Movers and MAKERS

Whether working as architects or running globally-renowned businesses, this generation of school leavers are making their mark on the wider world

MARIA MENDOZA GUERRERO

MARIA MENDOZA GUERRERO, 24

Architect

Sedbergh School, Cumbria

After leaving Sedbergh, I went to UCL to read architecture. It was an extremely challenging time, but the endurance that Sedbergh taught me, whether it was running up the fells or facing academic courses in my second language, really helped me. I worked in London for a year before doing an MPhil in Architecture and Urban Design at the University of Cambridge. There, I was able to take on a very similar approach to my time at Sedbergh: try as many things as you can and make as many friends as possible, as everyone was a great source of knowledge and fun. I boxed, rowed, and led a society alongside my studies, which was made a little easier having previously been Head of School. It taught me a great deal, especially in public speaking. Now I'm back in London working as an architect. I live with two other Sedberghians and I'm about to complete my first ultramarathon (100km), which would have seemed impossible to me before Sedbergh.

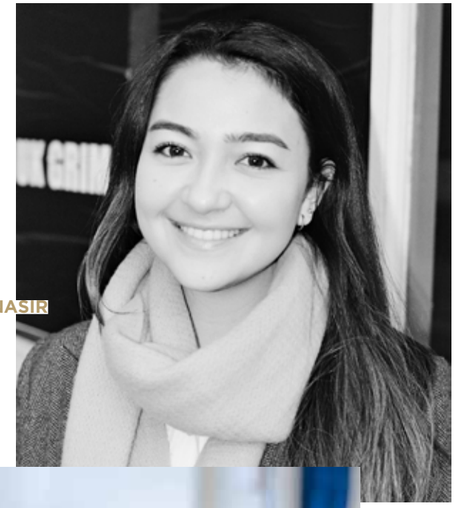
JAMES BURNS

JAMES BURNS, 33

Head of North America, The Bright Agency, New Jersey

Giggleswick School, North Yorkshire

At 11 years old, I arrived at Giggleswick as a nervous, anxious boy with no real expectations of doing well academically, or otherwise. To everyone's surprise, seven years later I departed with a core set of values and abilities that go far beyond anything that can be taught in a classroom: resilience, curiosity and self-assurance. Upon reflection it's clear to me that Giggleswick's team of talented, passionate faculty members facilitated this transformation. Giggleswick was there to identify and then develop on each individual's strengths. For me, that was creativity, entrepreneurship and overcoming severe dyslexia. Since leaving school, I attended Central Saint Martin's (Art Foundation), discovered university wasn't for me and relocated to the eastern United States to build the American division of an illustration and literary agency, originally a two-year assignment, which has been repeatedly extended. The agency and I will be celebrating our 10th anniversary in 2024.



TIA NASIR

TIA NASIR, 22

Analyst, Goldman Sachs

DLD College London

I studied A-level computer science, mathematics and history, before progressing to the Royal Holloway University of London where I obtained a first-class bachelor's degree in computer science. Attending DLD was an invaluable experience and pivotal step in my journey to becoming an analyst at Goldman Sachs. You're treated as an adult there, and it introduced me to the all-important art of self-guided study. You're supported on a personalised pathway in terms of careers and studying, but also personality-wise; you're encouraged to become who you want to be when you're at DLD. The diversity of DLD was very different to the traditional boarding school that I'd previously attended, and the central London location gave me independence like no other. The international community provided me with the opportunity to interact with people from all over the world, which has helped me in my career with an international company.

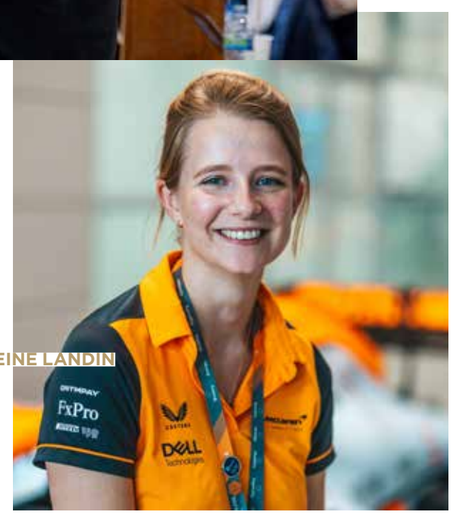
SAM JONES

SAM JONES, 32

Founder, Gener8

Canford School, Dorset

I left Canford in 2009 to read philosophy at Cardiff University. Alongside my studies, I founded 212 – a nightclub promotions company – and Hit the Town – a ticketing app, so I had energy for business early on. Having engaged with Red Bull as a student brand manager, post-university I rose through the ranks and seven years later became their Global Brand Manager. In 2021, I appeared on *Dragons' Den* to pitch my business, Gener8. Like Frequent Flyer miles for the internet, it's a digital innovation that allows you to control your data online. My pitch went well, with all of the Dragons competing to win my business. I convinced Touker Suleyman and Peter Jones to share a 10 per cent equity for £60,000, with Touker offering free workspace for up to eight people in his offices. Fast-forward two years, Gener8 has more than 600,000 users, more than 6m visitors and further funding from investors, including Harry Redknapp, Tinie Tempah, and ex-cricket captain Chris Gayle. *gener8ads.com*



MADELEINE LANDIN

MADELEINE LANDIN, 28

HR Business Manager, McLaren Racing

St Swithun's, Hampshire

I was deciding between pursuing physics, engineering or French at university, so I attended a Cambridge Engineering Masterclass session, and after listening to some lectures, I was hooked. St Swithun's supported me to achieve the A-levels I needed to attend the University of Cambridge to study mechanical engineering – including supporting me to take AS maths in year 13, so I could make my university offer. As a graduate, I joined The Dyson Institute of Engineering and Technology, a new degree apprenticeship provider, in a project management role. As it was a small team I had a lot of responsibility. I led a variety of projects, before focusing on the professional development of the engineering students. This led me to a role at McLaren Racing, where I was responsible for the development needs across the whole racing team, including Formula 1. I now work as a HR Business Partner to the McLaren Formula 1 Aerodynamics team.