Name: Jack Harrison **Age:** 30 **Year graduated from Ousedale:** 2007

What qualifications did you gain at Ousedale?

GCSEs/BTECs:	3 A*, 1 A, 3 B, 2 C	A-Levels:	Ethics	C	Psychology	B
			History	B	Philosophy	C

Did you pursue any Further or Higher education? College/Apprenticeship/University/study while working
I attended the University of Liverpool and received a 2.1 BA (Hons) in Modern History and Politics. After this I attended Liverpool Hope University and took a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) for Secondary History. In February 2020, I intend to enrol at Cranfield University to study an Executive Logistics and Supply Chain Management (MSc). This is a part time master's degree supported by the Apprentice Levy and my employer.

What was your career aspiration while you were at school, if your career path changed what your mind?
I was adamant that I was going to become a Secondary school teacher in History. However, I began to change my mind. During this time, I took a temporary role with DHL Supply Chain as an Administration Clerk. I had never looked at logistics as a career for me but I was managed by some brilliant people who showed me the opportunities that DHL Supply Chain could offer as a global business. This led to me applying for the graduate scheme and a successful six years in the business working on numerous contracts up and down the country.

What did you enjoy most about your school life at Ousedale?
My school life at Ousedale was highly enjoyable. I have friends from that time who were with me in Portugal this summer for my wedding. Further to this I had some fantastic teachers that supported me during my journey and have influenced my life as an adult.

Current job title and description of your role?
I currently work as a Group Vehicle Logistics Manager for the VW Group UK. I am responsible for the delivery of our £155m supply chain moving 550,000 new cars per year into the UK. I manage the suppliers who move our product from our consolidation centres in Germany, Spain and Portugal right through to the dealer who sells it to a customer. To give you an understanding of our scale our supply chain delivers one car to our customers every minute.

How did you achieve this role?
Whilst on the DHL graduate scheme I was in three placements which gave me an introduction to inventory management, operations management and transport management. In my first year out of the graduate scheme I was asked to write the proposal to win a £22m contract for a rail customer. After six years with DHL I decided that it was time for me to look for another opportunity. I looked into what type of company I wanted to work for and then applied for roles that suited my skill set and experience. The role at Volkswagen was a large jump in responsibility but I demonstrated at interview that I had the potential to step into this role.

What advice would you give our current students about the world of work?
I always wanted to be a teacher and never thought I would work in a corporate environment. It is okay to take a different path and you have a long time to make a success out of it.
Three tips if you want to get on during your career:

- **Work hard and listen to those around you** – my career has been based upon the guidance and mentorship of great managers and colleagues. Use the experiences of others and take time to listen and learn from your colleagues and managers.
- **Challenge the status quo** – the most success I have had has been when I have tried to think differently about how we work and what we do. Thinking differently and working smarter are key to demonstrating you are a candidate more likely to operate at a more senior level.
- **Remember why you are doing it** – work life balance is important. Make sure you go home on time, take your annual leave and enjoy your time away from work with friends and family. Anyone who thinks that 12-14 hour days earns success has never understood the concept of quality over quantity. Your significant other will be your boss and not your line manager!