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THE SCHOOL THAT MADE ME

Triple jumper and entrepreneur, Jonathan Ilori, on how his school life built his resilience

International athlete and two-times national title-winning triple jumper Jonathan Ilori credits his love of sport and resilience to his school days. Between the ages of 11 to 18, Jonathan was a pupil at Royal Hospital School (RHS), Suffolk. The school is renowned for navigating pupils through their formative years, and nurturing individuals to hone their skills and interests to fulfil their potential, which certainly rings true for Jonathan.

"I didn't start school with aspirations of becoming an athlete. I quickly became very comfortable on the sports field and the school introduced me to athletics competitions. RHS had this belief in my abilities that I didn't have at the time."

The school's rural location — set in 200 acres of countryside by the River Stour — was different to home life in London for 11-year-old Jonathan, but the wide range of extra-curricular activities available at RHS soon helped him find his feet.

"It took me a little while to settle in, but sports helped massively. Activities are a big part of school life. I also played rugby, hockey, tennis and drums in the school's marching band. There are so many different pursuits on offer at RHS, you can soon find your niche."

Throughout Jonathan's burgeoning triple jump success, RHS was happy to accommodate his training needs to fit in with his studies.

"I had so much support. I remember being the only RHS pupil to qualify for the East Area Prep School Championships and the school arranged transport to take me to the competition in Bedford and back. I wouldn't have had so many opportunities to compete at home. Plus, the teachers were understanding when I needed to take time out of lessons to go to competitions and I always caught up on all the school work, so it never had a detrimental effect on my studies — I achieved predominantly A and A* at GCSE and A-level."

Like all professional athletes, Jonathan's career has had its highs and lows, but his school life instilled the resilience to keep pursuing his vocation."I had a tough time after graduating from the University of Missouri in 2015.

While aiming to make the World Championships, I dislocated my shoulder. I started thinking about life beyond sport and had the idea of helping other athletes through the US collegiate recruiting process. After market research, I founded RightTrack Sports in 2016. The business has grown quickly. I realised my passion for mentoring young athletes so in 2020 and founded Tier One Management. This year has been difficult in terms of injuries and became more about getting through it in the best shape possible, so finishing fourth in the Olympic trials was a success. I've managed to continue to the age and level that I'm at because I was well supported from the start — I was never going to burn out. Too many athletes specialise in a sport from a young age and their lives become one dimensional. RHS was great at encouraging me to have other interests."

With a head for both business and elite sport, Jonathan is managing his dual careers skilfully.

"I'm yet to reach the pinnacle of my sport. I'm aiming for a GB vest for Paris 2024 and 2022's Commonwealth Games in Birmingham is important, being at home. My businesses are well structured — I have to be very organised in terms of my time but I learnt that from an early age at RHS."

● For more information about Royal Hospital School, visit the website at royalhospitalschool.org and book your visit to the campus, which is just an hour's train ride from London. Or follow the school on Twitter @RHSSuffolk



CARDIFF ACADEMY ACHIEVES EXCEPTIONAL A-LEVEL RESULTS WITH 98.78% A*– A GRADES

At the end of a disrupted and challenging year, the city-centre sixth form college has seen its students achieve outstanding results at A-level

Five students gained four A* grades at A-level with students now looking forward to taking up their places at Oxbridge and top Russell Group universities such as Imperial College, Queen Mary London and Exeter among others. 35% of these students will progress to study medicine at these top universities. Top achievers with four A*s were Naz I, Faith E, Amy L, Kloe O and Callum R.

Principal Caroline Williams (as seen in the left-hand image, below right) puts this success down to the hard work of both students and staff. She says: "I can't praise too highly the resilience and focus of our students this year. They've taken the challenges of lockdowns head-on and worked incredibly hard to achieve these fantastic results."

She's quick to credit the commitment of staff, too: "Our highly experienced teaching staff delivered live online lessons throughout the year, ensuring that all content was taught and regular assessments were conducted, giving students the best possible opportunities to succeed. Staff have ensured robust monitoring of student performances throughout the two years, ensuring the grades achieved are a true reflection of the students' abilities and achievements."

Scholarships at Cardiff Academy

The college is proud to have offered more than £1m worth of scholarships to over 100 local and international students over the past three years. These scholarships have only been made possible through funding from Sajid Ghaffar (as seen in the left-hand image, below right), who is chairman of both the Draycott Group and Cardiff Academy.

These students ordinarily wouldn't have had the opportunity to attend an independent private college where they were able to take advantage of small, intimate class sizes and outstanding teaching, helping to gain entry into elite universities.

Cardiff Academy aspires to foster a passion for learning in its students and reaches out to those aspiring individuals who wish to gain places at some of the UK's leading universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

As a result of outstanding teacher expertise, which aims to make A-level students think for themselves, they'll be able to surpass their previously outstanding performance to achieve their full potential. This leads to students achieving excellent results year-on-year.

All about the individual

Individual attention is a priority at Cardiff Academy, together with regular and robust assessments, meaning all students are able to reach their true potential. Students are given all the study skills necessary for them to excel.

There's an expectation of excellent grades at the college, with a high degree of individual academic and pastoral support.

Regular exam-based testing and feedback help students on their pathway, while flexible subject combinations ensure that each one is given the opportunity to choose the subjects they want to study. Cardiff Academy offers a wide range of subjects that students can study at AS and A-level.

Cardiff Academy has also been conducting International Foundation Year and Pre-Masters courses over the last two years. It has attracted students from many countries including, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, China, Hong Kong, India, Pakistan, Thailand, Malaysia and Nigeria.

Cardiff Academy students have an exceptional 100% pass rate in these courses and have successfully achieved places at their first-choice universities.

● Cardiff Academy Sixth Form College, Harlech Court, Bute Terrace, Cardiff CF10 2FE. T: 02920 318318 cardiffacademy.co.uk



WHY A PREP SCHOOL EDUCATION IS BEST

It's a debate that's raged for generations — is there more value in a preparatory education or learning at an all-through school?

While a preparatory school prepares its children for entry into private secondary schools aged around 13, all-through schools teach children in one place up to the age of 16 or 18 before they move on to higher education.

So which is best? At Highfield and Brookham Schools in Liphook, which offers nursery, pre-prep and prep schooling in glorious 175-acre grounds on the border of Hampshire, Surrey and West Sussex, the answer is clear.

Currently teaching, encouraging, supporting and moulding children from the ages of two to 13, the schools undertook a parent survey to gauge opinion on various aspects of school life, including whether to extend provision beyond Year 8.

The answer was a resounding 'no', that Highfield and Brookham, the only truly independent, co-educational day and boarding school for miles around, should retain its current status. The reasons were compelling and a big vote of confidence for highly respected Highfield headmaster Phillip Evitt and Brookham headteacher Sophie Baber.

Many parents cited a need for a change of school in the early teenage years, saying that children can become much less motivated and lose their desire to learn and develop if they stay in one place for too long, whereas a move to a senior school at the age of 13 brings fresh challenges.

Another plus was that 'children can continue to be children for longer' without the pressures and influences associated with rubbing shoulders with older children on a daily basis, while flexibility was key as 'a school chosen for a four-year-old may not be suitable for them by the time they reach 13'.

Mr Evitt, who regularly sees his charges move on to prestigious senior schools such as Eton, Harrow, Marlborough and Wellington, said: "There are so many factors to consider when selecting a school, but we're proud to be a prep and our past and present parents have overwhelmingly endorsed our ethos."

● Open mornings at Highfield and Brookham Schools
Saturday 25 September and
Friday 19 November, 10am to 12pm.
To book, visit highfieldandbrookham.co.uk/visit



LEARN, CREATE AND EXPLORE

Founded in 1748 by John Wesley, and built on strong Christian principles, Kingswood School has a long tradition of transforming lives

By striving for all-round excellence, Kingswood School makes a real difference to every girl and boy that passes through its gates. The belief in tolerance, understanding and inclusion, as well as the quality of relationship between staff and students, means every child has the support to flourish, from the youngest babies in the Nursery to the children in Prep and Senior School and those in Sixth Form. As such, students leave Kingswood empowered to lead meaningful lives. Sitting in over 200 acres of one of the most beautiful educational sites in the South West, Kingswood School's outstanding facilities for boarders and day students — plus its easy access to Bath, London and international airports — mean it serves families based in Bath, across the UK and around the world. Kingswood School is known for its warmth, with alumni, families and staff all part of the vibrant community. Of particular interest to prospective families will be:

- ISI recognition for excellence in teaching and learning, with a broad and balanced curriculum that develops lively, enquiring, well-informed minds. High academic standards and performance in public examination (2021 A-level results: 85% at A*-B) are bolstered by more than 100 co-curricular activities. The school is renowned for the quality of art, drama and music, while the PE department regularly supports talented youngsters in playing for county and national teams and progressing to professional careers.
- Exceptional pastoral care, with a house system that provides day and boarders with a 'home' at school, sharing activities, facilities and the support of tutors and house staff.
- A sixth form that prepares students for the future, with a wide range of A-levels and BTEC courses, and a vibrant enrichment programme including subject trips, volunteering and careers support. The Sixth Form Centre provides an excellent bridge towards university, with individually matched tutors for excellent academic and pastoral support.

Kingswood will run three open days this autumn:

- Prep School open morning: 21 September 10.00-12.00
- Sixth Form open evening: 23 September 18.30-21.00
- Senior School open morning: 25 September 09.00-12.00

To book a place at Kingswood School's autumn open days, go to: kingswood.bath.sch.uk/admissions/open-mornings-taster-days-and-events

● Kingswood School: an independent co-educational day and boarding school for pupils aged nine months to 18 years old. kingswood.bath.sch.uk
E: admissions@kingswood.bath.sch.uk T: 01225 734210
Instagram: @kingswoodschool

INSPIRING AND ENRICHING YOUNG MINDS

The Sixth Form at Lancing College provides an amazing two-year experience and a highly personalised journey to ensure academic excellence

The campus covers some 550 acres of the South Downs National Park. It's situated just 10 miles from the vibrant city of Brighton and Hove, and shares rapid connections with Gatwick Airport and London. It offers a unique combination of heritage and British tradition infused with a modern, cosmopolitan, outward-looking approach. With some 600 pupils, this vibrant school offers plenty of opportunity for fun and friendship, alongside a strong sense of community where everyone has their place and is well known.

Academic success

The Sixth Form offers an exciting and thought-provoking two years of A-level education and enrichment. Whether pupils are joining for the Sixth Form or moving up from GCSE study at Lancing, extensive support is available to help choose options, with the dedicated staff offering one-to-one support at this critical time.

Feeling at home

Lancing is far more than just a school. It's a home for all the Sixth Formers, whether day or boarding. The House will be the place they go to relax, socialise, find support and enjoy the camaraderie of living in a close community.

An amazing co-curricular programme

Learning beyond the classroom is also important at Lancing. The College offers more than 120 different co-curricular activities, including academic societies, enrichment, drama, music, art, sport, design and technology, and dance. While some pupils focus on developing existing skills, many others are encouraged to try and experience new things they'd never have previously considered.

"A Lancing Sixth Form education is a treasure for life, much more than the sum of its parts. At the heart of what we offer lies our value of each individual student as a unique person. At Lancing, we guide young people to become dynamic, adventurous, thoughtful, and caring individuals. They leave us determined to make a real difference in the world — and they do," said Dominic Oliver, the school's head master.

● Join Lancing College's Sixth Form.
Contact the Admissions Office for further details: admissions@lancing.org.uk

