



CLOUD SOLUTION ARCHITECT

Life after Newlands ...

“After leaving Newlands, I studied at The Henley College and passed with A*, A, B in Geography, Information Technology and Photography. From my experiences, I understood I had interests in Emerging Technology and People.

I decided to apply to study Computer Science with Management Sciences at the University of Leicester. My degree allowed me to explore behavioural sciences as well as the heavy technical knowledge that comes with a Computer Science degree.

In my second year of study, I completed an Internship at Microsoft as part of the Adoption and Change Management Practice. This experience gave me the opportunity to work with many large public sector organisations to understand what they need to succeed when adopting new technology. The technical knowledge I had attained over my degree also supported my conviction over the year and it was great to return to University with industrial experience.

I achieved a First-Class Honours in my degree and was offered the position of a Cloud Solution Architect at Microsoft, as part of the Graduate Aspire Program, which brings 1000 Graduates together as part of a worldwide program to nurture and support Technology leaders of the future. Though this is very much the start of my career journey, it has been a great learning experience so far and I look forward to what the future has in store.

Watch this space!”

Jashan Johal

**Left Newlands
2013**

**Computer
Science with
Management
Sciences**

JASHAN'S TIPS

FOR YOU

- Be adventurous, take on the challenge!

- Be your best friend through your career journey

- Do things that you enjoy and learn something about yourself from (Sports, House Captain, Peer Mediator, DoE to name a few!)

- Focus on your studies – they'll be the key for you to explore the world!

- Be fearless and thrive on not knowing everything – that is what learning is for!

- Don't compare your journey to anyone else



CONSERVATION WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER

Life after Newlands ...

“When I was initially thinking about what subject to study at university I was torn between my head and my heart. My head told me to study business studies, my heart, however, wanted to do art. It had always been my favourite subject and whilst some thought I was crazy to do so, I went with my heart and studied Fine Art for both my undergraduate and postgraduate at University of Kent.

However, after I finished my postgraduate, I struggled to get a job in my field. At the time, I was working two jobs, one as a freelance art tutor and another for Waitrose, who both offered me a sabbatical to travel for 9 months. I began this by volunteering with African Impact on their conservation wildlife photography project, as I had loved travel photography for a long time and was keen to learn more about wildlife photography. Little did I know it at the time, but this would be a life-changing decision. About 8 months after I left the project, the photography manager got in touch and asked if I would like to come back as the photography project assistant for a year. It was a risk as the position was unpaid but I readily accepted. The opportunity to live in, and teach something I loved in Africa was irresistible.

18 months on since I made the move, I am still here and have since been promoted twice, to Photography Coordinator and to my current position as Second Photographer, running a 4 week conservation wildlife photography project. Whilst if you had asked me 5 years ago where I would be today, teaching photography in Africa would be one of the last things I would have said, but I am loving every minute and couldn't imagine doing anything else now!”

Sophie Brown

**Left Newlands
2011**

**BA Honours in Fine
Art**

**Masters with
Distinction in Fine
Art Studies**

SOPHIE'S TIPS FOR YOU

Don't be afraid to take a risk if it offers you the opportunity to do something you love. You will never work harder than for something you are truly passionate about. Do not worry about the path you may take to get there, as in my experience, there is no perfect path to take, just have faith that everything will work out exactly how it should do in the end.



Hana Ellis

Left Newlands 2012

**Marketing, Design
and Communications
at Nottingham Trent
University**

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

Life after Newlands ...

“After Newlands, I continued my academic journey in Marketing, Design and Communications at Nottingham Trent University. It took me a long time to decide on applying to Marketing courses as I was so convinced that a career in the sciences was the way forward! But I realised that I enjoyed Business Studies so why not make a career out of that!

As part of the university course, I was required to undertake a one-year placement and after my second year at university, I secured a position in BMW’s Marketing team. This was so incredibly valuable as I was able to put the theory I had learned into practice, get some real-life marketing experience and make great contacts. A placement year was incredibly helpful for my final year- including my dissertation- as well as for work as I was able to use the contacts I had, to secure roles while at university and after graduation.

My first two roles after my placement year were agency side, so we would be briefed by our client as to what they wanted with their product and present them with the results of the campaign. However, I soon found that agency side just was not for me so I decided to go back to client side and now I am a Marketing Executive at a global smart meter manufacturer, helping to lead the marketing department as our company plays a key role in Great Britain’s national smart meter rollout and as we expand further into other parts of Europe.

As a Marketing Executive, my role is more general so I get to work across a number of high profile and varied projects such as social media management and planning, event management, internal communications, website management, market analysis, invoicing and customer communications via email marketing.

I have also recently started my own volunteering project to help students gain further insight into careers in Business & Marketing by providing talks, workshops and an online platform.”

HANA’S TIPS FOR YOU

-Never underestimate the value of experience:

Any small amount of experience is good experience – so take that three week internship at your local business and build up some real life working examples to showcase your skills!

-Advertise yourself!

Write an advert for yourself as if you are a product! Include your key skills, benefits and features but don’t forget to keep it realistic and accurate as you will need to back this up in applications and interviews!

-Make time for your hobbies

Relieve the stresses of life by continuing to follow your passion in your hobbies. It’s a great distraction and adds further to your skill set!



Jenny Boyd

Left Newlands 2005

**BSc in Neuroscience,
MSc in War &
Psychiatry**

ROYAL AIR FORCE PILOT

Life after Newlands ...

"As my final years at Newlands raced past I had little idea what to do when I left. I'd always fancied being a pilot but had no idea how to go about it. I ended up applying to medical school as I enjoyed science and it seemed like a sensible option, and after completing my A-Levels I began the course at King's College London. During my first year I decided it wasn't for me, switched to a Neuroscience degree (unrelated but interesting!) and decided I would pursue a career in flying.

I joined the University Air Squadron, which is funded by the RAF and offers free flying lessons, as well as insight into what a career in the forces might be like. Once in, I was hooked on the people, the flying, and the opportunities for sport and outdoor pursuits. I applied to join the RAF as a pilot twice, and was successful on my second attempt.

I began my training in 2010 and now fly the Chinook helicopter. I've travelled to Afghanistan, Oman, California, Europe, and have spent time aboard British and French war ships. It's been hard work at times, but highlights such as flying over Buckingham Palace as part of the RAF100 Flypast, or landing a 20 ton helicopter on the back of a ship more than compensate!"

JENNY'S TIPS FOR YOU

Don't be afraid of changing direction if you realise your chosen path isn't for you! Spend time researching how you can make a career out of something that genuinely interests you - it might not be part of the standard list you grow up knowing about, but could be absolutely perfect for you.



USER EXPERIENCE ARCHITECT

Life after Newlands ...

“At school I always knew I wanted a future and lifestyle in the design industry. My art teachers helped me to explore various modes of artistic expression, communication and they were the only people in my life at that stage I could talk to about design in general.

After I completed my secondary and A-level education at Newlands, I went on to study Art Foundation at Reading College with the advice from Newlands career advisors. That led me to study Graphic Design at University for the Creative Arts in Surrey.

My first job after university was nothing design related! I worked as a temp for 1 year in administration jobs and was constantly applying for internships and small creative freelance jobs, These footprints lead to a role as a web designer for a global pharmaceutical brand. I had to teach myself to code and I loved designing and building websites! After that I went onto other design roles in financial services, mobile, telecommunications, software, agencies and all the time I was growing as a designer. Improving my skill set, networking with likeminded people, travelling and learning new skills. Throughout my career I have had opportunities to create brand identities, advertising, global websites, apps, event experiences, user experiences and lots of presenting!”

Shabana

Ahmed

Left Newlands 2003

**Currently working for
a bio life sciences
agency**

**Studied Graphic
Design**

SHABANA'S TIPS FOR YOU

Don't worry about what your job title should be, think about what motivates you? What is your passion and makes you light up? Go ahead and pursue that! Find internships and opportunities and reach out to people who can give you insight and open these small doors for you. Never stop working hard, be kind to others and lead with good manners. Those small doors will always lead to bigger doors. So be brave!



Rebecca Campbell

Left Newlands 2012

**Works at Morrisons
Manufacturing**

FdSc in food science

**Bsc Hons in food
marketing
management**

GRADUATE TRAINEE

Life after Newlands ...

“When I left Newlands after GCSEs I was unwell and decided to focus on my health rather than my education. This allowed me time to work out what I wanted to do and create an alternative path for myself. Once I was well enough, I applied to do a foundation degree (FdSc) in food science at Plymouth University. After completing this I did a top up year gaining a Bsc Hons in food marketing management at Sheffield Hallam. I have now just entered my second year at Morrisons Manufacturing graduate training. Morrisons are not just a supermarket but a vertically integrated company owning logistics and manufacturing sites as well as retail stores and petrol stations. We are the 4th biggest supermarket and 2nd largest food manufacturer in the UK. My training takes me on rotations to learn the business from all perspectives and complete all sorts of different projects. At the end of my second year I will get a management or specialist role depending on what I decide I want to do.

My top tip for the girls are: Don't worry if things don't always go to plan or you change your mind about what you want to do in life. It is never too late to sort things out or change direction. Determination, hard work and resilience go a long way. Never give up and I guarantee you will surprise yourself and everyone around you with what you can achieve. “

BEX'S TIPS

FOR YOU

Don't worry if things don't always go to plan or you change your mind about what you want to do in life. It is never too late to sort things out or change direction.

Determination, hard work and resilience go a long way.

Never give up and I guarantee you will surprise yourself and everyone around you with what you can achieve.



ANALYST

Life after Newlands ...

“I initially made the transition from University to the working world by undertaking a Remote Sensing internship at Aerospace and Engineering consultancy Telespazio. Throughout this internship I was shown different aspects of the business from the technical side through to sales and HR. This gave me perspective on what route I would like to follow for my career.

At the end of the internship I was offered a full time role in the GeoInformation department where I developed my coding and general computer skills, to create viable products using satellite imagery that we could use to generate business and make a profit. One example of this is, we would take satellite imagery of Rainforest areas once a week and monitor whether there had been any illegal deforestation.

Around 18 months into this role, I decided to apply for my current job. I now work at Energy Consultancy Wood Mackenzie. I work as part of a large team, where I manage changes and updates to our interactive Oil and Gas Map: PetroView. This product maps where different companies' assets and interests are. This role is quite technical and involves a lot of computer work, based on the mapping software ArcGIS. I did not study computer science or engineering at university so initially I found the technical and coding side of the role quite challenging, but my company is supportive and very encouraging of further education and training which has helped me develop my skills massively.”

Lucy Turner

Left Newlands 2011

**Works as GIS Support
Analyst at Wood
Mackenzie**

**A-Levels in
Geography, Maths,
Biology**

**Undergraduate: BSc
Geography**

**Postgraduate: MSc
Quaternary Science
& Climate Change**

LUCY'S TIP FOR YOU:

I would highly recommend undertaking an internship if you find yourself in a position after university where you are not offered a full time role.



Harjyot Sihera

Left Newlands 2007

BA Politics 2:1

**University of
Nottingham**

**Fun Fact: I worked in
Boris Johnson's
campaign office
during his bid for
Mayor of London**

MARKETING CAMPAIGNS MANAGER

Life after Newlands ...

“I was persuaded by Mrs Vaughan, to accept a place at university and defer for a year – best decision ever! I loved studying Politics and had the best three years of my life.

After leaving, I took an internship working in London which was a good spring-board for my first job working for an MP as a Constituency Case Worker.

I now work in Marketing and PR and I'm a fully qualified Associate of the Chartered Institute of Marketing.

My first job in IT was with Blackberry and I now work for a company which develops supply chain software. I travel a lot and have a great team of people.”

HARJYOT'S TIPS FOR YOU

1. Research University courses really well – I found ‘Politics’ was completely different at each University.
2. Listen to advice at school – chances are, those giving it to you have seen hundreds of other girls go through the same thing – they know what they are talking about!
3. Stand up for yourself! – once you start work, value yourself and keep pushing for what you want from your career. Don't ever take rejection personally and never give up!



Laura Cooper

Left Newlands 2013

BA Music

University of York

TEACHER – IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

Life after Newlands ...

“I took a gap year after leaving Newlands in which I taught music in a women’s prison for 9 months and then worked at Camp America for 3 months which was one of the best experiences of my life!

I’m graduating this July but have already secured a job in the Cayman Islands, teaching Performing Arts and also being a peripatetic piano/clarinet/flute teacher. I want to train as a Music Therapist in the future.”

LAURA’S TIPS

FOR YOU

1. When choosing a degree, think about something you’re genuinely interested in.
2. Living in halls is an interesting experience! Don’t be that person who doesn’t do their wash up and you’ll be fine! Getting involved with societies is a good way to make friends – at York you can join anything from Quidditch to Wine Tasting!
3. University is a big change. If you feel as though your mental health is suffering at any time, don’t keep it to yourself. Talk to friends, a counsellor or tutor.



ISSUE CLERK – MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Life after Newlands ...

“Through networking, I heard of an internship opportunity with Vodafone, applied – and got it!

Afterwards I moved to London and found a job at the Ministry of Justice which I enjoy. The most interesting part is knowing that each day will be different from the last as no two cases are the same!

My computer skills definitely helped me get the job as it’s a vital part of my work.”

Leanne Osborne

Left Newlands 2013

**Studied
Drama/Theatre Arts
at Royal Holloway**

I live in London

**I assist the public
with the beginning
stages of a court
case**

LEANNE'S TIPS FOR YOU

1. You may not realise how many Civil Service jobs there are across the country. It's a lot more than just data inputting and sitting at a desk, so it's worth having a look!
2. Definitely work on your IT skills, particularly Word and Excel. Without these I would not have been hired. They are in demand everywhere.



Louise Porat

Left Newlands 2011

**Business Studies,
Psychology and
French A Levels**

**Executive PA Course,
Distinction**

SALES CO-ORDINATOR

Life after Newlands ...

“I found a one-year ‘Executive PA’ course at Oxford Media and Business School and this was such a good course – it gave me all the skills to be able to go straight into my first job (and also due to the skills I had learnt in this course, I got a few job offers really quickly).

My first job was at a big computer software company, where I joined as support to the admin team, then progressed to Contracts Administrator for Europe – drawing up sales contracts and working with the legal and finance departments to see the whole contract process through.

I went travelling for 6 months and am now working for a toy company, supporting the sales team with managing the accounts and keeping the sales people organized.”

LOUISE'S TIPS FOR YOU

1. Prepare for interviews by finding out everything you can about the company – at every interview I have been asked why I want to work for that company. Make sure you research!
2. You can never be too smartly dressed for an interview – first impressions really do count.



JUNIOR PROJECT MANAGER

Life after Newlands ...

“I kept my degree broad studying Business, but I quickly learnt that marketing was something I wanted to go into. In my second year I did a Marketing Internship at Experian which grew my confidence in the workplace and improved my skills. I was also able to determine if it was the type of job I enjoyed.

After graduating, I began an Internship for a Digital Marketing Agency in London called Thin Martian. I was offered a position there after 6 months and I am really happy” in my job!”

Millie White

Left Newlands 2013

**BA Business Studies
Nottingham Trent**

**I work at a Digital
Interface Agency**

**We work on projects
including web design
and online user
experience**

**I work with clients to
make sure we meet
their needs**

MILLIE'S TIPS FOR YOU

1. Make use of every opportunity, like Work Experience
2. Don't be afraid to give things a go – there are so many opportunities out there!



PHD STUDENT

Life after Newlands ...

“I studied Biology, Geography and History at A Level. I left Newlands with AAB in my A Levels and went on to join Royal Holloway University where I got a First Class Honours Degree in Geography. I chose Royal Holloway because it felt right and I loved it when I looked around, not because of league tables – don’t forget you will be the one spending the next years of your life at university so pick where YOU like and where YOU feel comfortable and could see yourself.”

Nina Willment

Left Newlands 2013

**I’m studying for a
PhD in Cultural
Geography**

**I have travelled the
world from Spain to
Thailand to Malawi**

NINA’S TIPS FOR YOU

1. Exams – try not to panic!
Everyone has bad days and bad exams so even if something didn’t go right, try not to get too upset.
Dust yourself off and focus all your energy on smashing the next exam.
2. Planning revision time along with time to see family and friends is key.
I get my diary out and start by noting all of my exam dates then breaking down the day and weeks before exams into time for different revision topics.



TRAINEE ACCOUNTANT

Life after Newlands ...

“When I left university, I started a role as a Finance Assistant at a healthcare firm and worked there for a year. I learnt all the basics of Finance and decided it was still something I wanted to work towards.

I started my current role at a recruitment agency specialising in the Pharmaceutical Industry as a Trainee Accountant in December 2016 and I am currently working towards becoming an ACCA qualified Chartered Accountant.

I love my job. Working in finance, the months come around in a similar routine and everyone in the team has their own monthly tasks.

In Year 10 I wanted to be a dentist, but doing a week’s work experience showed me that was not right for me.”

Shamsa Akhtar
Left Newlands 2011

**BA Accounting and
Finance**

**Oxford Brookes
University**

**Studying towards
ACCA to become a
Chartered
Accountant**

SHAMSA'S TIP FOR YOU

1. If you are not sure what you want to do, contact local companies for work experience. During the summer between Year 11 and Year 12, I got myself work experience with an accounting firm and decided that's what I wanted to do.
2. If going to uni, choose a subject you genuinely enjoy. Good luck!



Sophie Norton

Left Newlands 2012

**3rd Year Marketing
Student at Bristol
UWE**

**Currently on a year's
placement with
Porsche Cars Great
Britain**

BRAND, STRATEGY & MARKETING INTERN

Life after Newlands ...

“I always wanted to do a business related degree but was never certain whether I wanted the year in industry as I took a gap year travelling prior to university so I was conscious I would be behind everyone else getting on the career ladder.

I am extremely glad I chose to do my year in industry as it has helped me a considerable amount, gaining not just relevant experience, but confidence too which no doubt will help me after uni.

Employers give you lots of responsibility. I recently organized a Network Training Event and spoke to 100+ delegates, including German guests from the Global Head Office. I was the lead on this, managing everything from invites going out to cars being shipped over from Germany to organizing 14 hosts delivering the training.”

SOPHIE'S TIP FOR YOU

1. Go to Uni! It is so much fun and you gain so much independence and learn important life skills. It's the best decision I've ever made.
2. Do an industrial placement if you can.
3. At Assessment Centres, be yourself. Employers make decisions based on whether you will fit in with the team and whether you will work hard.



Tina Chohan

Left Newlands 2008

**BA English Language
and Literature with
Creative Writing
Brunel University**

A Levels in

Media Studies

English Lang/Lit

Accountancy

SENIOR MARKETING EXECUTIVE

Life after Newlands ...

“Finding the right full-time job after University was not easy, but I had to start somewhere – so I worked for an engineering company as an Accounts Administrator, whilst working part-time at Lloyds TSB.

I wanted to achieve some personal goals so I spent 3 months in Central America, volunteering for a sustainable development charity called Raleigh International.

I became a Digital Marketing Executive for a Maidenhead agency. I now work under two managing partners as a Senior Marketing Executive which involves event management, campaign building, content creation, website management and social media strategy. It allows me to be creative, try new ideas and do what I do best – writing!”

TINA'S TIPS FOR YOU

1. The first and most important advice is **ALWAYS** believe in yourself and do what you love!
2. University is not for everyone. Explore your options and research what works best for you.
3. Whilst studying, get a part-time job because employers want to see experience as well as education.



Charley Brewer

Left Newlands 2013

**Works in Alternative
Education Provision**

**A Levels in
Geography, Theatre
Studies and History**

LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT

Life after Newlands ...

“The thing I enjoy most about my job is working in an alternative education provision! I was planning on going to university, I accepted my place at the University of Nottingham and planned to go. I then deferred for a year and discovered my love of working. It took me a few years to find out what I wanted to do – but now I know and I absolutely love it.

My plans for the future include becoming trained in Behavioural Psychology and using this to help our pupils overcome each of their hurdles one step at a time.

I have never stopped learning – I now have A Level English Literature as well as the A Levels I took at Newlands.”

CHARLEY'S TIP FOR YOU

No matter how stressful A Levels seem, and applying to university and completing UCAS applications and everything else that comes at the same time, please remember that you don't actually have to rush. Take your time! The decisions you make now can be changed and you will probably try load of different things before you discover what you love and that's OK! Carve your own path, don't be pressured in to following somebody else's.



Emma Smedley

Left Newlands 2003

**My job involves lots
of legal work –
making sure we
comply with the law**

**Capita is a leading
UK resourcing
company, helping
other companies to
recruit staff**

COMPLIANCE OFFICER CAPITA RESOURCING

Life after Newlands ...

“I studied Art and Design at Reading College but my first job was at a bank. I learned about the principles of business and soon became Service Quality Manager – managing customer service and promoting banking products.

I then worked for Thames Valley Police which was really interesting. I took 999 calls and learned a lot about UK law and legislation which made me interested in applying for the job I do now.

Here, I am very happy, I have a team of 8 staff and hope to progress further within the company.”

EMMA'S TIPS FOR YOU

1. If you are taking exams, do the best you can do but don't consume yourself with worry about what might happen if you don't get the results you want. Being a good all-rounder who is adaptable, is given a lot of credit in business
2. Choose a path that works for you personally, then give it all you've got!



PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER

Life after Newlands ...

“After Sixth Form I went on to study at St Mary’s University in Twickenham, to do their Primary Education with QTS. St Mary’s gave me the opportunity to study in New York for 4 months and I also worked in an elementary school out there.

I graduated last year and secured my first teaching post in a village school where I am the current Year 1 and 2 teacher and I absolutely love it!

The best thing about teaching my class is the things they say. At five they haven’t quite created a natural filter of things not to say out loud! One child cried because I dyed my hair brown and he said that I didn’t look pretty anymore!”

Faye Gregory

Left Newlands 2013

**Teaching Years 1-2
at Waltham St
Lawrence Primary
School**

**Studied Politics,
Psychology and
English Literature at
A Level**

FAY’S TIPS FOR YOU

Positive self-talk is always an excellent idea! Believe you can do well and you will.

2. Hold on to what you want even if it gets hard.
3. Take subjects you love, not what you think a university will want.