

Heléna Doré

My time at KCC: 2009-2016

I look back on my time at KCC very fondly; people say that your 'best years' will be at uni, but for me they were at Kingsbridge (especially Sixth Form)! If I could do it all over again I would! The whole environment; the location, facilities, and most importantly the people (both peers and teachers) were amazing. I couldn't talk more highly of my experience. Even all of my best friends that I made at KCC still remain my closest and I hope will remain lifelong!

My journey since leaving KCC:

I graduated Plymouth College of Art in 2019 with a First Class Honours in BA (Hons) Illustration. One of my biggest achievements during this time was being awarded 3rd prize out of 2,100 entries for my book cover of Malorie Blackman's 'Naughts & Crosses' as part of Penguin Random House UK's 2018 Student Design Awards. Since then I have continued to work part-time for a local graphic design company based in Kingsbridge, which supports my work as a freelance illustrator.

My job is:

I'm an **illustrator and designer**, working with traditional materials to create a variety of illustrative outcomes including book covers, narratives, home and giftware. Currently I create work for self-initiated projects for my online shop which develop into greetings cards and prints. Also, I get the opportunity to create work for clients; most recently a book cover and supporting illustrations for a local author.

I chose this career because:

When choosing my GCSEs and A-Levels I didn't have a set career path, I just chose the subjects that I enjoyed which allowed me to keep my options open. When it came to my next steps after Sixth Form I decided to follow my passion which was in Art & Design.

The best thing about my job is:

The best thing about being an illustrator is being able to connect with people through my work. Also to receive praise from the likes of David Attenborough and Will Young is super rewarding too!

My advice is:

Make the most of your time at Kingsbridge: work hard, do things that you enjoy and keep your options open so that you can grab every opportunity that comes your way.



KCC Alumni

