



ALUMNUS OF THE MONTH

MAY 2026



Leaving St Thomas More in 2010, I could never have predicted where the journey ahead would take me. What I did leave with, however, was resilience, confidence, and the ability to hold my own in a predominantly male environment, qualities that would prove invaluable in the career I would later pursue.

Encouraged and motivated by my Business Studies teacher, Mrs Lindsay to focus on a finance-oriented path, I went on to study Economics at the University of East Anglia. After graduating, I entered the fast-paced world of precious metals trading. It was an environment defined by adrenaline, rapid decision-making, and constant global movement, and one I quickly discovered I truly enjoyed.

In 2020, just as the world was coming to terms with COVID, I pivoted into a new challenge, joining the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA) within their Physical and Technical team. My role involves working closely with vaults, refiners, and central banks around the world to uphold the integrity and standards of the global precious metals market.

The work has taken me to some extraordinary places. I've had the privilege of visiting several gold vaults in London, locations I can't disclose, though they are often closer than you might think, sometimes right beneath you. Internationally, I've visited refiners and central banks, and most recently travelled to a gold mine in the Philippines to understand the full lifecycle of precious metals and the realities on the ground.

While my career has centred on finance and markets, my A-Level Biology sparked a lasting interest in science that continues to shape my work today. This curiosity led me to complete training at a laboratory in Switzerland, strengthening my understanding of the technical and scientific processes behind refining and assaying precious metals.

Looking back, St Thomas More helped lay the foundations, not just academically, but in confidence, determination, and ambition. ***One quote that has served me well throughout my career is: "You never get a second chance to make a first impression."*** Whether stepping onto a trading floor, entering a refinery, or meeting international stakeholders, professionalism, preparation, and authenticity matter.

To current students: don't feel pressured to have everything mapped out. Focus on building confidence, embracing

PROFILE:

NAME: Hannah Coakley

JOB: Precious Metals Officer

SUBJECTS studied at A LEVEL: Business Studies, Biology, RE and History

What next? University of East Anglia BSc in Business Economics

YEAR left STM: 2010



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challenges and saying yes to opportunities that push you beyond your comfort zone. The resilience, communication skills and self-belief you develop now, will open doors you cannot yet see.

Your path may evolve and take unexpected turns, but trust the journey, work hard, and never underestimate how far you can go.

And to the female students who may be considering careers in male-dominated industries: never doubt that you are valuable, powerful and deserving of every opportunity. Your voice, perspective, and presence matter more than you may realise.

