

# BRINGING OUT YOUR BEST

## JAMES DELLA VALLE

**Currently studying:** BSc Architecture,  
University College London – Bartlett School  
of Architecture

**Previously studied:** A Levels, Fine Art, Physics,  
Maths (AS Level), Photography

**Previous school:** Kingsmead Community School

I chose BTC as I was able to study more than one creative design A Level subject, such as Photography and Fine Art. I also liked the ethos of independent and self-directed learning; the teaching staff explained the importance of being an independent learner, a discipline that prepared me

well for Higher Education. The facilities also swayed my decision to study A Levels at BTC, they are simply amazing and university standard.

I liked that I was treated as an adult, and that I was in charge of my learning. I was able to use the photography studios and dark rooms out of class times. The facilities throughout the College were excellent and I was able to learn within them, and use them as much as I pleased, enabling me to work on my own creative projects.

I am currently working at Asif Khan studio, which is an architecture firm. I'm working on the design and construction on a range of projects including the private fashion galleries in the UAE, the new museum of London and product design. After I qualify, I plan on going to the States to continue my architectural studies at MIT or Harvard, and I plan to specialise in autonomous manufacturing of the built environment.



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## ELLIOT RIDSDALE

**Currently studying:** BA Modern Languages and Cultures (French, Dutch and German), University of Sheffield

**Previously Studied:** International Baccalaureate

**Previous school:** Priory Community School

I came to study at BTC as it offered a wide range of qualifications including the International Baccalaureate. I enjoyed studying at BTC; the lecturers were very friendly and the lessons were engaging.

The expedition to Morocco was the highlight! It was such a fulfilling experience to have shared with friends and lecturers.

The IB was academically demanding and prepared me well for the independent style of university teaching. Also, the opportunities the College offered, such as trips to universities and abroad, definitely inspired me to explore more of what the world has to offer. I am now studying languages at university and after that, I would love to get a job that pays for me to travel the world.



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## ELLA BADGER

**Currently studying:** BA Hons Fashion Promotion,  
Manchester Metropolitan University

**Previously Studied:** BTEC Commercial Fashion  
& Art and Design Foundation Diploma

**Previous School:** Priory Community School

I chose to study at BTC as it was the only college locally that offered the fashion course I wanted to do. I am not very academic so didn't want to do A Levels but I wanted to go into fashion.

I had such good teachers who were very patient with me, I probably wouldn't be doing what I am if

it wasn't for them. My teachers really pushed me to get work experience in both my first and second year of the course. I completed work experience alongside my job in retail, which made such a difference when I applied to jobs for my placement year at university because I had a lot more experience than a lot of people my age.

I am currently doing a year in the industry as part of my degree. I am a communications intern based in London for Nasty Gal doing the PR and events side of the brand which I am loving. I still have my third year of university to complete and then I hope to go into PR or even styling.





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## JOHN GODFREY

**Current Job:** Head Chef, The Castle Hotel

**Previously Studied:** Professional Cookery

**Previous school:** Heathfield Community School



I chose to study professional cookery at BTC as I have a passion for food and wanted to develop a foundation of knowledge before entering kitchens full-time. The course gave me a good awareness of how much prep work goes into the hospitality industry and the time and dedication it takes to achieve the right standard.

I loved every minute of College. The techniques and knowledge I took away from the course will stay with me for life. The environment and people also help in making the College a great place to study.

I made some great friends and the support I got from my lecturers helped guide me into becoming a better chef.

I now work as Head Chef at The Castle Hotel in Taunton where I am building my foundations and put my own stamp and style of cooking into each menu.

