



## SFA Alumni Profile



**Jess Walton – Barrister**

### **What do you do in your job?**

I am a Solicitor and Barrister practising in Family Law in Adelaide, South Australia.

### **How did you get to where you are?**

After finishing school, I commenced my Undergraduate LLB Law with Criminology at The University of Sheffield.

September 2018 – I commenced my Masters LLM LPC Professional Legal Practice at The University of Law.

November 2019 – I commenced working as a Paralegal.

February 2020 – I moved to Adelaide, South Australia.

April 2020 – I commenced working as a Law Clerk.

September 2022 – I was admitted to the Supreme Court of South Australia and the High Court of Australia as a Solicitor and Barrister.

During my time at Sixth Form and Uni, I completed various volunteer/work experience roles in various different law firms.

### **What has been your proudest achievement or what do you enjoy most about your job?**

I was particularly proud to be admitted as a Solicitor and Barrister to the Supreme Court of South Australia and the High Court of Australia as my career journey started in England, and all of my academic studies had been in England. I moved to Australia and had to learn about a whole new legal system which came with its many challenges!

### **What school subjects do you think are most useful to the job you do?**

At GCSE, I chose to study French, German and History as my elected subjects. I think these subjects have really helped me get to where I am as languages involve learning great communication skills and really thinking about how you want to say something which is particularly useful when talking to clients compared to the judiciary. Typically, essay-based subjects will also help with your written communication. Writing letters to many different types of people is a huge part of my job!

When I was studying, it wasn't an option but if you can, study Law as early as possible to ensure that it is something you're interested in.

### **What advice would you give to our students to help them in their career journey?**

Generally, work hard and stay consistent! If you want to go into law specifically, contact your local law firms and ask if they have any summer placements, or general admin work you can help with. The experience is invaluable, and you'd be surprised how much you can learn just by being in the legal environment. From my experience, the smaller, boutique firms were usually the ones willing to let me help out for a few days a week. Don't let yourself be put off if you don't have any family members already working in the legal industry. The law is becoming a far more accessible career for all genders, ages and nationalities. Remember that if you can dream it, you can do it!