

Claire Gosling – Davies -Picking up on my studies

My mum always reminds me of what I wanted to be when I grew up. You may think a nurse or a vet but no, I wanted to be the person to put jam in the doughnuts at Tesco.

I left college and joined a small Eastbourne legal firm at the age of 17 as an office junior. I worked there for around 10 years and in that time, was supervised by the partner and a highly respected and knowledgeable solicitor at that firm.

In 2010 the solicitor that had supervised my conveyancing decided to start up their own practice in Eastbourne and subsequently I left the firm I was with and went to work for them. It was in 2010 that I decided to study to become a Licensed Conveyancer. Whilst I had experience in residential conveyancing, I wanted to gain an actual qualification and seeing as conveyancing was a particular interest of mine, the CLC course would be ideal for me.

Within my first year of studying I flew through the assignments achieving high marks, but the thought of taking exams was a little daunting for me as I hadn't taken an exam since I was 15. I was also extremely busy at work. In addition to conveyancing, I was assisting the solicitors at that firm with other areas of law such as Probate which ended up affecting my study plan.

In 2013, I joined the firm as a float secretary. My studies had been put on hold when I left my previous job. My colleagues couldn't understand why I wasn't practising conveyancing and a year on, I agreed to transfer to their conveyancing team.

After a few months of having my own case load of residential matters, my

passion for conveyancing renewed itself.

As my first exam drew near, it was daunting but with the extra study resources offered on the distance learning course, such as the revision days, I am pleased to say that I passed. I was over the moon!

Every time I passed an exam, it gave me the confidence and focus to move onto the next and over time, I gained my own revision technique which helped when sitting the exam. Rather than having that daunting feeling, I grew to become rather excited and it was such a feeling of fulfilment when you passed, especially when you received a merit or distinction.

“ I was working in a great team with great support and received great feedback from both team members and from clients. This made me realise how much I enjoyed conveyancing and that I was actually quite good at my job so I decided I would pick up my studying again.”

In August 2016, I received my final results, it was such an overwhelming feeling. I still cannot believe that I passed my final unit with a merit, all that hard work had paid off.



In the last few years that I have been studying, I have got to meet some wonderful people.

There will be times where you can feel a little overwhelmed but I would tell people to stay focused and to have the confidence in yourself that you can do it. After all, I am living proof that you can!

I might not have got the necessary GCSE's required to be a teacher all those years ago, I never went to university but here I am now.

“ As Janet Paraskeva, Chair of the CLC, said at the CLC Graduation ceremony, I can now run down the road shouting 'I'm a property lawyer!'. ”

From speaking with people who have also recently qualified, the feeling of not having to study is strange, you even find you start feeling guilty when sitting there without a text book in front of you.

I will either need to find a hobby or I may end up throwing myself back into it by studying the probate diplomas!