

THE WESTGATE SCHOOL

Hampshire's First 4-16 'All Through' School

Name: Tristan Cummings **Dates you were at school:** 2005-2010

1) What path have you taken since leaving school?

I left Westgate in 2010 to head off down the road to Peter Symmonds College, where I studied Maths, English Literature, History and French. I decided I wanted to study law and got an offer from Oxford University. I went on this last year to do a Master's degree (called the BCL) at Oxford and came top of my year! I am currently working as a Research Assistant but applying to do a PhD in human rights or to go to the Bar to be a barrister: maybe I'll do both!

2) What advice would you give to your 14 year old self?

I would tell myself three things: to have more self-confidence; to stick to my principles and to have more fun! This means believing in yourself, putting yourself forward more often and being a bit braver to take a few more risks. It means trying your best to do the right thing and not just the easy thing or what other people want you to do. And it means spending more time with friends, exploring new places and trying new things! I recently took a risk by turning down a big job opportunity to do something I thought was more meaningful... and now I am preparing to head off to Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippines.

3) What advice would you give to current Westgate School pupils?

My advice is to enjoy your time at Westgate as much as you can and to work hard and focus on doing your best in your GCSEs. These exams really matter, whether you want to do A-Levels or something else entirely. You should be ambitious and aim high: don't ever sell yourself short. Everyone has special talents and skills and you never know where these will take you. You're young and don't need to know exactly what you'll be doing in the future: but keep your options open, try lots of new things, take up all the opportunities you get at Westgate and be brave!