the Pupil and emphasises your own personal development. This leads to a mature independent thinking pupil, driven to achieve success.

I owe a massive debt to Langley and the education that I got there. It taught me how to think, communicate and act independently under pressure. This has been a valuable skill to have and has helped me operate in numerous difficult conflict ravaged areas across the world

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

Your A levels are a crucial time, they set the foundations for a successful time at University and therefore your career. However, Langley is about you being driven personally to succeed. You must therefore choose subjects that you are passionate about, or otherwise you will never get that drive to succeed.