

# Keynote Speakers Week – Spring 2015

## Benson House met Elizabeth Withington – Senior Manager at Geotechnical Engineering Limited



Elizabeth graduated from University with a degree in BSc (Hons) Earth Science MSc Foundation Engineering FGS. She has over twenty five years experience in Geology in both the private and public sector. During her time as a Geologist Elizabeth has worked as a main contractor, public sector officer, and consultant and ground investigation contractor. Elizabeth spoke about her extensive experience in all the various job roles she has been appointed on and how she is still currently pursuing to move further into her career by applying for Chartership.

*“I now know more about Geology and the different career paths and opportunities available in the sector”  
“I found the talk by Elizabeth very informative and have gained a good amount of knowledge on the careers available in Geology”*

**Benson Students**

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## Chamberlain House met Alisha – Community Arts Apprentice at Beatfrees



Alisha left school with all her GCSE's in 2011 and wanted to put her creative flare to use. She wanted to help and inspire young people by educating them through creativity. Alisha is a musician and played the guitar and sang for the students of Washwood Heath Academy. Alisha left school and joined newly founded Beatfrees as an Apprentice. Beatfrees is an award winning social enterprise with national reach. Beatfrees aims to pioneer new ways of engaging, empowering and developing people and spaces through a blend of arts & media, social action, leadership and enterprise.

*“Alisha has inspired me in pursuing into something that I enjoy and would like to do every day. She has made me think more about using my creativity when learning to help me achieve the best I can from school”*

*“Alisha has a lovely voice and is a very talented artist”*

**Chamberlain Students**

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## Harewood House met Jane Farrow - Research Manager at Birmingham City University



Jane Farrow left school and college with GCSE's and A-Levels, however she got accepted into University and dropped out; she didn't enjoy the course she was enrolled on. Jane had various jobs before she had her son. She needed a job that was convenient for her family life; she started working in the Admin Department at Birmingham City University. She got trained on the job, gained further qualifications and, most importantly gained experience to apply for the position of Research Manager. Jane now helps researchers to get funding to do research and work with them nationally. Jane inspires young people to work hard and start achieving towards career goal at a young age; *“know it, believe it, achieve it”*.

*“I found the talk by Jane very motivating and inspiring, it has given me a greater understanding of what I need to do when working towards a professional career and that it is important to get a good education”*

*“Jane has inspired me to follow my dreams when thinking about a future career”*

**Harewood Students**

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## Zephaniah House met Russell Graham – Brand Planning and Analysis at Jaguar Land Rover



Russell Graham was born in Germany and studied in many countries before completing University in Bath. He has degrees in BSc International Management and German MSc Accounting and Finance (Sports, Business, Variety, and Numerical). Russell has always loved cars and wanted to work in an area that would match his degree and his enthusiasm for cars. The job at Jaguar Land Rover was perfect; he went through many different interview stages and further training before finally getting offered the job. Russell moved from Germany to the UK and had many barriers to overcome, but studying in the UK did help him overcome these barriers quite easily. Russell enthusiastically advised the students to follow their dreams wherever it may take them, even if it means travelling and relocating to another country.

*“Russell gave clear and informative advice. I now know there are many routes I can take to work for an organisation and there will be many different training stages before I get the job I actually want”*

**Zephaniah Student**

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## Tolkien House met Natalia Perera – Solicitor at Pinsent Masons



Natalia Perera finished University with a non-law degree, English Literature; however she soon realised she wanted to follow a career path in law. She did a one year conversion course called the Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) followed by a one year Legal Practice course. Nathalia secured a training contract under Pinsent Masons where she trained for two years; she worked for the law firm in several different areas of law as a trainee solicitor, she then qualified and took on a full time job for Pinsent Masons working in Commercial Law. Nathalia expressively explained to the students that she came from a non-law related career and turned it all around to do the job she wanted which shows it's never too late.

*“I found Nathalia’s talk very interesting, it’s taught me that you can always transfer degrees and qualifications to do the job you want and there are many stages you have to complete in both education and training to get the job you want”*

**Tolkien Student**