

## A Chorister's Progress

I was 9 years old when I received my crested medal and became the first Pattenmakers chorister at St Paul's Cathedral. This year I turned 20 and am now a Choral Scholar at Merton College, Oxford where I'm reading Chemistry. I am so grateful to this company for your support during my time at St Paul's and continued interest and involvement over the 7 years since I left. The resources and skills I was able to gain as a chorister through your support have opened doors to amazing opportunities.

Through the support of the choir school, I was very fortunate to be able to go on to Eton College where I finished in June 2023 as a Music and Academic (Oppidan) Scholar with 4 A\* grades at A level. I had an incredible 5 years filled with singing, playing violin and French horn in ensembles and orchestras, sports, theatre and great friends. In my final year I was given the job of Music Secretary, running the student side of the music department, organising concerts and implementing students' suggestions. I was elected to the Eton Society (prefect body) and appointed as House Captain, roles I used to promote mental well-being and create more sport and music opportunities for students who weren't specialists in those areas. This led me to direct and help grow the school's only non-audition choir, including their largest concert to date, and start a 4-team 'Sunday league' style football league for any boy not in a school team.

The highlight of my time was taking on the challenge of musical director for the school's leading acapella group, The Incognitos (pictured, I'm 3<sup>rd</sup> from right). I restarted the group after it disbanded in 2021, holding auditions, selecting appropriate arrangements and running rehearsals to be able to perform at big events including charity dinners and school concerts.



Last year I took a year out before university to gain experience working and travel. I started the year working for 3 months at AlphaSights as a Technology & Strategy Intern. I am very grateful for the skills and experience I gained, and the insight into working in a fast-paced environment in the City. I was even lucky enough to have a view of St Paul's from the roof of our office!

Come December I had university interviews and was singing twice a week at the Old Royal Naval College, Trinity Laban. I spent the next 3 months working at my local martial arts club, as a lead instructor and running workshops for the other instructors following lesson observations and feedback sessions, in order to promote leadership, confidence and adaptability in their teaching.

After 7 months working, I was able to travel to Peru to spend an incredible 4 weeks in the historic Incan city of Cusco, taking 20 hours of Spanish classes a week and living with a lovely Peruvian couple, Sara and Abel. Hereafter, I spent a few weeks exploring Peru, visiting Macchu Picchu, Lake Titicaca, Arequipa and many other stunning spots, finishing in Lima.





On my return to the UK, I was able to compete in the Han Guk Mu Sool National Championships (my martial art) where I won the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree black belt division. I then set off to Canada for a tiring but extremely rewarding 2 months as a camp counsellor at a B'nai Brith (Jewish organisation) summer camp. I hugely enjoyed my time working with the kids, learning about their culture, and helping them develop their confidence and have a fun summer. My job as a 'Cochavim' (translates to stars) counsellor was to look after 6-10 year olds 24 hours a day, and separately I ran a martial arts rotation, teaching kids from all age groups. I made incredible friends during my time there and was honoured with the 'Best Counsellor' award at the end of the summer for my enthusiasm and dedication. After camp, I was able to visit family in Ontario before heading home.

I am now in my first year studying Chemistry at Merton College, Oxford where I am also a choral scholar. Although it can be intense, I love the challenging aspects of the course and learning alongside such talented students and from remarkable professors and tutors. I still sing regularly as a tenor, with 3 services a week with the Merton College Chapel Choir (find us on YouTube at 6pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays during term), and as a member of the Oxford Gargoyles, the university jazz acapella group.



I will be forever grateful to the wonderful Jennifer Bryant-Pearson who was clerk of the company while I was a chorister and remains incredibly interested and supportive. This gratitude extends to all the patternmakers past and present. Your support of a chorister at St Paul's is a hugely worthwhile cause which has a major impact on a young life.

Some bonus photos:



Oxford University Matriculation



Merton College Chapel Choir BBC Radio 3 'In Tune' with Sir John Rutter



St Paul's Chorister Reunion Feb 2025



Wood breaking at Han Guk Mu Sool National Championships