



Beamont Collegiate
Academy



DARREN SEXTON
CROWN COURT MANAGER
CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE



WHO ARE YOU AND WHAT DO YOU DO?

My name is Darren Sexton, I was born and grew up in Orford and my parents still live there today. I lived in Warrington until 2007 when I moved to London to study my undergraduate degree in Law (which I eventually quit). I love city life so can't see myself moving back to Warrington any time soon! I currently work for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and often get asked "who are they?" In a nutshell, if someone commits a crime, the police will arrest them, investigate the offence and, if there is enough evidence, charge the person. The case is then handed off to the CPS who are (basically) the lawyers who take the case to court.

WHAT YEAR DID YOU LEAVE?

I left William Beamont in 2004.

WHAT DID YOU DO AFTER LEAVING?

I went straight to Priestley College to pursue my two interests; Law and Drama. I ended up staying at Priestley College for 3 years (I loved it that much) and gained qualifications in Law, Drama, Psychology, English, Critical Thinking and Performing Arts.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST PROPER JOB?

I started working voluntarily, at age 15, at Rees Veterinary Centre in Orford. I managed to work my way up to the role of veterinary receptionist and carried on this role at five different veterinary practices while studying at college and university. My first full time job was with a gay dating website before moving on to the Crown Prosecution Service in April 2013.

HOW DID YOU GET WHERE YOU ARE TODAY?

I would be lying if I said it was all down to studying. Admittedly there was a lot of this but I hit a wall at university and got bored of academia and being a poor student so decided to quit university and find full time work. I have always been a hard worker and an ambitious person and never let the fact I didn't have a degree stop me from pursuing a career in the legal sector.



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WHAT DOES YOUR JOB TODAY INVOLVE?

I am the manager for Inner London Crown Court (in south London) and look after five paralegal assistants. I am essentially the person that people come to when things go wrong at court. I love working at court as I get to interact with judges, police officers, defendants and victims. It's extremely rewarding to spend the day speaking to and supporting a vulnerable victim of rape or domestic violence; just being there to say hello and ask if they are ok means the world to them and makes my day worthwhile.

AT SCHOOL, WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU GREW UP?

From a very young age, I wanted to be a veterinary surgeon which is why I started volunteering at Rees Vets. However, I began to realise that the life of a vet wasn't really for me and, after binge watching episodes of Ally McBeal, decided law looked interesting which is why I studied it at A Level.

WHAT SUBJECTS DID YOU ENJOY MOST AND EXCEL AT?

I was quite book-smart at school but also loved more practical subjects. I loved science because it was a good mix of both. I have also always loved cooking so did food technology.

WHAT DID YOU FIND DIFFICULT AT SCHOOL?

Subjects wise, I detested PE! I would enjoy the rare occasions we would get to play table-tennis or badminton and didn't mind rugby but most of the time it was all about football. I could not and still cannot stand football (sorry to everyone I've offended by saying that!)

The thing I found most difficult was growing up gay in a school and a town which, back then, was pretty closed minded.

LOOKING BACK, WHAT'S THE ONE THING THAT SCHOOL GAVE YOU THAT YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO USE TO GET WHERE YOU ARE TODAY?

Resilience. It isn't easy growing up different in a small town but I came through it and was much stronger as a result. I said above that high school was a tough time in my life but I'm so glad I went through it as it's made me who I am today.

IF YOU COULD GO BACK AND GIVE YOUR 14 YEAR-OLD SELF ONE PIECE OF ADVICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Don't bottle things up. It's easy when you're surrounded by people who don't accept you for your differences to think that you're completely alone but trust me, there is always somebody else going through the same thing as you so talk and be open about it and always remember that the people who don't accept you are the ones in the wrong, not you.