



ABOUT ME

My name is Richard.
I used to go to Headlands and now I am a Public Affairs and Communications Consultant.

ABOUT MY JOB

Most of my career has been in 'lobbying' - promoting the interests of particular companies, organisations or sectors and arguing for or against changes in the law through the political process and the media.

In practice this means regular meetings with MPs and Government Ministers; preparing strategy, arguments and debating your point of view; organising and presenting at events; writing articles and stories for media; and maintaining external-facing platforms like websites and social media.

I run my own company to do these activities on a client-by-client or freelance basis but often focus on one particular project.

Currently I'm working with Norwegian energy company Equinor and the Zero Carbon Humber Partnership which aims to produce low carbon fuels and lower emissions in the region, hopefully creating the world's first net-zero carbon cluster by 2040.

SCHOOL RESULTS

I finished by GCSEs in 1996 and my A-Levels (at Headlands Sixth Form) in 1998.

At A Level I got two As (History and Sociology) and a C (Art). As GCSE, I got 3 As; 3 Bs; 3 Cs and a D.

FAVOURITE MEMORIES

Taking part in 'mock show trials' in A-Level History - I put together such an impressive defence that I managed to get evil tyrants acquitted of their obvious crimes!

I also really enjoyed A-Level Art, I spent a lot of lunch times painting in the art rooms and found it a great way to get some peace between 'heavier' lessons.

WHAT I DID NEXT

I went to Lancaster University to study and undergraduate degree in History and Politics, and then a masters degree in Defence and Security Analysis.

Outside of term time I worked as a lifeguard at Leisure World. My first post-university job was working as an advisor to an MP in the Houses of Parliament.

MY ADVICE TO STUDENTS

Build your contacts and experience through volunteering. The world is as much about 'who you know' as 'what you know'.

Unpaid work experience that I'd pursued myself and the people I met through 'extra-curricular' interests in my own time were responsible for the first few job offers I received and for many of the contacts I still have in useful places!