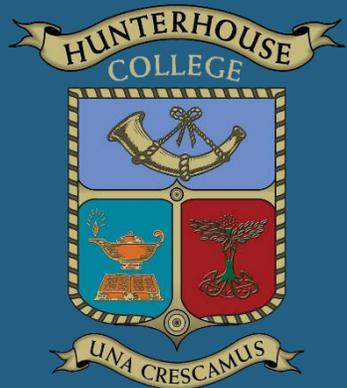


Sixth Form Virtual Open Event 2021

A Past Pupil's Perspective:
Law Journey

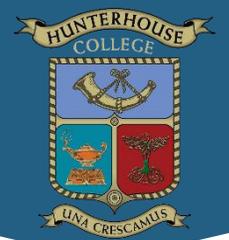
Lauren Jones, Solicitor



**HUNTERHOUSE
COLLEGE**

A Cross Community
Grammar School for Girls.

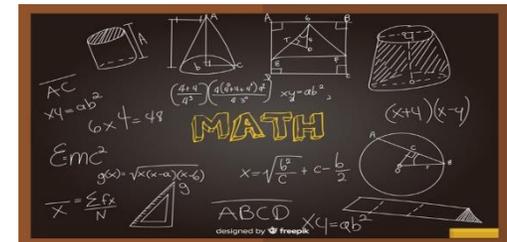
My Law Journey – GCSEs and A-Levels



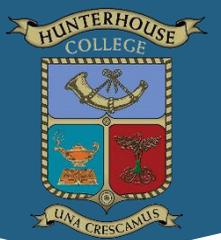
Hi, my name is Lauren Jones and I am a past pupil of Hunterhouse College, Class of 2010.

For my **GCSEs** I studied Additional Mathematics, Double Award Science, English, Geography, History, Learning for Life and Work, Mathematics, Physical Education, Religious Studies Short Course and Spanish.

For my **A-Levels** I studied Geography, History and Sociology. I studied Mathematics to AS level only. I achieved A*AAA.



My Law Journey – Undergraduate and Postgraduate



I applied to and attended the **University of Ulster Jordanstown** to study **LLB Hons Law with Criminology** from 2010 to 2013. I obtained a First Class Honours in my degree.

Thereafter, I applied to and attended **Queen's University Belfast Institute of Professional Legal Studies (IPLS)** to study my **Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Legal Studies** from 2013 to 2015. This is the vocational route for qualification as a Solicitor in Northern Ireland.

The underlying principle of the professional education of a Solicitor is that it involves a combination of practical in-office training as a paid Apprentice Solicitor and formal academic instruction over a two year period. I secured an Apprenticeship with Higgins Hollywood Deazley (HHD) Solicitors.

I was admitted to the **Roll of Solicitors of Northern Ireland** in September 2015.



My Current Job Role – Solicitor



I am a Solicitor at Higgins Hollywood Deazley (HHD) Solicitors based in North Belfast. I was recently promoted to Associate Solicitor in September 2020. I specialise in **Medical and Dental Negligence Litigation acting for Plaintiffs in both the High Court and the County Court.**

I have experience of Medical and Dental Negligence cases of varying complexity and monetary value including but not limited to birthing cases including cerebral palsy and birth trauma, brain injuries, misdiagnosis and delay in diagnosis, surgical errors, negligent cosmetic surgery, retained foreign products, lack of consent, infection cases, product liability actions including vaginal mesh implants and negligence in care homes.



I am committed to developing a positive client relationship and achieving the best possible result for each of my clients.

Why study Sixth Form at Hunterhouse College?



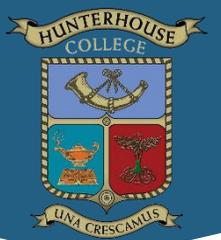
UNA CRESCAMUS – ‘LET US GROW TOGETHER’.

Hunterhouse College promotes a **strong sense of community between staff and pupils** and its place within the wider community. **Students are given the opportunity to achieve their full potential through excellent teaching and learning, varied extra-curricular activities and support.**

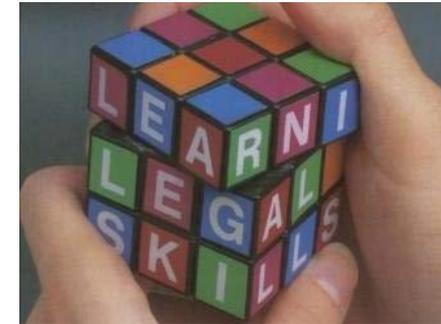
I recently found my Class of 2010 yearbook and a pupil prospectus in which I am quoted saying "*Throughout my seven years at Hunterhouse College the staff encouraged me to strive to the best of my ability and to achieve my potential. The teachers and staff were always willing to help, giving support and advice when required. Hunterhouse is a very community-based college and one of its strong points for me was its warm, supportive and positive environment. I can honestly say that choosing Hunterhouse has been one of the best decisions in my life and that being a student at Hunterhouse for the past seven years have been the best days of my life so far! I deeply miss Hunterhouse and its nurturing and friendly environment.*"

I can honestly say my view has not changed.

Skills required to succeed in a legal career



- **COMMUNICATION** – *strong oral and written skills are vital; drafting legal documentation and correspondence; excellent listening ability; confident orally to argue your client’s case both inside and outside of court; negotiation; explaining complex information to clients.*
- **PEOPLE SKILLS** – *to work with colleagues, barristers, clients of all walks of life, experts, judiciary, court staff, etc.; the ability work as part of a team and on your own.*
- **ANALYSIS**– *reading, considering and digesting large amounts of information; identifying what is relevant out of a mass of information; explaining the key points to your client in a clear and concise manner.*
- **ATTENTION TO DETAIL** – *a sharp eye for accuracy.*
- **PROBLEM SOLVING** – *the end goal is to secure a positive result for your client.*
- **RESEARCH** – *background work for each case.*
- **TIME MANAGEMENT** - *planning and exercising conscious control of time spent on each task to increase effectiveness, efficiency, and productivity.*
- **ORGANISATION** – *Researching points of law, drafting legal documents, managing case files, meeting clients, attending court and networking with legal professionals - it's one big juggling act. The ability to prioritise and remain focused among competing priorities is essential.*
- **RESILIENCE AND SELF-CONFIDENCE** – *when it comes to standing out from the crowd, determination, enthusiasm, resilience and confidence in your own abilities goes a long way.*



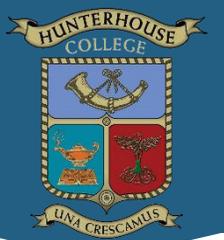
Applying for University to Study Law



- **Why do you want to study law?**
- **Awareness** e.g. – do your research – what does studying law entail, careers that would interest you, interest in the university that you are applying to, etc.
- **School life** e.g. your current studies, what aspects of your studies you enjoy, any roles or responsibilities held within school.
- **Work experience** – I highly recommend you get as much legal work experience as possible.
- **Linking your current knowledge and skills to studying law – examples:**
 - GCSE, AS and A Level Studies* – demonstrate skills you have developed e.g. analysis, problem solving, communication, team work
 - School committees* – team work, communication, negotiation, decision making, resolving conflict.
 - Outside of school* - extra-curricular activities, part time jobs, sports, hobbies – THINK what skills could you demonstrate e.g. teamwork, commitment, time management.

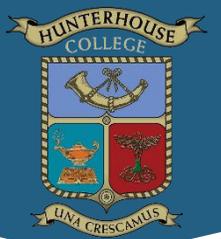
What is a Lawyer?

Solicitor v Barrister



- **Lawyer** - a generic term used to describe anyone who is a Legal Practitioner qualified to give legal advice in one or more areas of law. **Solicitors and Barristers are “Lawyers”**.
- **Solicitor** - *a qualified legal professional who provides expert legal advice and support to clients. Clients can be individual people, groups, private companies or public sector organisations.*
- Solicitors are regulated by the **Law Society of Northern Ireland**.
- Solicitors are either **self employed** (e.g. their own firm) or **employed** by a firm, private company or public sector organisation.
- **Barrister** – *a qualified legal professional who generally provides specialist legal advice and represents individual people and organisations in Courts and tribunals and through written legal advice.*
- **A Solicitor instructs a Barrister.**
- Barristers are regulated by the **Bar Council**.
- Barristers are **self employed**.

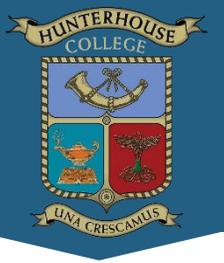
Alternative Legal Careers



Studying law is a gateway to a career as a Solicitor or Barrister but there are other alternative careers available to you:

- Legal roles e.g. document review, assisting with transactions, research, due diligence and regulatory investigative services
- Public sector
- Civil service
- Politics
- Banking, finance and accountancy
- Teaching
- HR and recruitment
- Media
- Not for profit organisations, charities – legal advisors





“Success is a journey, not a destination”

- Never stop learning
- Ask, ask, and ask again – *there is no stupid question*
- Hard work – *it will be tough*
- Resilience and self-confidence
- Get experience – *work shadowing, volunteering, internships*
- Network – *use opportunities, meet new people and build up contacts*

Any questions?



Please do not hesitate to contact me directly

Lauren Jones, Solicitor

HHD SOLICITORS

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E-MAIL: laurenjones@hhdsolicitors.com



HHD
solicitors