

#MonthlyMotivation: Annabelle Barker (class of 2012)



Alumna Annabelle has combined her passions for science and food with her new job with the healthy snack manufacturer, [Popchips](#).

So what does Annabelle do at Popchips? "I work on the technical and innovation side of the business and spend my time ensuring high standards of product quality by holding taste panels; which is not the worst job ever ... getting to sample crisps every day!"

Annabelle is also involved in the process of new product development from innovation to the physical production in the factories. She shares, "This is where I am able to apply the skills I acquired studying Biochemistry on a daily basis, from data analysis through to understanding production processes and engineering aspects in the factory. The company has a great atmosphere, there is a strong emphasis on company culture and everyone is so friendly and vibrant. I do a lot of travelling which I enjoy, visiting factories and flavour houses."

Although Annabelle is now in a job that marries her two interests, during her sixth form years at Putney she had the sole aim of studying medicine. She explains: "I truly believed that it was the right career path for me and I chased that dream twice; on both occasions

I was unsuccessful. At the time it was difficult to think about what I was going to do next." After leaving Putney, Annabelle decided to take a year out to work and travel around Africa and Asia. Annabelle explains: "Travelling gave me time to think about what I really wanted to do as well as providing me with some invaluable life experiences."

On her return Annabelle decided to study Biochemistry at the University of Manchester and then went on to do an MSc in Nutrition at King's College London. She shares "By completing both my degrees I married my interests in science and food and I enjoyed every bit of it!"

Annabelle says: "My extra-curricular activities really informed my career choice. At the same time as studying for my postgraduate degree I worked for the nut-bar company, [KIND snacks](#), as well as blogging on my food Instagram '[londonfoodfam](#)' for fun. From this I knew that the food industry was a sector that suited me well and I continue to be fascinated and excited every day at work.

"I think that Putney High School engrains particular traits in students, I still see these characteristics even now amongst my school friends and in myself. The importance of self-determination, the ability to pick yourself up when things aren't going to plan and to always be positive and ambitious.

"Every one of us has excelled on the path we have chosen. We have ended up in a variety of sectors, and unsurprisingly doing completely different jobs to those that we anticipated on A-level results day back in 2012! In my experience, Putney alumnae share these important traits and long may it last!"