

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

TRANSFORMING LIVES

CREATING FUTURES

Andrew Bennie  
**Clinical Research Facility**  
**Laboratory Manager**



# Andrew Bennie

## Clinical Research Facility Laboratory Manager

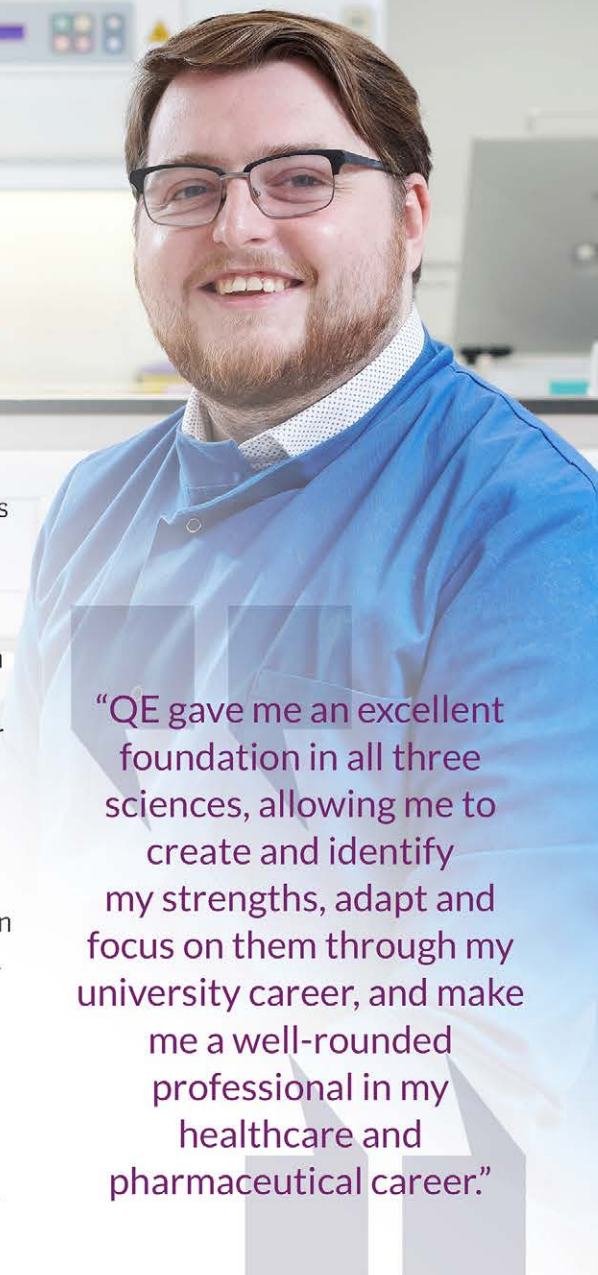
The Christie NHS Foundation Trust

**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, including his appointment to CRF Laboratory Manager last year. Commenting on his new role, Andrew says: "I'm excited to take on a more formal, defined managerial role, and to support all my Technicians!"

"QE gave me an excellent 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."



# 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 led to me covering fashion week this year - I can't thank my teachers enough for that!"

# Josh Wolstenholme

**Research Associate in Geoscience**  
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."





**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."*



*"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.”



## Tom Johnson

**Production Journalist**

ITV Tyne Tees

**Previous School:** Hurworth

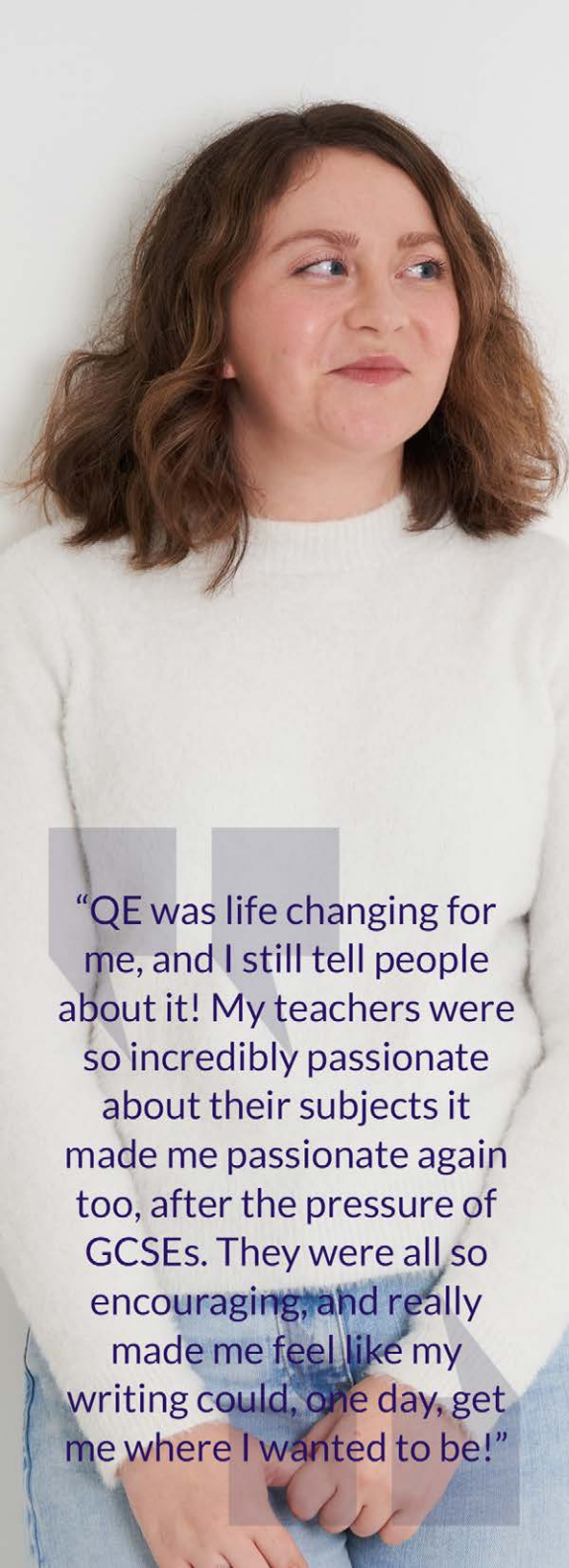
**A**mbitious and committed digital-first journalist and producer, Tom Johnson, studied Media, English Language and Politics at QE, before progressing onto a degree in Journalism at Northumbria University.

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.





# Lauren Wilson

**Author**

**Previous School:** Longfield

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 in May 2025, with a second thriller coming in 2026.

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