

PEACEHAVEN COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Name: Katie Garrod
Attended PCS: 2010-2015

Career/Life Journey since leaving PCS:

Immediately after leaving PCS, I went to Sussex Downs College where I studied English Literature, Psychology and Musical Theatre. After college, I decided that I hadn't found my place in the world yet and I need to expand my horizon, so I applied for and was successful in becoming a Groom/Riding Instructor Apprentice at Three Greys Riding School, after my apprenticeship I made the move up to Gloucestershire where I took the role of Eventing Groom and Rider. In this job, I was lucky enough to train and work with Olympic riders and international champions, I'm currently at Hartpury University studying Equestrian Sports Coaching where I get to be mentored by the best in the industry and take part in ground-breaking Equitation Science research and how we can apply this in competitive and everyday equine management. Whilst studying, I've also held jobs in retail, administration, and the financial support sector so I've had a lot of experience in different roles, and it's given me a lot of confidence to apply my skill set to any challenges that come my way.

Employability Skills:

Working with animals is very unpredictable, having a career in a sport where you and your team mate aren't always on the same page has definitely made me a very effective problem solver. I work well under pressure, which is a massive asset in my industry. I spent a lot of time involved with theatre when I was a child, right up until I was 18 (thanks to Miss Alborough and the PCS drama department for making it so fun!) so I've always been very confident and outgoing, which is a huge benefit when working with horses that need a firm partner. It also meant I've gone after opportunities that, on paper, I'm not experienced enough for but found myself more than capable of handling the task because my life experience holds far more weight than any certificate I've ever been given.

Future Career Aspirations:

I want to be a successful businesswoman - I just don't know in what sector yet! I also have always loved music and performing so I would love to pursue this as well.

Career Advice:

It's never too late to have a change of heart about your career path, it's much better to start again and be happy than sticking with a path you don't like! And never forget the value of life experience.

