

Name: Laura Stevens

Age: 27

Year graduated from Ousedale: 2008



**What qualifications did you gain at Ousedale?**

Business and Enterprise Award (ASDAN)	Pass	English Language	D
Religious Studies	D	Core Science	D
DT: Resistant Materials	C	English Literature	E
Math	C	Level 2 First Certificate BTEC in Art and Design	Merit

**Did you pursue any Further or Higher education? College/Apprenticeship/University/study while working?**

Level 2/First Diploma, BTEC - Art and Design	Distinction	Level 3, ABC Awards – Animal Care	Distinction
Level 1, ABC Awards - Managing Performance	Distinction	Level 2, ABC Awards – Conflict Management	Distinction
Level 3, ABC Awards – Project Management	In progress	Agile PM, APMG – Agile Project Management Foundation & Practitioners	In Progress

**What was your career aspiration while you were at school, if your career path changed what your mind?**

Whilst at school I never knew what I wanted to be. Truth be told, I only figured out what I wanted to do at the age of 27!

**What did you enjoy most about your school life at Ousedale?**

School life was a very tough time for me, and there wasn't a great deal about that I enjoyed. I struggled with anything that required an academic approach. I found sports were a fantastic way for me to relieve my stress, and design tech was a great opportunity to use my creative skills. I also enjoyed drama, music and art, all of which nurtured my creative side.

**Current job title and description of your role?**

My job is to manage projects in the Digital and IT sector. Managing projects takes initiation, planning, implementation and evaluation. Because I project manage in the Digital sector, I help build technologies such as AI (Artificial Intelligence) and Apps for devices. It's a really cool and fun job, and I enjoy almost everything about what I do, especially the team I work with every day.

**How did you achieve this role?**

Before I became a project manager, I was a customer service team leader. During my time in this job I was approached to try project management because it had been recognised that I was good at identifying new ways to improve the business. I've been fortunate to experience team management, staff training, recruitment, content writing, managing conflict, and presenting and project management. I've also been able to identify and use the skills I am good at, like being results focused, thinking critically, strategic mindedness, and persuasiveness, creative, collaborative, self-organising, agile and enthusiastic.

**What advice would you give our current students about the world of work?**

Don't over-stress about achieving high-hitting GCSE's, to take hold of **any** opportunities that come your way. Do not be afraid to ask for help. I didn't do well in school, and I didn't have many friends, but the real world is a very different place. It can be tough, and it can surprise you, but you have the opportunity to do what you love, to re-do your qualifications if you're not happy with them, to achieve new qualifications in subjects you enjoy, and to make friends and build relationships with new, like-minded people.