Tettenhall College
AN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL FOR AGES 2 TO 18

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Years at TC: 1998-2006



1. Can you share with us a fond memory of your time at Tettenhall College?	Too many to choose from. I suppose my fondest memories were in the Towers. I had a lot of enjoyment performing on stage in the musicals and talent shows. I was quite shy and reserved when I first came to TC and the involvement in the theatrical productions gave me a chance to express myself creatively which gave me a real confidence boost. During show time was very fun, especially the banter back stage, walking through all the hidden corridors and staircases to the various changing rooms and rehearsal rooms, then up onto the balcony to watch the audiences reaction to the performances, it felt so grand. There was history and character attached to the towers which made it feel magical.
2. What do you miss the most about Tettenhall College?	The community and family feel. After leaving TC I came to realise there were schools out there with hundreds of pupils in a year, where no one knew each other, teachers hardly cared, no one got special attention. Some schools didn't even have houses. That was very strange to me. I think to know everyone in my year, the year above and below very well but also to recognise everyone in the school at a time, by face and mostly by name made it feel like there was a real sense of community. The teachers all knew me personally and gave us a lot of attention and genuinely cared about our progress. At the time this gave me a sense of belonging and a sense of security. This really set me up for life after leaving school with a want to maintain that around me, it enabled me to create meaningful relationships and friendships with wherever I moved on to.
3. Please can you share with us who you are still in contact with from Tettenhall College? In what capacity do you still know them?	A lot of people in my year I am still in touch with often. My one friend in particular Gurraj Sanghera has been and still is my very best friend for life. Otherwise the people in my year group I see sometimes when I am back in Wolverhampton out and about, and when I do see them, its as if I was back in year 10 or 6th form and I only saw them yesterday in class. Theres a deeper connection with the people who are in your year. You spend every single day with them for the most crucial years of your life during childhood and adolescence, even with the ones you weren't so close with or lose touch with, that connection never ends, because they were there through it all.
4. What were your plans on leaving Tettenhall College?	I had two routes at the time which were in line with my 4 A level subjects. It was either taking forward English Lit and Theatre Studies and becoming an actor, or Art and IT and becoming a designer. I chose the design route in the end and went to University to become a graphic designer, which I am very glad about as its worked out very well for me.
5. How did Tettenhall College help you prepare for life after school? Can you provide the name of an individual who encouraged you, with an example of how they inspired/supported/believed in you?	I came to Tettenhall College from a very bad primary school, it was actually headlined in the Express and Star as 'The worst primary school in Wolverhampton'. I remember when I first came I was about 2 years behind everyone else, I was getting 0 in everything. I was very shy, reserved anyway but being behind really knocked my confidence. For this I was not ridiculed at all not by my peers or teachers but massively supported. I attended special needs classes and extra tuition to get me back up to scratch and I slowly went from bottom of C to top of C, into B to top of B into A (never quite made the top of A). But this experience made me really believe that I could do anything,

	and that I was supported by everyone, and I think almost every teacher helped me to get there. I found at Tettenhall College there was a real focus on covering the base of all subjects but a push to really follow your passions and strengths. In year 10 I really found my feet and strengths in the creative subjects, which is where I could really express myself. Predominantly this was Art and Drama, which I loved. I was in every play and talent show, and my art projects were always quite experimental. Specifically I would say Miss Utley and Mr Leighton were real drivers in this for me. Miss Utley completely believed in me and always pushed me to build on my performance and be creative with my interpretations of my roles. Mr Leighton would always push me to keep thinking outside the box, pushing me to think what else I could do, where else could I take an idea, how many avenues could I explore creatively. Both these two combined really helped me to excel in University and in my professional life. I maintain my confidence, with no fear and have no hesitation when it comes to expressing my ideas, and even today I am still using those tools Mr Leighton gave me to keep thinking outside the box.
6. What are you currently doing in life?	After University I moved to London to work as a graphic designer and overall I lived and worked in London for 8 years. My journey as a designer started off as a print designer mainly doing branding and advertising campaigns for many design agencies all over London. In the last few years I have transitioned into becoming a digital designer also known as a UX/UI designer, where I mainly design apps and websites, which is very good work to be in right now. I run my own design business where I either take on my own clients or take contracts with companies. I have relocated now to Warwick, where I focus on my own clients, often work in London and take a lot of work locally. During lockdown my work has continued as it has been all remote, which works well for me.
7. Can you share with us any plans, aspirations and ambitions for your future?	My brother (who also went to TC) was focused on business and economics as a career path through school and Uni and applied it to the film industry where he worked professionally. Putting together his business mind, experience in the industry, my expertise as an app designer and both our love for film, we have spent the last couple years working on an app which is a platform for independent film makers (people who make short films). Its called Paus and you can check it out online Paus.tv or Instagram. We are hoping to launch the app this summer.
8. Can you add a few final words of advice to a young person?	Firstly I would say something that my father always use to say to me, don't focus on the grade just focus on working as hard as you can. Even with the subjects you don't like to much, as long as you know you've put in as much effort as you can, worked as hard as you can, in anything you're doing, the grade will stand as a true reflection of your ability. I never focused on the letter A, I just focused on the amount of effort I put in, and if I got a B, that's fine as I could only look back and think, well I worked as hard as I could so if im a B then im a B. Secondly, don't confuse intelligence or being smart with being good as maths, science, history etc etc. Art and creativity is also a form of intellect. There are two different types of people hardwired to use the left or right side of the brain…which are the creative people and intellectual people. The world needs both to progress. If your strength is in creativity then focus on that, the world needs you too. Finally ask yourself 'what would you do if money were no object'. If you had a bank account that was infinite and what would you choose to do with your life. Really think about what you are passionate about. Combine that with the subjects you enjoy and use that as an anchor to find a career path. I combined my passion for design with IT and became a designer. My brother combined his passion for film with his strength in business and economics. We have both had successful careers but more importantly been happy to go work every day. If you focus on money and fame, or job titles that please other people, you will most likely end up in a job you hate. If you follow passion, you'll enjoy what you're doing so much it wont feel like work and you'd become so good at what you're doing you'll specialise in it and can run a business or take a successful career path in that field and the money will come anyway. That's what I advise to any young person.