

# The Arrow

THE ARCHER ACADEMY ALUMNI MAGAZINE

2024-2025 EDITION



ISSUE 1



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# HEADTEACHER'S WELCOME



**Lucy Harrison, Headteacher**

It is a true privilege to share the first edition of The Arrow, our new Alumni Magazine - designed to help you stay connected with Archer and share memories of your time at school.

So, how are you? I ask that sincerely, and hope you're happy and thriving. It's been a joy hearing about your achievements and adventures. One of this year's highlights has been our Alumni Insight Talks, in which we welcomed some of you back to school to inspire current students with your stories of post-Archer life.

We launch this magazine as our twelfth year draws to a close. As I write, our thirteenth cohort is enjoying Induction Day, preparing to start Year 7 in September. Can you remember your own first day? Your last?

Thanks to the immensely generous support through our Raise the Roof campaign, we'll soon begin building our new performing arts studio at Lower School - a huge boost for the arts at Archer.

Though 'Alumni' may mean former students, to me you'll always be part of the Archer Academy. We hope The Arrow magazine helps you stay connected with our Alumni network as you take your next steps.

The annual magazine will be published online each summer. Printed copies are also available at both school receptions - feel free to drop by and pick one up, and let your parents know too!

If you'd like to help shape future editions or get more involved, please reach out. For now, I hope this first issue brings a smile, stirs happy memories, and encourages you to reconnect.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Lucy Harrison". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in the bottom right corner of the page.

# £350,000 RAISED IN ONE WEEKEND



## We Raised the Roof

In March 2025, we launched a crowdfunding campaign to bring a long-held dream to life: the creation of a new performing arts studio at the Archer Academy.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of more than 2,000 donors - including parents, alumni, local supporters, and a generous match funder - we raised an astounding £350,518 in just one weekend.

With this milestone, plus three years of dedicated fundraising, we've now reached our target. Construction will soon begin on a bespoke rehearsal and performance studio at our Lower School site. This inspiring new space will provide exceptional facilities for drama, dance, music, and creative expression for Archer students and beyond.

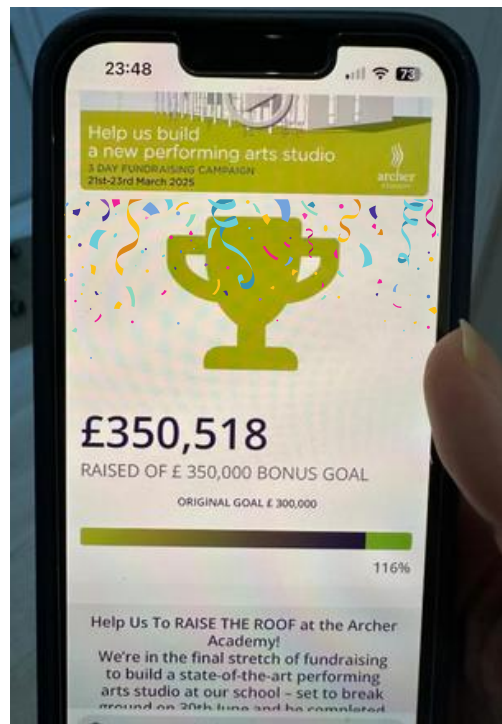
## Why It Matters

Across the UK, performing arts programmes are in decline, with GCSE entries for arts subjects down 42% since 2010. But at the Archer, we're taking a stand. We believe in the power of the arts to nurture confidence, resilience, wellbeing, and life skills. That's why we're committed to making the arts accessible to every child - not just those who can afford extracurricular opportunities.

Our new studio will not only serve Archer students, but the wider community too. It will be available to hire for workshops, meetings, and local creative projects, helping generate income to support our school.

We're proud to build a space where creativity can flourish - for our students, our community, and generations to come. Keep an eye out for updates as we bring this exciting vision to life.





The Archer Raise The Roof crowdfunding campaign was powered by incredible support from across the local community.



# LIFE AFTER ARCHER

Updates from our former students

# Where are you now?



**Hari Godbold:** 3rd year Student Nurse, awaiting registration.

**Samantha Bilkus:** I'm developing a watch designed specifically for elderly users as part of launching my own brand of medical devices.

**Aidan Szilardy:** About to finish an MA Law Conversion.  
Hoping to become a solicitor.

**Sophie Shribman-Hollings:** I am working as an artist and an ADT Technician at Archer.

**Oliver Shattock:** Starting a medical physics PhD using laser like technology to improve MRI scanning efficiency.



**Hannah Ghamian:** Studying Medicine at Kings College London.

**Parham Hosseinali:** Finished my BSc in clinical neuroscience, psychiatry and psychology. Now starting my first year of medicine.

**Melissa Kocacinar:** Currently at the American University of Cairo learning Arabic over the summer. Will go into banking in the fall and then planning to do a PhD in Middle Eastern studies.

**Anna Hindmarsh:** I graduated from University of Manchester last year where I studied Politics and International Relations. Now, I am about to begin a Masters at City, University of London, studying Newspaper Journalism.



**Eve Csaky:** Studying History of Art and French at the University of Bristol.



**Bella Francis:** I've just finished a Broadcast Journalism degree and am now freelancing in radio and magazine writing.

**Sebastian Hall:** Having just graduated from Oxford, this Autumn I am undertaking the European Politics and Society: Vaclav Havel Joint Master Programme for two years, between Prague, Leiden and Krakow, seeking to understand the key policy challenges facing Europe today.

**Emma Dexter-Smith:** I have just completed a BA in Dance at London Contemporary Dance School, and am currently preparing to open a dance-inspired café in East London.

**Julia Beaugie:** I'm at Manchester University going into my third year of medicine.



**Bella Gold:** Studying Business of the Creative Industries at York University.

**Harry Hayward:** I have just finished my 2nd year studying Law at the University of Sheffield. As part of my degree I have also just moved to Brisbane, Australia for a year abroad!

**Laurie Fletcher:** Whilst I've been at Manchester studying Business and Spanish, I have started an event hosting different club nights around Manchester and London with a friend from Archer. Alongside that, I'm doing events for charity in both cities.

**Elsa Malazogu:** Studying music at university (London College of Contemporary Music) and gigging all around London and the UK with my band House of Women.

**Alexander Webster:** I just finished my 2nd year doing Maths at the University of Bath and I have been learning ballroom/Latin dancing in a society.

**Leo Hindmarsh:** I have just finished my second year at Manchester University, studying History and Spanish, and am about to start studying abroad in Santiago, Chile, for my third year.

**Marley Morris:** I am working in documentary photography and photojournalism, which has taken me to over 70 countries around the world.

**Arun Kapoor-Parsons:** I'm currently studying Music and Music Technology at Leeds, while also producing and releasing my own music across digital platforms.





**Asher Israel:** I have just completed my BTEC in Computing at Ada, the National College for Digital Skills, and am now off to university.

**Pratik Valani:** I am currently studying Chemistry at Swansea University and recently got elected as The Chemistry Society President and Student Ambassador of the University. On behalf of the department and our connections with the American Chemistry Society (ACS), I got to travel to San Diego, California and spend 5 days attending an expo.

**Zara Shattock:** I am heading off to Stroud and South Gloucestershire College in Bristol to study Zoo Management and Conservation at the new Bristol Zoo Project. I will be learning in/next to the animal enclosures.

**Robin Strelitz:** I study Biology, Music and History. Outside of school I recently helped to catalogue, curate and install the Museum of Transology '10 Years of Trancestry' exhibition!



**Tina Tarjen:** Hopefully I will be attending Woodhouse College or another suitable 6th form!

**Isabella Alves Dos Santos:** I'm happily doing fashion design as my next steps!

**Maksut Piliqi:** I will be doing Maths, Physics and Computer Science at Woodhouse College.



**Aleks Koziel:** Relaxing for now, nervously waiting for my GCSE results. Currently in a firefighters training facility, practicing how fire works.

# OUTSTANDING, THEN AND NOW

*“Pupils receive an exceptional education at the Archer Academy.”  
Ofsted, January 2025*

Ofsted first rated the Archer Academy *Outstanding* in June 2019, and we're delighted that following their inspection in January 2025, we continue to be an Outstanding school.

Retaining this top judgement five years on is a tremendous achievement, and one we are extremely proud of. Here are a few highlights from the Ofsted report (the full report is available on our school website):

- The school offers a happy, welcoming and inclusive environment where academic excellence and personal development hold equal importance.
- Pupils develop in-depth knowledge and skills... and, as a result achieve highly.
- Behaviour is highly positive. The school fosters a calm and productive atmosphere.
- Leaders are highly ambitious for all pupils.
- Pupils are well cared for and have adults they trust.

The Ofsted inspectors saw the strength of our community, the pride our students take in their school, and the values that guide us. This success reflects the dedication of our students, staff, governors, parents, Alumni, and wider community, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support.



**June 2019**  
Archer is rated Outstanding by Ofsted



**January 2025**  
Archer maintains Outstanding judgement





# HAPPY 10<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY ARCHER



In 2023, we proudly celebrated Archer Academy's **10-year anniversary** with a joyful series of events - from burying a time capsule and planting a commemorative tree, to staff tea parties, special assemblies, a cocktail evening for parents, student charity projects, and the unforgettable Archella summer festival.



# HERE'S TO THE NEXT 10 YEARS...

*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Nelson Mandela*



# TEACHER TALK

Archer teachers reflect on life in and out of the classroom



# IN CONVERSATION WITH...



**Adiyam  
Ogbaselase**

## **What inspired you to become a teacher?**

A few things! Firstly, the lack of history teachers who represent a diverse background was a factor. In all my years as a history student (from secondary school all the way to completing a masters!), I'd never been taught by a teacher who was black or brown. This was something I felt quite strongly about - it definitely had an impact.

And of course, as a subject, I love the skills in history, particularly debate, writing and oracy. I simply followed my passions and ended up here... which I'm really happy about. I've never looked back, and can't really imagine doing anything else.

## **Have you ever had any other jobs aside from teaching?**

Nothing I've committed to in the same way. I've done a bit of song writing before in addition to singing, but chose to step away from the arts in my early twenties. The business side of the music industry simply wasn't for me.

## **What aspect of teaching is most challenging?**

Time always feels like a precious resource. I'd say managing your workload is the most challenging aspect. Not the work in itself. I'm grateful to do something that I genuinely love.

## **What was one of your / some of your favourite school trips?**

Kingswood!! How could it not be?!

## **What area do you most enjoy teaching?**

It's hard to choose just one, but here are my top three:

- Life in the Middle Ages – a fascinating period where religion shaped every part of life.
- The Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade – this topic shows how deeply Britain was changed by the trade.
- The Civil Rights Movement – a great topic for debate which always sparks passionate discussion in class.

## **If you weren't a teacher, what do you think you'd be doing?**

Perhaps a yoga teacher. I love to explore a job in writing. Maybe one day...

**Miss Ogbaselase has taught Humanities at Archer Academy since 2017.**

**She has been Head of Lower School since 2024.**



*"I followed my passions and ended up here... which I'm really happy about. I've never looked back, and can't really imagine doing anything else."*



# IN CONVERSATION WITH...

Sam Mustafa



## What inspired you to become a teacher?

What a question! I don't really believe in lightning bolt moments and I suppose the idea of being a teacher was always there in the back of my head and there were several past teachers and events in my life that inspired me to go into teaching over time. I loved Drama and English at school and developed a real passion for literature, which really ignited when I eventually did my A-levels at Woodhouse and my fluency in Spanish really improved. I saw literature as a really exciting way to explore the amazing culture of Latin America. My A-level teachers really pushed me and inspired me and I wanted to pass this on.

## Have you ever had any other jobs aside from teaching?

Many moons ago I worked as a journalist in Buenos Aires for a small newspaper. I had some amazing experiences writing about all sorts of weird and wonderful things. I also liaised with a group of radio networks across South America that provided us with news content to translate into English. I became aware of so many amazing projects that were taking place and creating real change for people across the continent. I knew that I wanted to be part of the action and so I thought I would take my passion for Latin America to the classroom!

## What are some of your favourite highlights at Archer?

There are so many. My year group were the best year group to ever grace the Archer halls. They had such a difficult time finishing their GCSEs during the pandemic and I really felt a sense of comradery with them. That year, we couldn't have a traditional prom, so they put on their own prom at Lower School and it was just the most amazing evening. My favourite memory of them all though is when they were in Year 8 and we went on a rather disastrous camping trip in the middle of a heatwave. The campsite had no showers. There could have been utter mutiny and chaos! Instead, they just got on with it, intent on having fun and ended up singing *twinkle twinkle little star* right before bed!

## What aspect of teaching is most challenging?

Marking the same mistake over and over again....I have seen enough "normalmente fui" to last me a lifetime!

## What was one of your / some of your favourite school trips?

The Spanish homestay with my year group. We stayed in Cordoba and did a tour of four cities in Andalusia. Nothing comes close to that first year when students participated in a photo challenge around Cordoba...however, I also remember an awful stomach bug going around that year. All was well though! Whilst Mrs Gillham manned sick bay, Mrs Ainscough and I had a fabulous time showing the students around some of the most beautiful parts of Spain!

## What do you like to do when you're not teaching?

I love to read and swim and recently I've taken up kayaking which is great fun.

## Tell us something exciting that's happening in your life?

After a two year process, my husband and I adopted our son in January 2025. His name is Ezra and he is 4 and obsessed with dinosaurs and paw patrol. I'm currently on adoption leave and will be returning to Archer in January 2026!

Mr Mustafa has taught at Archer Academy since 2017.

He was Head of Year 11 from 2020 to 2021. He has been Director of Modern Foreign Language since 2021.

"Teaching is an incredibly rewarding and challenging profession. I enjoy that every day is different and that we are all constantly learning, adapting and tackling new challenges."



# IN CONVERSATION WITH...



**Josh  
Rosenwick**

## **What inspired you to become a teacher?**

A teacher called Dr Edwards really solidified it for me. He was my A-Level biology teacher and I just felt like I'd be happy sitting where he was sitting.

## **Have you ever had any other jobs aside from teaching?**

My main other job was working for a company called Streetwise where we used to go around schools and educate kids about relationships, and staying safe on the streets.

## **What are some of your favourite highlights at Archer?**

Year 9 GradFest was just amazing.

## **What aspect of teaching is most challenging?**

Trying to inspire kids in science who just don't care about it can be challenging.

## **What was one of your / some of your favourite school trips?**

Stubbers with Year 9 was just insane.

## **The area of my subject I most enjoy teaching:**

I've always been fascinated by the brain and how it controls the body, especially topics like hormones and homeostasis. In physics, I love exploring space and debating the mysteries of the universe. And of course, any lesson with chemical experiments is a highlight.

## **What do you like to do when you're not teaching?**

Climbing, gaming, and planning lessons!

## **Tell us something exciting that's happening in your life?**

I recently returned from a sabbatical where I travelled to 8 different countries! Immediate highlights were: Colombian salsa dancing and the Amazon rainforest, Peruvian Inca ruins and Machu Picchu, Bolivian salt flats and witches markets, Chilean desert and sandboarding, Brazilian carnival and Iguazu Falls, Argentinian food and boat rides, Paraguayan hydroelectric plants and biodiversity, and Mexican aquatic life and baby turtles. A trip of a lifetime!

**Mr Rosenwick is Deputy Director of Science and has taught at Archer since 2015.**

**He was Head of Year 11 from 2020 to 2022.**

*"I've loved working with young people ever since I was a leader on my first summer camp. It was challenging but incredibly rewarding, and from that moment on, I knew working in education was my thing."*

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

Former Archers share their  
post-school journeys





# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Emma graduated from Archer in 2020



## EMMA DEXTER-SMITH

**Q** What have you been doing since you left Archer?

Since leaving Archer I have been studying Dance at London Contemporary Dance School in Central London. I've just finished my BA, gaining a First.

Last year, I also had the opportunity to live and work in LA in the USA for six months. While being in LA, I worked in staging, crew and also performance. It was such an incredible time to explore a new world of dance and I'm planning to go over to New York in October.

While being at London Contemporary, we have worked with a range of artists including Hofesh Shechter, Maxine Doyle, Richard Alston and many more.

We've trained in a wide range of styles, which has broadened my horizons and deepened my understanding of how dance can be used and interpreted.

Aside from dance, in the new year 2026, I am opening my own cafe in central East London. I hope to bring dance within the cafe and create a new world of networks and collaborations.

**Q** How did you get into what you are doing now?

I have always danced from the age of 3. However there was a time in my life with some challenges and I had to step away. But when I moved to Archer in Year 9 it was the performance team with Ms Randall and Ms Hacking that brought a love for dance back into my life.

Everyone at Archer made me feel so supported to push myself and do what I love. I don't know what I would have done without them. Also the friends that I created during my time at Archer showed me what it meant to be happy and for me, that was dance.

**Q** Looking back, what part of your experience at Archer helped guide you towards what you're doing now?

My time at Archer gave me so many experiences, especially with the musical Fame and the end of year dance performances. They really created the need to keep going with dance.

Ms Hacking always showed me what I could do outside of school and how to carry on with dance after Archer.

**Q** What advice would you give to current Archer students who are thinking about following a similar path?

I would always say to anyone, but especially students who have to make such big decisions about degrees and career paths, that it's ok to not know what you want to do, but to always make sure you do what you love, or to try to do what you love.

Life is too short to live with "what ifs", life is about enjoyment. Life is never a straight line, there will always be ups and downs and whatever happens is what is meant to be.

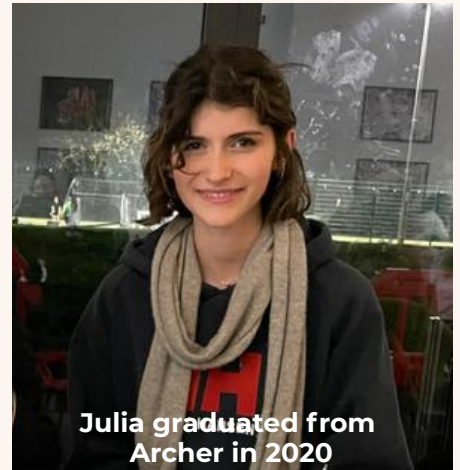
Within the dance world there are so many opportunities and it's so important to meet new people who have the same interests. Before I went to LCDS. I was in the CAT program (Centre of Advance Training) which was so helpful to show me how to get into degree programmes or training.

I would also suggest to go to as many shows and performances as you can, and to chat to people within the industry. If you have any questions I'm always happy to have a chat (my insta @emmadextersmith)



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## JULIA BEAUGIE



### Q What have you been doing since you left Archer?

After Archer, I went to Highgate School, where I studied Chemistry, French and Biology at 6th form. I'm now at Manchester University going into my third year of medicine.

### Q What advice would you give to current Archer students who are thinking about following a similar path?

If you're thinking of going into medicine, read about it! Books written by doctors, short articles, documentaries, keep updated with cool new research. Showing a real interest in something specific can really help you in interviews, it always gives you something to refer back to.

### Q Looking back, what part of your experience at Archer helped guide you towards what you're doing now?

Archer encouraged us to stay balanced. My triple science teachers were wonderful, and the school's emphasis on keeping up dance, drama, and music really showed me that I can pursue a scientific career without sacrificing my creative side.

### Q How did you get into what you are doing now?

I was drawn to medicine as it seemed like a great way to continue studying and learning sciences, but also be able to talk to people and help others. It's a great balance between sciences and arts!

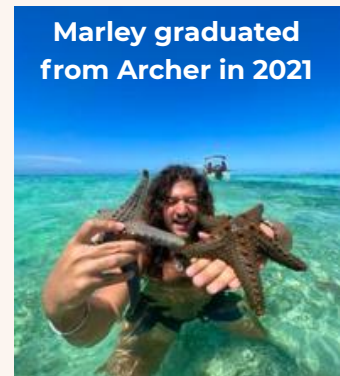
## MARLEY MORRIS

### Q What have you been doing since you left Archer?

I graduated from LSA with a UAL Level 4 Diploma in Film and Photography, where I developed a strong foundation in the technical and creative aspects of image-making. My passion lies in documentary photography and photojournalism – an interest that has taken me across more than 70 countries.

I recently returned from a year-long trip crossing from Shanghai, China to Karachi, Pakistan overland, conquering the inner Mongolian steppe, navigating the backwaters of southern India by boat, stranded in a desert alone in 53°C Pakistan, Everest base camp, and capturing the life and rituals of Tibetan monks across the Himalayan range.

### Marley graduated from Archer in 2021



### Q Looking back, what part of your experience at Archer helped guide you towards what you're doing now?

Photography has always been more than a hobby, it's been a way of seeing and understanding the world.

I can trace some of that passion back to Archer's photography enrichment club, where I was encouraged to explore creatively and pursue my passion. The Archer teachers supported me in following my own path. Their influence helped shape my perspective on the world today.



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## LEO HINDMARSH



**Q** What have you been doing since you left Archer?

After getting an A\* in History, Politics and Spanish at Woodhouse, I went onto Manchester University to study History and Spanish. I have just finished my 2nd year and am about to start my 3rd year studying abroad in Santiago, Chile as part of the Spanish element of my degree. In my break between semesters, I'm planning to travel around Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Bolivia and Peru. I'll then be back to Manchester to complete the 4th year of my degree.

Whilst at Manchester, I developed a passion for DJ'ing and have created an events company with Laurie, a friend and another former student at the Archer Academy. It's called Movement Collective (@movementcollective\_ on Instagram) and we've hosted sold out club nights in Manchester as well as in Shoreditch, Dalston and Stoke Newington in London. We've also featured in a documentary about DJ'ing in Manchester!

I have also been involved in a youth panel for a Dutch advertising agency, providing feedback on social media marketing campaigns and doing voice overs for brands such as Currys and Pepsi.

**Q** How did you get into what you are doing now?

I've always been interested in the history of the Santiago region, which inspired me to spend my third year of university living there. I hope to base my final-year dissertation on a topic connected to its past. The DJ'ing started in my bedroom and it was through starting our events company that my confidence really grew. One of the things I love about our events is that they bring people together and in particular friends from Archer at different universities. It's always so great to see everyone!

**Q** What advice would you give to current Archer students who are thinking about following a similar path?

To try different things that interest you, do what you love and see where it takes you. I decided to take Spanish A level because I enjoyed it and now, I get to spend a year living in Santiago as part of my course!

I started learning how to DJ in my room for fun and am now playing in front of crowds in clubs.

I am a strong believer in work hard, play hard! Work as hard as you can for your exams (make sure to have breaks) and enjoy your post exam summers – they were some of my favourites. Good luck to everyone waiting on results, and try to do what you love - give it a go so you have no regrets.

**Q** Looking back, what part of your experience at Archer helped guide you towards what you're doing now?

The Spanish trip in Year 9, when my friend Raul and I stayed with a Spanish couple for our week-long homestay, definitely opened my eyes up to the importance of learning another language, particularly given that neither of them spoke any English at all. This encouraged me to pursue Spanish to A level and at university too.

Although he never taught me directly, my Head of Year, Mr Mustafa, inspired me when he talked about his year studying abroad in Argentina. This made me really want to experience something similar.

In relation to History, both my history teachers, Ms Vandervelde and Ms Devi were brilliant and helped me develop a passion for the subject and I just can't thank them enough for this.

The Archer Academy really encouraged performing arts. This not only helped me to foster a creative and performing mindset for my DJing but also helped me with my role in social media marketing. A huge thank you to Ms Hacking, Mr Carter, Ms Rodford, Ms Randall and Mr Dean for bringing out the creative side in me. Shout out to Mr Rughuveer too – legend!

# FULL CIRCLE: FROM STUDENTS TO STAFF

We're delighted to welcome back two former Archer students as members of staff: Sophie Shribman-Hollings, who graduated Archer in 2018, and Asher Israel, who graduated in 2023.

## SOPHIE SHRIBMAN-HOLLINGS

### What have you been doing since you left Archer?

I did my A-levels at Woodhouse College, then an Art Foundation at City and Islington College, and went on to do a Fine Art Degree at Brighton University.

### It's been a pleasure having you return to Archer in a working role. Tell us about what your current position involves.

As an ADT Technician at Archer, I support Art, Design and Technology, Photography, Graphics and Food Technology at Upper School. It's varied and dynamic, and has both practical and creative elements. I'm particularly enjoying supporting students in lessons, installing artwork for exhibitions, and making displays.

### What advice would you give to current Archer students who are thinking about following a similar path?

When I left Archer, I certainly didn't envisage coming back as a member of staff or have a clear plan of what I wanted to do. My starting point was figuring out what I enjoyed and then taking the next step.

Volunteering is a great way to gain experience and learn about what you like. My time volunteering in art galleries, on my degree show committee, and as a GCSE mentor has helped me to get creative jobs.

If you enjoy making art, I'd also recommend doing an Art Foundation course (which is free before you are 19).



## What and where did you study after leaving Archer?

I studied a BTEC Level 3 in Computing at Ada, the National College for Digital Skills.

### It's been a pleasure having you return to Archer in a working role. What does your current position involve?

I've been helping run a coding enrichment club for Year 7, 8, and 9 students, focusing on Python. It's been great to share what I've learned and see students get excited about coding. We have made games and had fun! I've also learnt quite a lot from them and developed my skills in teaching.

### Looking back, what part of your time at Archer helped guide what you're doing now?

The enrichment programme at Archer definitely helped, it gave me the chance to try new things and explore areas like coding early on, which led me towards my current path. The support from teaching staff as well as excellent experiences in different subjects widened my potential for different pathways.

### What advice would you give to current Archer students thinking about following a similar path?

Get stuck into opportunities, especially the ones that feel slightly out of your comfort zone. They often lead to the most growth. Don't be afraid to ask questions or try things more than once, Archer is very unique in its support and opportunities, take it all!

## ASHER ISRAEL

# ALUMNI INSIGHT TALKS

Our **Alumni Insight Talks** welcome former Archer students back to share their journeys, offering current Archers valuable advice and real-world inspiration.

This year, we have hosted engaging talks on two key topics:

- Pathway to Oxbridge
- Breaking into the Creative Industries

Our next Insight Talk will focus on Medicine and Healthcare and will take place in the Autumn term. If you're currently studying or working in these fields and can spare an hour to speak with Archer students, we'd love to hear from you.

Please email [alumni@thearcheracademy.org.uk](mailto:alumni@thearcheracademy.org.uk) to get involved. Your experiences and insights would be invaluable to our students who are exploring careers in healthcare and the medical sciences.



**Alumni Insight Talk  
December 2024**

## **Pathway to Oxbridge**

Thank you to Alumni speakers:  
Hannah Gellman, Sumaya Felic, Louis  
Wilson Goldberg and Sebastian Hall.



**Alumni Insight Talk  
June 2025**

## **How to Break Into the Creative Industries**

Thank you to Alumni speakers:  
Elsa Malazogu, Arun Kapoor-Parsons,  
Bella Francis, Marley Morris and Noa Gold.



# FROM ARCHER TO AFTER

Former Archer teachers reflect  
on their time at Archer,  
and share what came next



# WHERE ARE YOU NOW? THE TEACHER'S EDITION



**Alice Humphrey**  
taught at Archer  
from 2014 - 2022.

**She was Head of  
Music for 5 years  
and Head of Year  
for 3 years.**

## **What have you been doing since you left Archer?**

I am now Head of Music in a very large secondary school in Hertfordshire, which has a music tuition school on site - so I have a huge number of singers and instrumentalists involved.

I moved to St Albans and have embraced a slightly quieter countryside life in my old age.

## **What are some of your favourite memories from your time at Archer?**

There are so many, that it's very difficult to choose. Rehearsing for Fame was great fun, taking the choirs to perform at the Royal Albert Hall and Royal Festival Hall (and getting to conduct them) was incredible. I also enjoyed teaching everyone the 'Archer Way' song, an absolute banger, which I still occasionally break out on the piano.

## **What was one of your favourite school trips?**

The most memorable were the 3 trips to Amsterdam - such a variety of activities - the Anne Frank Museum, watching an all male production of the *Importance of Being Earnest*, doing a tour of The Concertgebouw and getting to play on Lang Lang's actual gold plated piano! Burgers at the Hard Rock. Shopping for chocolates in Bruges. And generally trying to prevent everyone from being hit by bicycles. The second year we managed to bag ourselves a 4\* hotel and had the best breakfasts every day!

## **What inspired you to become a teacher?**

The holidays! Only joking. I was very bored in an HR job in London, and had started conducting a choir for fun - then I went and helped out at my old school in a musical (which a very young Mr Carter was starring in) and had such a great time working with young musical people, I decided to train to be a teacher - and have never looked back. Discovering how pivotal music is to young people's development, social and emotional well-being, and the thrill of holding concerts, has given me a genuine sense of purpose.

## **Have you ever had any other jobs aside from teaching?**

Several. My first was as a piano player for Kiplings restaurant in Highgate. Straight out of uni, I went into temping in advertising agencies, then I was an office manager and receptionist for Ricoh Europe - and finally worked in HR and recruitment for Liberty of London. I've also always worked as an accompanist for singers and instrumentalists in my spare time.

## **What aspect of teaching do you find most challenging?**

Probably marking and filling in of paperwork - I have a very short attention span when sat in front of a screen. I still have to get someone to confiscate my phone and supervise me during report-writing season! More recently I would say the lack of air conditioning in classrooms is also rather trying.

## **What do you like to do when you're not teaching?**

I like to explore the world, go camping and hiking, eat in fancy restaurants, read, host elaborate dinner parties. I also play saxophone in a jazz band and sing in a chamber choir.



# WHERE ARE YOU NOW? THE TEACHER'S EDITION



**Tom Savage taught English at Archer from 2014 - 2020.**

**He was also the Head of Year for the Pioneer Year group.**

## **What have you been doing since you left Archer?**

After moving from London to St Albans, I joined a local school so I could walk to work. I'm now an Associate Assistant Headteacher and SENCO, still teaching English and also A-level Politics.

## **What are some of your favourite memories from your time at Archer?**

Introducing Ultimate Frisbee to the first two year groups was a highlight. Coaching and playing with students during PE Wednesdays on Hampstead Heath was a joy. Being a co-ed sport, it encouraged full participation and became fiercely competitive. Seeing it included in Sports Day was a proud moment.

The first Year 11 prom is another standout. I nearly avoided dancing for five years, but was finally pulled into a dance circle that night! I've kept every card and letter students gave me - they mean a lot and remind me of the incredible early years of Archer.

And of course, my daughter Edie holds a special place in Archer history. I met her mum, Miss Rodford, while working there - so while Edie may not be the first baby born to a staff member, she is the first with both parents having worked at Archer!

## **What was one of your favourite school trips?**

Amsterdam, Berlin, and the American ski trips were all amazing - but Camber Sands takes the crown. Students enjoying a perfect day at one of Britain's most beautiful beaches is a memory I'll always treasure.

## **What inspired you to become a teacher?**

Both my parents were teachers, so naturally I swore I wouldn't follow in their footsteps. But after coaching sports at American summer camps, the camp owner pulled me aside and said, "You should be a teacher." Twenty-three years later, here I am - still loving it.

## **Have you ever had any other jobs aside from teaching?**

I was briefly England's worst travel agent - except for one month when I topped national sales, thanks to a Spanish nun!

## **What aspect of teaching do you find most challenging?**

Teaching never really ends - there's always more to do. The challenge is knowing when to stop for the day and finding the right balance between giving your best to students and making time for your family and life outside school.

## **What do you like to do when you're not teaching?**

I love spending time with my two daughters and my partner. I still play football twice a week, and every Thursday night I retreat to my shed to write screenplays - my happiest time of the week.



# WHERE ARE YOU NOW? THE TEACHER'S EDITION



**Liz Victor** was Head of English at Archer from when the school first opened in September 2013 to when our first Year 11 cohort left in 2018.

## **What have you been doing since you left Archer?**

I left the Archer for an exciting opportunity to teach at an international school in Bali; It was quite different to East Finchley! I enjoyed three years at a great school plus tropical weather, weekend trips to nearby islands, and lots of diving! I then returned to Plymouth - where I grew up as a child - in 2021, to a Head of English role at a secondary school, and I am still there now.

## **What are some of your favourite memories from your time at Archer?**

I have so many happy memories! When the school first opened, we used to take Year 7 to Cherry Tree Woods every break time and that was fun. We also had Michael Morpurgo officially open the school and he was great. I remember our first ever school photo - it was 150 students and 15 members of staff beaming as we posed with pride for the beginning of an exciting chapter ahead.

I also remember fondly the LitFest festivals I started, which I believe still happen. It was so exciting to get to be able to be an events organiser and see so many students get involved with poet talks, creative writing workshops and author visits. I still have my 'LitFest 2017' t-shirt (yes, we got t-shirts printed - we took it very seriously) and whilst it is slightly faded now, I still wear it with pride!

## **What was one of your favourite school trips?**

Every year, we took 150ish Year 7 students to see a Shakespeare play at the Globe theatre. It was absolutely amazing to take you all across London on the tube and to walk along the Embankment to the Globe. The plays were always interactive and it was a joy to see your faces as you got to dance, move around with the actors, and intermittently have fake blood and water thrown across you!

## **What inspired you to become a teacher?**

I always loved English at school and I had an amazing English A Level teacher who inspired me to become a teacher. The way he brought the subject to life and how creative he was in his teaching approaches really inspired me to try to do the same. I am passionate about English and its ability to change the way we see the world, explore universal ideas around the human condition and allow us to creatively and critically think, and this is why I wanted to become a teacher.

## **Have you ever had any other jobs aside from teaching?**

I worked in a care home and a call centre when I was at college and University. I also did a short stint in a music shop! After University, I spent a year out to travel and did some voluntary work at a school in Uganda.

## **What aspect of teaching do you find most challenging?**

I think teaching is a vocation and, as such, I need to sometimes be reminded by my partner to take time to switch off from it occasionally and have some time to myself. I love my job but I do sometimes need this reminder when, for example, I am working past 9pm on a Sunday evening!

## **What do you like to do when you're not teaching?**

I love hiking and have spent the last two summers going on long hiking holidays in the Spanish mountains. I enjoy walking on Dartmoor and wild swimming. I also enjoy scuba diving and have completed my advanced open water PADI course. Diving down to 50 metres and seeing manta rays, reef sharks and dolphins is just the best. I also love reading, cooking and spending time with friends and family.



# THE END OF A CHAPTER

## HEAD STUDENTS' REFLECTIONS



Amy Morrison and Marnie Edmunds were Head Students at Archer from 2024-2025

As Head Students, reaching the end of Year 11 has been a moment filled with pride, reflection, and gratitude. It feels surreal to look back at our time at Archer - what began as a nervous first day in Year 7 led to an amazing five year journey.

This year has been the most challenging, yet rewarding. From mock exams to final GCSEs, we've faced pressure, perseverance, and progress. But it wasn't just about academics, our time at school has taught us resilience, kindness, and the importance of community.

Being Head Students gave us the privilege of giving back: organising events, such as Children in Need, supporting younger students, and being a voice for our peers.

We're proud of how far our year group has come. Through the highs and lows, we've stood by each other, and that unity will stay with us wherever we go.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at future Alumni events and seeing how much further we have come.

As we close this chapter and look ahead, we'll carry the lessons, friendships, and memories of Archer forever.

**"Reaching the end of Year 11 has been filled with pride, reflection, and gratitude."**





# 2024-2025 IN PICTURES







# PRIZE GIVING CEREMONY 2024

## ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS



*Congratulations!*

Alumni Awards 2024, presented by Miss Harrison:

**Alumni Scholar – Achievement in Science**  
**Christopher Palmer**

**Alumni Scholar – Achievement in Science**  
**Thomas Gubbins**

**Alumni Scholar – Achievement in English**  
**Melody Maraj**

**Alumni Scholar – Achievement in English**  
**Joseph Csaky**

**Alumni Scholar – Achievement in Maths**  
**Jason Ng**

**Alumni Scholar – Achievement in Maths**  
**Nava Inbar**

**Commitment to School Life**  
**Gaby Caplan**

**Outstanding Effort**  
**Matilda Smith**

**Outstanding Achievement**  
**Mujtaba Choudhury**

**Headteacher Award**  
**Finley Byrne**



# VISITS FROM ARCHER ALUMNI

## STRENGTHENING OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY



**It's been a pleasure welcoming Archer Alumni back into school throughout the year.**

Thank you to all former students who contributed their time and advice across a range of events, including Open Day, Post-16 Choices Evening, Alumni Insight Talks, career talks, Woodhouse Maths Mentoring programme, Head Student guidance, and more.

Your involvement continues to enrich our school community and inspire current Archers. If you would like to support future Alumni events, please email [alumni@thearcheracademy.org.uk](mailto:alumni@thearcheracademy.org.uk) We'd love to hear from you.





## ARCHER ALUMNI REUNIONS

It was wonderful to reconnect and share memories as we welcomed back hundreds of Archer Alumni at our first-ever reunion events in 2023.

➤ We're excited to host another reunion event for Alumni who graduated Archer in 2023 and 2024. This will take place in the summer of 2026. More details will be shared soon - we can't wait to see you again!

**Once an Archer, always an Archer.**



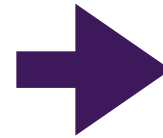


# STAY CONNECTED

## With each other and with Archer

### Keep your contact details up to date

To make sure you hear about Alumni events, reunions, and opportunities to get involved, please update your contact information. Click or scan here to share your contact details:  
<https://tinyurl.com/ArcherKeepInTouch>



### Follow us on Instagram

See updates, stories, and highlights from the Archer Alumni community by following us **@archeralumni**



### Get Involved

We'd love to hear from you. If you're interested in supporting current students, volunteering, or planning Alumni events, please email us at: [alumni@thearcheracademy.org.uk](mailto:alumni@thearcheracademy.org.uk)

### Explore Our Alumni Webpages

Find out more about what's happening in the Alumni community and discover ways to get involved:

[www.thearcheracademy.org.uk/archer-alumni](http://www.thearcheracademy.org.uk/archer-alumni)

Once an Archer, always an Archer

At the Archer Academy we value our Alumni community. Our students' relationship with us continues long after leaving school.

#### KEEP IN TOUCH

There are over 1000 Archer Alumni so far. We encourage Archer Alumni to keep in touch with one another and the school.

If you are an Archer Alumni, please make sure we have your up-to-date contact details so we can keep you informed about events, reunions and other opportunities to come back into school.

Follow us on Instagram **@archeralumni** to keep up with school news, alumni events, photos and updates.

[Keep in Touch](#)



#### LIFE AFTER ARCHER ACADEMY

We love hearing about what Archer Alumni have been up to since they left school. We want to hear from Archer Alumni in all walks of life to show the breadth of experiences amongst our Alumni community and to inspire our current students to consider options they may not have thought of.



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