

What is your name? - Sam Langton

What is your job title/course name? - Film Studies BA (Hons)

When were you at Wade Deacon High School? 2016-2021

What is your best memory from school? - Doing the world literature course in year 9 top set English (it meant the class had a special bond, and Miss O'Malley made it fun).

In terms of careers, what do you wish you knew back then? - That I didn't have to have everything figured out yet. There's plenty of time, plenty of opportunities, and plenty of options.

What is your job/programme of study? - Full time student at the University of Liverpool

Did you ever expect to have this career/next step towards a career? - Not really, all I knew was that I liked writing/being creative, and films. For a long time, I didn't even realise I could study films academically; I knew I wanted to go to university, but prior to coming across film studies, I had no idea what I wanted to study.

How did your studies help you to get into this career? - At Wade Deacon, written subjects such as English and History helped me develop my writing skills. Furthermore, I received encouragement from teachers and friends to pursue writing about film. Then, taking film studies at college developed my understanding of film as a medium, while offering further opportunities to practice my writing (as both a hobby and academically, in preparation for university).

What advice would you give to Wade Deacon High students who want to go into this career? - There are a few things I would encourage:

- Watch as many films as you can. Not just blockbusters or new releases, but also foreign films, older films, independent films, and films from genres you wouldn't normally be interested in. It's a great way to expand your knowledge and appreciation for the medium.
- Try writing and/or reading about the films you watch. You could write some notes after finishing the film (i.e., summarise your thoughts on the film, what you liked/disliked). You could also read other critics' reviews online. The more interpretations you find, the better.
- If you're specifically interested in writing (whether that be scripts or reviews), I'd suggest writing whenever you can. Write about any media that you consume. Practice writing some stories, or brainstorming story outlines and characters. You can apply a lot of what you've learnt in English to film, so I'd say take full advantage of that.

- If you're specifically interested in filmmaking, try filming some short films. They don't even have to be stories, they could be documentaries about practically anything. for example, you could turn a weekend away into a short film. You can make films with just a phone, it's an incredibly accessible process. I encourage people to try filming anything whenever they can, because it develops your skills and helps you find your own style.