

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

TRANSFORMING LIVES

CREATING FUTURES

Andrew Bennie
**Clinical Research Facility
Laboratory Manager**

Andrew Bennie


Clinical Research Facility Laboratory Manager

The Christie NHS Foundation Trust

Previous School: Longfield

After achieving excellent results in A Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics, Andrew went on to study Human Biology and Medicinal Chemistry at Keele University. Since graduating, he has worked in multiple hospital laboratories, where some of his technical responsibilities have included pre-analytical preparation of clinical trial samples, such as fixing and flash-freezing of tumour biopsies and shipping clinical trial samples to sites around the world.

Already skilled in practical laboratory work, Andrew has begun to add managerial skills to his skill set, announcing his appointment to CRF Laboratory Manager last year. Commenting on his new role, Andrew said: "I'm excited to take on a more formal, defined managerial role, and to support all my Technicians - the senior and all!"

A portrait of Andrew Bennie, a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a blue lab coat over a patterned shirt. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred laboratory setting with various equipment and containers.

QE gave me a solid foundation in all three sciences, allowing me to create and identify my strengths, adapt and focus on them through my university career, and make me a well-rounded professional in my healthcare and pharmaceutical career.



Ben Alderson

Ben, from Newton Aycliffe, has moved on to study History at Durham University after securing a Water Polo Scholarship alongside his studies.

“All of my subjects have been both interactive and interesting, and my teachers have really helped me to achieve the results I needed.”



Abbie Pocklington

Abbie, from Bedale, secured a degree apprenticeship with UK engineering firm, JBA Consulting alongside studying Civil Engineering at Teesside University. She achieved excellent results in Business, PE and Applied Science.

“QE was everthing I hoped for. Support from everyone at QE was second to none, especially the help I received from careers staff. I am now able to go on to achieve my dream career”



Mia Wetherill

Mia, from Darlington, is continuing her studies at Lancaster University, studying Social Work. She left QE with excellent grades in Psychology, Sociology and Health & Social Care.

“I’ve loved my time at QE, and I really enjoyed the challenge of studying new subjects which I hadn’t previously known anything about. I found my teachers to be really supportive too.”



Saksham Lingthep

Saksham, from Catterick Garrison, has achieved top grades in Chemistry, Computer Science, Maths and Extended Project. He has gone on to study Artificial Intelligence and Computer Science at the University of Edinburgh.

“I have really enjoyed and appreciated all the support I have received from all my subject teachers and careers advisors at QE. I always felt like my teachers really cared about my progress and learning.”



Jessica Sherwood

Social Journalist & Presenter
BBC News

Previous School: Sedgefield

■ **Subjects studied at QE**

English Language, English Literature, Textiles, History

■ **Progression**

English Language & Literature,
King's College, London

“The skills that I learned at QE have been invaluable, both at university and in my career. Studying English ignited my love for writing articles and through studying Textiles I developed a love of fashion which has lead to me covering fashion week this year - I can't thank my teachers enough for that!”

Josh Wolstenholme

Social Journalist & Presenter
Loughborough University

Previous School: Hurworth

■ **Subjects studied at QE**

Geology, Geography, Chemistry

■ **Progression**

Geological Sciences BSc & Physical Geography MSc, *University of Leeds*
PhD in Physical Geography,
University of Hull



“QE provided experience of leading an independent research project aligned to my interests, and also a range of inspiring teachers who led field experiences across the UK and Europe.”



“QE was a great stepping stone between school and university as you’re given a lot of independence and autonomy alongside support and encouragement so you learn how to best organise yourself to succeed. The choice of subjects available was great and the careers advice was second to none.”

Beth Courtney-Walker

Associate Solicitor (Family Law)

Samuel Phillips Law, Newcastle



Aryan Agarwal

Audit Apprentice
KPMG

Previous School: Hummersknott

■ **Subjects studied at QE**
Chemistry, Biology, Maths

■ **Progression**
Audit apprentice, *KPMG LLP*

“My teachers at QE really cared about my future and offered lots of support. This made the perfect environment for learning which I’m very grateful for. I developed a lot of transferable skills that have helped me to get to where I am today.”

Sarah Bennett

Architecture Intern
Hilton Hotels, *Maine, USA*

Previous School: All Saints

■ **Subjects studied at QE**
Biology, English Literature,
Geography

■ **Progression**
Architecture, *University of Greenwich*



“Having the opportunity to study any combinations of subjects QE helped me to discover my strengths and passions. The careers advice I received helped massively in helping me choose the kind of industry I would thrive in the most. ”



Production Journalist

ITV Tyne Tees

Previous School: Hurworth

Ambitious and committed digital-first journalist and producer, Tom Johnson, studied Media, English Language and Politics at QE, before progressing onto a degree in Journalism at Northumbria University.

Tom works across platforms, producing video and written content to a high journalistic standard. His skills in social media and digital-first approach to

news help him to meet the changing demands of a fast-paced and ever-changing digital newsroom.

Whether gathering stories out in the field or researching and producing the programme on the newsroom floor, Tom has developed a firm understanding of the skills required to write, shoot, edit and broadcast high quality television and radio news.

A portrait of Lauren Wilson, a young woman with wavy brown hair, wearing a white sweater and blue jeans. She is looking slightly to her left with a thoughtful expression.

Lauren Wilson

Author

Previous School: Longfield

QE was life changing for me, and I still tell people about it! My teachers were so incredibly passionate about their subjects that it made me passionate again, too, after the pressure of GCSEs. They were all so encouraging, and they really made me feel like my writing could, one day, get me where I wanted to be!

Lauren had always dreamed of becoming a published author. Having already achieved a First Class Honours in Journalism at Newcastle University, she decided to embark on a MA in Creative Writing in 2021.

While working as a Project Coordinator for a digital agency, Lauren decided to set up her own business offering content writing and social media management, and joined Mslexia - a women's writing magazine - as Production Editor. All the while, she continued running her small business and working on what she hoped would be her first novel!

Having completed her novel, *The Goldens*, in early 2023, HarperCollins Children's Books bought Lauren's debut novel as part of a six-figure pre-empt. *The Goldens* is planned for publication in paperback original in May 2025, with a second thriller coming in 2026.