

PEACEHAVEN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Name: Sophie Ford
Attended PCS: 2009 - 2014

Career/Life Journey since leaving PCS:

After leaving PCS I went on to train in Performing Arts & Theatre studies at Sussex Downs College in Lewes. I was involved in numerous productions that toured local primary schools and performed at events such as The Brighton Festival. When I had finished my Performing Arts Diploma, I began to look for roles abroad involving character work that would enable me to travel and live in different countries while doing something I enjoyed. In 2016 I successfully auditioned for the role of an 'ELF' with Santa's Lapland in Finland. That winter, I set off to the arctic for a 6-week contract working for the big man himself, in climates as cold as -30 degrees. I got to ride with huskies through the arctic, see the northern lights, feed reindeer, all while spending 6 weeks in the real winter wonderland. This is where I really caught the 'travel-bug'.

I have since worked in numerous holiday resorts across Europe with TUI, in activity & entertainment roles, including Tenerife, Rhodes, Majorca & Turkey. In doing so I have had the opportunity to live and work in various countries, experience new cultures & foods, meet some amazing people, and spent days off exploring new places. In between summer seasons working overseas, I worked for a company based in the UK called Camp Beaumont during the winter months (as well as returning to Finland for Christmas one of the years). I worked at various camp locations across London in the role of Camp Manager. Camp Beaumont is a multi-activity camp for children during the school holidays.

In 2022, Camp Beaumont expanded internationally into Hong Kong & Southeast Asia – so in June 2022 I packed my bags for a 6-week contract as Camp Manager in Malaysia. That 6 weeks quickly turned into a 1-year placement – working across Thailand, Malaysia & Singapore. In that time, I have progressed into senior management and am now the Operations manager for Camp Beaumont in ASIA, and permanently based in Malaysia. In this role I am lucky enough to travel and work across multiple camp locations including Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia & soon to be Vietnam & China. My role involves facilitating the overall running & operation of camps across multiple countries, delivering training to activity & management teams, site visits & audits, developing the product, staff, and the company's expansion.

Employability Skills:

Leadership, problem solving, adaptability, creativity, management, interpersonal communication, conflict resolution & initiative.

Future Career Aspirations:

To be able to continue working in such roles that allow me to travel and experience more on this side of the globe. To grow with the company's expansion & successfully facilitate the opening of our camps in new destinations such as Vietnam & China.

Career Advice:

"The only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle"

