



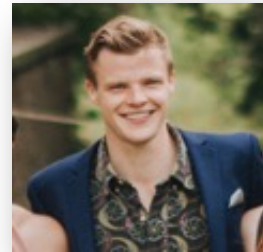
The Acorn School

ALUMNI OVERVIEW

PETER – Orthopaedic Physiotherapist

Degree: **Physiotherapy (1st Class)**

“The Acorn School was well ahead of the curve in encouraging understanding for children of their natural environment and the importance of physical activity. An emphasis on self-directed learning was useful for higher level study after school”



EMILY – SuperDry Production Manager

Degree: **Fashion (1ST Class)**

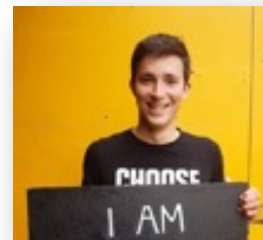
“The Acorn School gave me the opportunity to learn in a supportive environment that focused on me as an individual and balanced academic learning with educational experiences.”



CONNAL – Charity Worker

Gap Year: **‘Help Refugees France’**

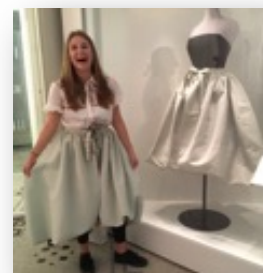
“What I love about The Acorn School is the individuality of each pupil’s education and the close links that form between students and staff. Some of my best memories from Acorn are of the varied and challenging trips and outdoor activities that were a consistent addition to the academic work.



LUCY – The Courtauld Institute of Art

Degree: **History of Art (under-graduate)**

“The Acorn School helped build my confidence and supported me in trying new things. I never thought I would have the strength to jump over the wake on a knee-board, or the courage to play Puck in a production of A Midsummer Night’s Dream!”





The Acorn School

ALUMNI OVERVIEW

The Acorn School, founded in 1991, is an independent school in Nailsworth, Gloucestershire that provides child-centred education to inspire creative thinking. The school offers a truly unique education that encourages a love of learning.

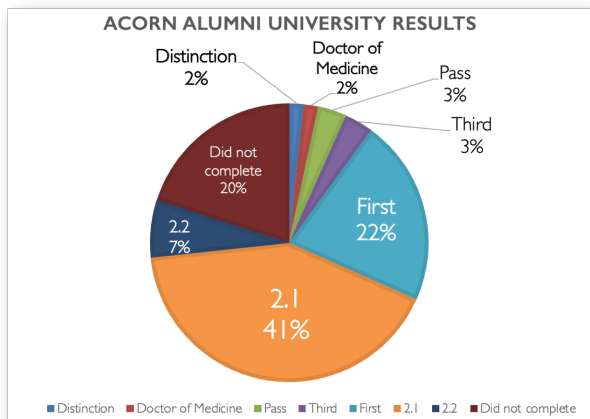
With **small class sizes** (average of 9-12 pupils), strong parent-teacher relationships and a balanced teacher ratio, we are able to ensure that each pupil's individual needs are nurtured, inspiring them to follow their dreams and be who they want to be.

Everyday learning is an adventure and our students are able to explore the wide array of academic and creative subjects, with camps and expeditions integrated into the learning experience.

Our core curriculum subjects are comparable to other schools, however, an extensive art, craft and outdoor programme with a **balanced approach to technology** enables the pupils to reach their full potential, **without pressure from state examinations**.

Our past pupils have followed a wide range of different pathways upon leaving school. Many have chosen to go to university while others have chosen different careers.

Our students are successful in many industries and careers, including **medicine, teaching, art, media, music, law, science, IT, business, film and TV, professional sports, carpentry, hairdressing, charity sector and many more.**



Using the results of our progressive upper school programme, with its unique internal assessment system, all our students who have wished to apply to university have been offered places, and those who have opted to pursue a vocational route have thrived.

Our education is designed to help students to find their passion in life and to make it part of their future.

As our students do not take state examinations, during the university application process, they present their Diploma of Education and have the opportunity to showcase their academic portfolio.

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The composition and delivery of the curriculum are exemplary.

Programmes of study are tailored to the individual needs of students. Students fulfil their academic needs and aspirations through bespoke activities, courses and support.

Ofsted - 2019



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The school is proud that **100% of students who have applied to attend university have been accepted** and, throughout the history of the school,

The Acorn School alumni have achieved fantastic results (Page 2 Acorn Alumni University Results chart).

The school attracts progressive parents who are highly invested in their children's education and who believe in providing a broad, well-rounded schooling experience.

"How lucky we were to have come across this extraordinary school. Our son has now graduated from The Acorn School after 10 years there and we look back with huge appreciation and believe that we truly did find the best possible education out there!

The students are, without exception, treated as individuals and supported without pressure to find their own unique path through life. The education is incredibly varied, and our son's all-round knowledge continues to astonish us.

The school works as a team - the younger children are encouraged and supported by the older ones, following on in the example of the staff who genuinely care about each and every child. Pastoral care is outstanding and as parents we too felt completely supported by the School. Teachers are completely accessible whether for a quick word or a lengthy discussion.

IT is not covered until the Upper School meaning that children are able to spend their younger years fully engaged in activities more important to them at this stage of their lives without being stuck behind screens. If you have any reservation about the lack of tech education in the younger years, please do visit and talk to the staff and parents as by the time of graduation the students are perfectly tech savvy.

Our son was promptly accepted to do a university degree in computer programming.

Acorn is a unique and absolutely exceptional school where children are appreciated, cared about and supported to be themselves. Go and have a look!"

- Jackie Cairns

UNIVERSITY COURSES:

Medical/Sciences

MD Medicine
 BSc Paramedic Science
 MA (Hons) Osteopathy
 BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy
 BSc (Hons) Forensic Science & Biochemistry
 BSc (Hons) Nursing
 BSc (Hons) Herbal Medicine
 BSc (Hons) Zoological Science and Marine Biology
 BSc (Hons) Environmental Science
 BSc (Hons) Astrophysics

Business

BA (Hons) Business Marketing
 BA (Hons) Business Management with Marketing
 BA (Hons) International Business Communications
 Executive PA Diploma

Law

LLB (Hons) Law
 BSc (Hons) Maritime Law

Engineering/Computer Science

BA (Hons) Computer Science
 BSc (Hons) Computer Animation
 MA (Hons) Civil Engineering

Art/Drama/Music

MA Fine Art
 MA Art
 BA Fine Art
 FDA Fine Art
 BA (Hons) History of Art
 BA (Hons) Drama
 BA (Hons) Modern Theatre
 BA Photography
 Film Making
 Bachelor of Music - Folk and Traditional Music
 Foundation Degree Music Technology

Sports/Outdoor

BSc (Hons) Sports and Exercise Science
 BSc (Hons) Sports Coaching
 BSc (Hons) Sports Science and Geography
 BSc (Hons) Outdoor Education and Leadership
 BSc (Hons) Outdoor Education with Environmental Education
 PG Dip Sports Nutrition

Humanities & Social Sciences

BA (Hons) Social Anthropology
 BA (Hons) Anthropology and Media
 BA (Hons) Social Anthropology (Major) and Ethnomusicology (Minor)
 BA (Hons) Anthropology
 BA (Hons) Creative Writing & English Literature
 BA (Hons) International Relations
 MA Social Anthropology



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UNIVERSITIES ATTENDED:

Key: * Russell Group university

University of Aberdeen
Aberystwyth University
Åhlborg University
Bath Spa University
* **University of Birmingham**
Bournemouth University
* **University of Bristol**
Brunel University London
University of Buckingham
Byam Shaw, Central Saint Martins
* **Cardiff University**
College of Law, Bristol
The Courtauld Institute of Art
University of Cumbria
Dartington College of Arts
De Montfort University
University of East Anglia
University of East London
Emerson College
European School of Osteopathy
* **Exeter University**
Falmouth University
University of Glasgow
University of Gloucester
Goldsmiths University of London
University of Greenwich
Hartpury University
Int. College of Osteopathy
International Boatbuilding Training College
Keele University
Leeds School of Music
* **University of Liverpool**
Liverpool John Moores University
* **University of Manchester**
London Metropolitan University
University of London
Loughborough University
Nankai University, Tianjin
* **Newcastle University**
Newport University
University of Northampton
* **University of Oxford**
Oxford Brookes University
Oxford Media and Business School
University of Prague
University of Plymouth
* **Queen's University Belfast**
Raffles la Salle Institute, Bangkok
Royal Academy of Arts
Singapore RMIT University
SOAS University of London
* **University of Southampton**
South Gloucestershire and Stroud College
St. Matthews University, Cayman Islands
West Dean College of Arts and Conservation
University of Westminster
University of Worcester



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PAST PARENT TESTIMONIALS:

"I, as a parent, have always been astounded by the dedication and extremely high standard of education and pastoral care delivered by staff to all students. Stemming from an inspired vision, the founders have created something truly unique and magical.

One has only to visit the school to see for oneself! I will always carry a deep gratitude to Graeme and Sarah Whiting for their true 'seeing' of my children, and for their commitment to delivering an education to my sons that has far surpassed what I ever imagined."

- Yael Hochenberg

"I found this most incredible School in 1996 and never looked back!

I sent 4 children and one step daughter there. The care and attention are on a level that I had never experienced before, especially by comparison to private schools, where I previously paid annual tuition fees of 10 times what I paid at the Acorn School.

I believed in bringing out the true nature of the individual and giving them the confidence to completely be themselves, The Acorn School truly did this to a level that words can't explain.

The curriculum, arts, outward bound experiences and trips give the children a diversity of experience and learning that enabled them to go out and experience the world with confidence and determination.

My faith in the Acorn School education never wavered in regard to no exams. I had complete conviction that they would go to the university of their choice. and all 5 did exactly that in a diverse range of subjects; fashion, yoga teacher, professional cyclist, anthropology and herbal medicine, earning first class degrees in top universities.

Most importantly, the deep value of The Acorn School is that it helped bring out the best of my children's potential, fostering in them a well-rounded high-quality moral and ethical character. "

- Lucy Lalita Lowsley-Williams



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"We were extremely relieved to find the Acorn School which we visited several times before the logistics of the relocation from Australia were complete and were both suitably impressed by the warmth and spirit of the school and the unique ethos. At all times during the interview and selection process, we felt that there was complete honesty and transparency with any and all issues and we were welcomed to observe the school in operation and during some key leisure activities.

In short, the school appeared quite remarkable in its unstinting support of students and the close involvement of the parents and friends attending the school. I can honestly report the Acorn has delivered a quality of education and experience that has been nothing less than spectacular. Our children have thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of the school and still feel to this day that they have been privileged to be a part of this unique and dedicated institution and an integral part of what they themselves call "the Acorn family"

My son graduated from The Acorn School last year and after a period of overseas travel (with some solid friends from Acorn) my son Spencer accepted (amongst others) an offer from Boumemouth University to study Computer Science and Business. He is a very happy well-adjusted young man with a clear vision of his future prospects equipped with an Acorn delivered skill set that has resulted in an excellent commitment to self-study, personal fitness and superb interpersonal skills – Spencer credits The Acorn School and the incredibly dedicated, talented and committed staff and support team for his confidence and sustained equilibrium in making the transition to tertiary studies. During his entire education, right up until his university applications, he was steadfastly supported and guided by the Acorn school staff who gave far more than either of us as parents EVER imagined possible. You simply can't "buy" an educational experience like Acorn – it comes from the hearts and souls of those at the school staff and students.

My daughter Annie now in her final year has excelled all our expectations and this is a direct result of her Acorn experience. She intends to study child psychology and education due in no small part to the stimulus provided by her Acorn experience – an experience she openly refers to as "The best thing that ever happened to me."

My wife and I cannot fully express our gratitude to the school and the staff – it has been a delight to be a part of this educational journey and the community that surrounds and supports this commitment to excellence – this experience alone and the results with our children at The Acorn School have made the rigours of the relocation across the globe all worthwhile.

In a world where young people face a raft of new challenges and dangers which our generation were fortunately not subject to, the core values of Acorn are - the development of well adjusted, highly informed, compassionate citizens who are educationally, mentally, physically and emotionally equipped for the current and future challenges they will inevitably face in life's complex journey.

The Acorn School provides a life legacy, a life experience and a generosity of spirit that is rarely replicated across the United Kingdom and in our international experience."

- Carolyn & Martin Thomas