

## #MonthlyMotivation: Vivienne Evans (class of 2009)



Vivienne always had a desire to work in conservation, but it was a diving trip to the Great Barrier Reef that fuelled her passion for the Deep Blue.

### What have you done since leaving Putney?

After leaving school I went to Royal Holloway University of London to study Zoology and then followed this with a master's degree in Marine Environmental Management at the University of York. Despite my studies, I always found time to go in search of wonderful wildlife on land and in the sea across the world!

### What has been your favourite place to visit?

I've got a few! Trekking to see the mountain gorillas in Rwanda, diving with [sharks](#) and manta rays in the Maldives, searching for [nudibranchs in Indonesia](#), and snorkelling with dugongs in Mozambique!

### What are you doing now?

Since completing my masters in 2016, I have been working for a British marine conservation charity called the [Blue Marine Foundation](#), trying to protect the wonderful marine life we have on this planet.

### What does your role entail?

As International Project Manager, I am responsible for managing several projects for BLUE. Now, my focus is the Maldives where I have been working for the last three years, however we are currently scoping other projects in Indonesia, Namibia and Sri Lanka.

### What does a standard day look like for you?

My role on a day to day basis is extremely varied! It ranges from writing fundraising proposals to liaising with the government; campaigning on social media to meeting fishermen. That's why I love it!

### Did you always know you wanted to follow a career path in conservation?

My parents are South African and were always very fond of the natural world. When I was little, we had a house in the middle of the African bush near the Kruger National Park which we used to visit every year. It was wonderful - it had no electricity and we used to spend our time going on game drives looking for wildlife and having braais (south African term for a BBQ!). I will never forget the time I spent there, and I think ultimately was the main driver for my desire to work in conservation.

### What was it that inspired you to specialise in Marine Conservation?

When I first got the chance to dive on the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, I was hooked. I had never seen anything like it in my life and I had no idea what anything I saw was at the time.

### What would be your recommendations for those looking to pursue a similar career path?

Biology is a useful subject to take and may be required by some universities if you decided to do a marine biology or science related degree. However, I don't think it's necessary to enter the field, unless you want to become a scientist rather than a conservationist. I did my master's degree at the University of York who accept anyone with an undergraduate degree, whether its science related or not. I really admire this approach because conservation is about so much more than just science! It's about political engagement, strategic thinking, schmoozing the right people, communicating the message, and fundraising. That said, I would recommend that everyone gets under the water!



### How has Putney helped you in your career?

Putney inspires young girls with the confidence to go after their dreams ... and that's what I did!