SPECIAL ALUMNI ISSUE
MEET SOME OF OUR SUCCESSFUL FORMER STUDENTS

Meet Tinie Tempah
From SFX student to Award Winning Rapper
Read more on pages 4-5
Welcome to this special issue of ‘SFX Life’ – you will meet some of our very successful former students including a Deputy Head of a 6th Form, an Accountant, an Entrepreneur, an International Model and students at top UK universities.

Leomie FROM SFX TO INTERNATIONAL MODEL

Age: 24
Graduated from SFX: 2011
Former school: Ricards Lodge
Course(s) at SFX: Sociology (A) Media (A) English literature (B)

Q. What did you enjoy about your course(s) at SFX?
I loved media the most as it gave me skills that I can fully utilise in my day to day life as a model and influencer. I’ve used my editing skills countless times for my YouTube channel.

Q. Why did you choose SFX?
I liked the great facilities and that there was such diversity between students.

Q. Did you take part in any extracurricular activities at SFX?
I was part of the Student Council and helped plan events at the school.

Q. What is your advice to Year 11 students?
Don’t get distracted by other students – focus on you as you’re the most important thing.
TINIE TEMPAH
FROM SFX TO AWARD WINNING RAPPER

Age: 28
Graduated from SFX: 2007
Course(s) at SFX: Media, Psychology, Religious Studies

Tinie returned to his former College, SFX in June 2017. He’s now a singer, songwriter and rapper and created his own record and fashion label ‘Disturbing London Records’. His visit was to launch the SFX new Music Recording Studio and he also gave a surprise presentation to our Performing Arts students. Here is what he had to say.

Q. What did you think about studying at SFX?
I don’t regret it at all – it was the best College and still is. I really enjoyed being here although people didn’t like my music when I was here!

Q. What’s your opinion on education?
I didn’t go to university but I wish I had, I still may! But you students should think really seriously about going.

Q. What advice do you have for setting up as a producer?
Bug people on Twitter! I’ve had people who message me again and again and again and again…and finally I’ll give in. Or do something different, a quirky photo or video. Also use YouTube – stars are born on there.

Q. How do you get that winning song?
You have to produce and produce and produce like mad. You can’t do it through just one song. Start with producing one track, then go up to four, then ten. I made 100 tracks for my recent album in order to have quality music. It’s like training for a marathon – you don’t just do it, you have to train and start off on short runs and then build up.

Q. Which was the song when you thought ‘I’ve made it’?
Wifey. And that was when I was 16. I remember coming into college and thinking yeah I’m there, I’m known. And people didn’t like that song!

Q. How can you get famous?
You’ve got to be different, stand out. People can get famous for ridiculous things – recently a girl rapper – I won’t say her name – she did a poo on Instagram and then people knew who she was. Depends on how you want to be seen!

Q. What advice can you give to be more confident?
Confidence happens in stages. It comes from experience in the real world. Life helps you to build confidence. Everyone is nervous. I used to walk in a room and think why are people looking at me like that – it took me a while to realise that they were nervous too.

Tinie’s new album – Youth >>
“It was the best College!”

ALEXANDER
FROM SFX TO MANAGING DIRECTOR OF OWN MARKETING COMPANY

University study: Brunel University
Age: 26
Graduated from SFX: 2011
Former school: Sedgehill Secondary School
Course(s) at SFX: Biology (B) English Language & Literature (B) Sociology (B) AS Critical Thinking (C)

Q. What did you enjoy about your course(s) at SFX?
I enjoyed the teaching especially in Biology. My teacher Dr Brown made all our classes engaging and relatable. We were always being challenged and made to work to the best of our abilities.

Q. Why did you choose SFX?
It was the best college and I wanted to go to a college out of my area so I could meet new people.

Q. What did you like about SFX?
I made some lifelong friends, there was always something interesting going on.

Q. Did you take part in any extracurricular activities at SFX?
I was in the gym on a daily basis – a great free perk.

Q. What is your current job title and name of employer?
I am Managing Director of my own company, BoyWonder Management LTD as well as a Maths/Science teacher at Deptford Green Secondary School.

Q. What is your advice to Year 11 students?
Use this time to gain as many skills as you can. Make mistakes, work hard, try that business idea you have always had. Then one day you will find what it is you actually want to do, and you will have all the skills necessary to do it.

“It was the best College!”

KANAYO
FROM SFX TO DEPUTY HEAD OF 6TH FORM

University study: University of Surrey: Psychology - BSc (Hons), UCL PGCE and Masters degree
Age: 23
Graduated from SFX: 2011
Former school: Virgo Fidelis
Course(s) at SFX: Psychology (A*) Biology (B) Maths (B) AS Chemistry (C) EPQ (A*)

Q. What did you enjoy about your course(s) at SFX?
My courses were linked to each other, but also balanced out, which gave me different academic scopes to explore.

Q. Why did you choose SFX?
I chose SFX because of its position in the league table and after hearing previous success stories of past students.

Q. What did you like about SFX?
The main thing for me was the lovely community atmosphere.

Q. Did you take part in any extracurricular activities at SFX?
I loved the enrichment! I was President of Student Council, part of a debating team, the gospel choir (which was amazing) and Christian Union. I also ran women’s empowerment sessions.

Q. What is your advice to Year 11 students?
Start 6th form with the mind-set to achieve. Embrace the social and the academic change from secondary school. Don’t lose sight of your end goal by remaining focused from the very beginning. You can do all things (Philippians 1:13)!

“I liked the lovely community atmosphere at SFX”
JANNIFER
FROM SFX TO UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH

University study: Media and Communications
Age: 18
Graduated from SFX: 2017
Former school: Notre Dame RC Girls School
Course(s) at SFX: UAL Level 3 Ext Diploma in Creative Media Production

Q. Why did you choose SFX?
It was recommended to me by my teachers in secondary school as well as my parents.

Q. What have you liked about SFX?
The community feel and that I have received all the support I needed from my teachers and other members of staff in order to achieve the highest grade possible.

Q. What are your plans for your future career?
I am going to focus on post-production.

Q. What is your advice to Year 11 students?
To have self-motivation to drive a project to the highest standard possible as well as having creativity in the work you produce.

JOAO
FROM SFX TO ACCOUNTANT

Age: 19
Graduated from SFX: 2016
Former school: Platanos College
Course(s) at SFX: Portuguese (A) Spanish (B) Economics (C) Mathematics (D)

Q. Why did you choose SFX?
It has a good reputation and pass rates for my courses.

Q. What did you enjoy about your courses at SFX?
The teachers at SFX made learning fun. All lessons were interactive and interesting. I especially appreciated the support all teachers gave me whilst at SFX.

Q. Did you take part in any extracurricular activities at SFX?
I was Student Vice-President and a part of the Student Council, organising events and extracurricular activities.

Q. How did SFX help you to get to your position at KPMG?
Whilst at SFX, I knew I didn’t want to go to university and knew that I wanted to go into the accountancy industry. The Careers department at SFX let me know about the KPMG apprenticeship - I applied and got in! My teachers had given me amazing references.

Q. What is your advice to Year 11 students?
Choose your A levels wisely don’t go by what your friends do! Friends come and go – your education follows you throughout your whole life! Think carefully!
"SFX truly helped me to get into university."

"I had help from the teachers whenever I needed it."

"The college gets really high results."

"Teachers were hands on and incredibly supportive."

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**JOSHUA**

FROM SFX TO BIRKBECK UNIVERSITY

University study: Law (LLB)  
Course(s) at SFX:  
EPQ (A*)  
Sociology (B)  
Government and Politics (B)  
History (C)

Age: 21  
Graduated from SFX: 2014  
Former school: St Thomas the Apostle College

Q. What did you enjoy about your course(s) at SFX?  
I enjoyed the wide range of research opportunities that were available to me during my course.

Q. Why did you choose SFX?  
As a Catholic, I wanted to go to a college where there was a strong faith community. SFX has that and this is at the heart of helping students become their better selves.

Q. What did you like about SFX?  
SFX truly helped me to get into university. The tailored courses such as EPQ where the skills obtained such as independent learning, deadline management and dissertation style writing, places students at a great advantage to successfully meet the demands of higher education.

Q. Did you take part in any extracurricular activities at SFX?  
I liked having access to the free gym. This helped me both physically and mentally in terms of managing the stressful periods whilst at college.

Q. What are your plans for future career?  
As a Catholic, I wanted to go to a college where there was a strong faith community. SFX has that and this is at the heart of helping students become their better selves.

Q. What is your advice to Year 11 students?  
Don’t be afraid to ask for help. There is no such thing as a stupid question. Take at least one or two subjects that you genuinely enjoy, otherwise you may end up having a miserable time at sixth form. Take at least one or two subjects that you genuinely enjoy, otherwise you may end up having a miserable time at sixth form.

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**MAXIM**

FROM SFX TO UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

University study: Ancient History and Classical Archaeology  
Course(s) at SFX:  
EPQ (A*)  
Religious Studies (A*)  
Classical Civilization (A)

Age: 20  
Graduated from SFX: 2016  
Former school: Graveney

Q. What did you enjoy about your course(s) at SFX?  
I liked the independence that I had to study my own way as well as with the help of the teachers whenever I needed it.

Q. Why did you choose SFX?  
I don’t do very well at 6th form at my previous school so had to retake somewhere, and SFX seemed like the best place to do it.

Q. What did you like about SFX?  
I really liked the organisation, and as I mentioned before, the freedom that I had to study in the way that worked for me. It also had an excellent library and computer system which I regularly used.

Q. Did you take part in any extracurricular activities at SFX?  
I got a real sense of independence coming into this college.

Q. What are your plans for future career?  
I want to work in an advertising agency as a Graphic Designer. As well as this, you can find where your interests lie, I came into doing Media wanting to become a scriptwriter, but I now I know that graphic design is my passion.

Q. What is your advice to Year 11 students?  
If you want to enrol on the UAL Media course, you should have a passion for media and creativity and also a lot of determination.

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**CZARINA**

FROM SFX TO UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON

University study: Graphic Design for Digital Media  
Course(s) at SFX:  
UAL Level 3 Ext Diploma in Creative Media Production

Age: 19  
Graduated from SFX: 2017

Q. What did you enjoy about your course(s) at SFX?  
In the first year I was able to analyse films, conduct research, pre-production documents and an audio visual short film that I write. For the second year, my skills developed more through extensive research and I was able to create an advert. My main enjoyment came from doing the final units of each year.

Q. Why would you recommend the course(s) to others?  
Not only do you learn how to film an audio visual project, you also develop skills on Photoshop. As well as this, you can find where your interests lie, I came into doing Media wanting to become a scriptwriter, but I now I know that graphic design is my passion.

Q. What are your plans for future career?  
I chose SFX because I was told that the college gets really high results and I wanted to travel away from East London where I live. I got a real sense of independence coming into this college.

Q. What is your advice to Year 11 students?  
I have met lots of different people with different interests. As well as this, my teacher has been really helpful and very encouraging when it comes to my work.

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**KIKE**

FROM SFX TO UNIVERSITY OF KENT

University study: English Literature (B)  
Course(s) at SFX:  
Politics and International Relations  
BA (Hons)  
Government & Politics (A)

Age: 18  
Graduated from SFX: 2014  
Former school: St Saviours & St Olaves

Q. What did you enjoy about your course(s) at SFX?  
I chose SFX because it is the top College in London and it offered all the courses I wanted to study.

Q. What have you liked about SFX?  
I was able to make progress academically and support was always available when I needed it.

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**The University of Brighton**

**The University of Edinburgh**

**University of Kent**

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"FROM SFX TO UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON"

"FROM SFX TO UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH"

"FROM SFX TO UNIVERSITY OF KENT"
GABRIEL

FROM SFX STUDENT TO SFX BUSINESS TEACHER

Former student now working at SFX

University study: University Of Hertfordshire, Business Studies BA (Hons)
Age: 29
Graduated from SFX: 2006
Former school: Bishop Thomas Grant Secondary School
Course(s) at SFX: BTEC Level 3 Ext Diploma in Business DDM

Q. What did you enjoy about your course(s) at SFX?
The best thing about the BTEC Business course was the teachers. They made the lessons interesting and they supported me in achieving the grades I needed to get into the university.

Q. Why did you choose SFX as a place to study?
I chose SFX because of the religious beliefs and community spirit, the wide variety of subjects available. Also, members of my family are former students of college and said I’d really enjoy my experience here. I was not disappointed.

Q. What did you like about studying at SFX?
The biggest thing I enjoyed was meeting and forming friendships with people from a variety of different backgrounds, as well as the facilities for student use and support. I also enjoyed the enrichment class I attended - the African film club.

Q. Why did you choose SFX as a place to work?
I chose to work at SFX because of the community presence that still runs through the College, as well as the students reminding me of myself when I was their age growing up in London, with big dreams and aspirations.

Q. What do you like about working at SFX?
I like getting to know the students’ personalities and supporting them to achieve their best possible grades. I really appreciate seeing them grow as individuals within an accepting and supportive environment.

Q. What is your advice to Year 11 students?
Know what you want to do with your life, work hard, stay focused, desire to succeed and anything is possible. Make sure that the college you choose works for you and suits your personality, as it will make succeeding in college much easier, as you will enjoy your experience more.

“Members of my family are former students and said I’d really enjoy it – I did!”

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