



<https://www.keele.ac.uk>

After School I went on to do my A-Levels in Business Studies. One day whilst waiting to go into a Lecture, I spotted a poster for a Graduate Trainee for Arcadia which own the likes of Topshop and Miss Selfridge. I spoke to my Tutor who encouraged me to go for it. A couple of days after a 6 hour-long assessment centre, it was confirmed that I'd been successful and that after a 1-year training programme, I'd be ready to step into retail management. I spent a few years as a Deputy Manager at Dorothy Perkins and then decided it was time for a career change, which is when I applied for a HR Administrator position at the City Council. I worked my way up to HR Advisor and obtained my CIPD professional qualification which I studied for part time alongside my job. It was hard work but an essential step to move forward in my career. After a number of years, I moved on to Keele University and 4 years ago was promoted to HR Manager. My job is really varied and requires a lot of problem-solving ability; every day is different!



**From our website: -**

**What is your life philosophy?** Treat others how you would want to be treated

**What is it that you are most proud of in your life?** My Daughter

**What is your favourite book?** Goodnight Mr Tom. It's such a heart-warming and heart-breaking story - I've read it over and over since I was little

**What is your favourite film?** PS I Love You - Me and a friend planned to go on a girly trip to Ireland after watching this, but it quickly escalated into a camper van trip around the Aussie coast!

**What is your favourite Album or song?** Delays - Faded seaside glamour

**What is an ideal weekend for you?** A trip to a theme park followed by a good take-away

**Have you ticked off any part of your bucket list?** Yes, I've been to a few places in the USA, but would love to do Route 66!

**What has been your biggest adrenaline rush?** Skydiving, which I did for charity when I was 21. I've also been skiing, snowboarding and white-water rafting.

**If you could go back in time, when would you travel to?** A time when my parents were young.

**You are stranded on a fictional desert island and can only have four items, what would you choose?** 1/ Hammock 2/ A good book 3/ Torch 4/ A boat (all very practical!)

**Gemma Burton – Keele University**