Dear students

When I was at secondary school I was friends with a family with whom I am still close to today. My friend Eleanor missed a large part of Year 10 and had to catch up on her education. She went on to thrive in life, and I am especially grateful that she agreed to share her story with us. I hope it will inspire you that, despite not being in school at the moment, you can still go on and achieve great things. Eleanor says…

“I studied at Guiseley School in the early to mid-1990’s before taking up a place to read Law at Durham in 1996. Since then life has been a whirlwind as I have climbed up the legal ladder, at first becoming a barrister and then a Judge at different levels with, as ever, more than my fair share of hurdles to overcome, personally and professionally (especially after going back to work quickly after having two children).

During my GCSE years for health reasons I was absent from school for over half of what is now known as Year 10. Even when I returned to school I had difficulties concentrating on school work and found school life difficult. I’ve often heard it said that “success is placed on the other side of fear” and I have some understanding of what that means. Being pushed past or outside of our comfort zone and even feeling uncomfortable can in fact serve you.

Focusing on the next step (and sometimes only that one step) and how I was going to get there became a real habit for me and I learned to deal with unexpected change. That ability is in my view a true - life skill, and one that has served me my whole career. Being able to adapt to that difficult person or situation or exam is a gift. However, my top tip is not to waste a good crisis. We have all been through a tremendous change in circumstances recently and I think now is the time to use that to your benefit by creating a network of people who support you to thrive and flourish in your student life. Hard work and determination have only been one small part of the successes that I have enjoyed in my career, the other and far more sustaining part, has been the people, the teachers and the mentors who have willed me on, picked me up, and supported me along the way. Change and adversity do not have to be seen as negatives, sometimes they are but opportunities to aim high and press on. And often at the end of a storm, there really is a golden sky.”

Mr Parapia, Mr Brown and many thanks to Eleanor Temple

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Eleanor’s successes

Named as one of the Chambers UK Top 200 junior barristers practising in England and Wales.

GCSE – 6 Grade As, 4 Grade Bs, (pre A* days)
A – Levels 5 Grade As

Barrister at Law, Chancery, Family & Civil Recorder, Deputy District Judge (Business and Property courts)

Chair R3 (Yorkshire Region) – insolvency professionals trade organisation, Chair NECCBA (North Eastern Circuit Commercial Bar Association)

Qualifications: 1st Class (Hons) Law (University of Durham)

AREAS OF EXPERTISE:
Banking & Finance, Commercial Litigation Company, Insolvency, Partnership