



### **Emily Gardiner (nee Miles)**

left Rugby High in 2008 with 3As at A-level in French, History and Government and Politics

#### **After University**

I studied French and Politics at the University of Manchester. My first job was as a French Sales Assistant for a company that made coin and note validating machines in a large factory near Manchester, I worked there for 11 months. It wasn't my dream career but it was a step on the ladder to give me some work experience and business use of my French, 2012 was also still a fairly tough year to graduate as the world was still recovering from the GFC. I used my holidays

to do work experience and stumbled into the world of tech in a small agency in London - I was hooked!

#### **Currently**

Right now, I'm on maternity leave with my second daughter who is 10 weeks old (my eldest is almost two). But when I go back to work I am a Lead Business Analyst for a tech consultancy in London. I joined as a Graduate in 2013 and have been there since, my role is to understand and unpick complex systems in large enterprises and help teams to rebuild them in newer technologies with better methodologies.

#### **My job**

I love the variety of working for a consultancy. Every business has a new set of challenges and relationships to build. I tend to stay at companies for between six and twelve months depending on the length of the assignment which means I'm always learning and rarely bored! I've also had the opportunity to travel the world; I lived in New York for a year and travelled around the US, spent a month in both China and India and have worked all around the UK. I also love working in tech, it's pretty fast paced and you have the ability to be creative and analytical at the same time - as an analyst I like to think my job is somewhere between a detective and an artist.

The travel isn't always glamorous though! Some locations are in less desirable cities or involve long weekly commutes and early mornings, it suited me in my twenties but is less tempting now I have a family at home.

#### **Deciding on a career**

I don't think I ever really decided, I'm not sure I've totally decided even now! But I keep telling myself that as long as I'm learning and I can get up and feel energised on a Monday morning (most of the time) then I must be on the right track!

#### **What I have taken from Rugby High**

Most of my best friends are still the girls I met at Rugby High. They continue to amaze and inspire me every day. They've always encouraged me to chase my dreams and they're always there (albeit virtually most of the time at the moment) for a chat about where to go next!