



Past pupil profile

Alex Smales

Years Studied at Read School:

2007-2013 (Head Boy 2012-2013)

Subjects Studied at Read School Sixth Form:

Physics (B), Maths (B), Biology (C)

Pathway since leaving Read:

Since leaving Read, I went on to study an integrated masters degree in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Hull, graduating with a 1st class in 2017.

Following this, I went through Initial Officer Training at RAFC Cranwell where I graduated from at the start of 2018.

I then completed RAF Engineering training at RAF Cosford.

After completing my training, I was posted to MOD Abbey Wood to be part of the Certification team in the Eurofighter Typhoon Delivery Team which is focused mainly on adding capability to the aircraft which is really interesting and rewarding.

I have been in the Typhoon Delivery team for almost a year and a half and I have really enjoyed my job and I have been able to travel including attending NATO meetings in Munich.

Memories of Read School:

I was at Read School for around 7 years and I really enjoyed my time at the school. I think the friends that I made along the way were the highlight of my time at the school along with some fantastic teachers who helped me discover the subjects that I enjoy.

A memory that I think is one of my favourites is when some cows managed to break onto the front field during a sports day and everything had to stop as the teachers tried to herd the cows away.

I was also very active in the CCF at the school in which I spent 5 years. From this, I gained valuable insight into the RAF through camps and station visits which eventually led me to choosing my current career path. This is something I am very thankful to Read for as it was an opportunity I know lots of other schools don't provide.

I owe a lot of my successes to my time at Read and the teachers at the school. They helped me to discover what my strengths were and then helped me to find the right university and career path for me to follow

Advice for pupils considering Read School Sixth Form

My advice to current students is to listen to the advice the teachers are giving you because it's good advice. Work hard and focus on what you want to achieve. I didn't do as well as I could have at A level because I took my foot off the gas a bit towards the end.

It's never too early to consider what you want to do when you finish school, look at universities, plan what career you want.

Finally, have fun. I met some great people at my time at Read and had some great experiences.