

Where Are They Now?



Name: Toni Paxford

Year left Winterhill: 2015

Currently: Studying at Sheffield High School

What have you been up to since leaving Winterhill?

I have been extremely busy since leaving Winterhill, both academically and socially. Since leaving I have found a job at a football stadium, carried on with my hobbies (Fire Cadets, Rotherham Youth Cabinet, and Girlguiding), as well as made a great start to Sixth Form life at Sheffield High School. I study A Levels in Mathematics, French and Government and Politics, as well as doing an Extended Project Qualification, Leadership, and baking and cookery.

Why did you choose to study these subjects after leaving Winterhill?

I chose to study French because I enjoyed learning it at GCSE and thought it would be fantastic for my future, regardless of the career I choose. I was awarded a scholarship to study at Sixth Form and Mathematics is what my scholarship was awarded in, and I've always had a passion for the subject. I knew A Level Maths would be difficult, but appreciated that my knowledge from GCSE would be enhanced and built upon. I am politically active in my spare time so taking Government and Politics at Sixth Form was an obvious choice and it was something I knew I'd have an interest in. Additionally, I know that through this subject, my own understanding of the world will be improved, making me a more rounded person.

What do your courses involve?

A Level French is split into four topic modules- youth culture, lifestyle, education, and the environment. There are two exams; one oral/speaking exam

with is spontaneous and based on youth culture, and one writing, reading, and listening exam. There is no coursework and there is a lot of vocabulary to learn, which requires a lot of dedication, but it is definitely worth it when you understand.

A Level Maths is split in to three sections; two core sections and statistics. The content is manageable but you need to keep on top of the work and ask if you don't understand as the pace is fast and the exams come around really quickly.

A Level Politics is split into two exams, but both overlap. You look at areas like the constitution, parliament, democracy, and voting systems. It helps to be up to date with current affairs and legislation as current examples are really useful in the exams.

What are your plans for the future?

I am hoping to go to University to study Social Policy and Sociology or get a Higher Level Apprenticeship. Both of these I hope will lead me to do something within Public Relations, Human Resources, or Social Work.

Any tips for current Winterhill students?

Don't stress about your exams; you can only do your best. Remember to have enough breaks in your revision timetable and have fun.

Don't be apathetic; aim for the best and try not to settle for anything less; it's a competition with yourself and it's your time to shine.