

Lauren Elizabeth Walker BA

21 Raleigh Crescent, Witney, Oxford, OX28 5FD

Mobile: 07585 449195

Email: lozzywalker@gmail.com

BA HONS English Literature and Creative Writing

PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am a self-motivated, eloquent and industrious young adult who uses hard work and enthusiasm to work to the very best of my ability. I strive to achieve excellent Customer Service through good manners and strong social skills and am very comfortable working in new environments. I have met a variety of different people in my relatively short time in employment, but I always endeavour to apply a friendly manner, patience and courtesy to hopefully leave people feeling happy that they have met me.

I have just graduated as of June 2020 from Oxford Brookes University with an Upper Second Class Degree in English Literature and Creative Writing achieving overall 68.2% with a First in both my Creative Writing modules and major project/dissertation!

I welcome any opportunity involving meeting people and experiencing different cultures that helps me to achieve my goal. I am always looking to better myself and improve my interpersonal skills. I strive to do everything I take on board to the best of my ability. I consider myself a fairly quick learner and high achiever who works well both independently making important and sensible decisions when they are needed to be made as well as part of a collective team. I am very outgoing which means I thrive in new environments and don't shy away from new people, welcoming challenges and new lessons with open arms.

KEY SKILLS

▪ **Customer Service** ▪ **Legal Aid** ▪ **Food Preparation** ▪ **Hygiene** ▪ **Health and Safety** ▪ **EPOS** ▪ **Hospitality** ▪ **Research** ▪ **Work Ethic** ▪ **Mentoring** ▪ **Tutoring** ▪ **School Prefect**

PREVIOUS EDUCATION

Henry Box School, Witney Oxfordshire 2009 - 2016

A-Level

English Literature A Psychology A Biology A History
B

GCSE

English A Chemistry A English Literature A*
Religious Studies A* Maths A Food Technology A
Biology B History A* Physics A Geography A French
B

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

I have a passion for reading and writing novels and poetry, with a constant backlog of around 10 fictional books. I love to read about people's thoughts and life stories and even have my own blog where I document my day-to-day life and a variety of creative pieces I am proud of. One of the pieces on my blog called 'Tulips' was an entry for a creative writing competition in which I came 2nd out of 3498 applicants, winning £40. Another piece of my creative writing I submitted for assignment received the highest mark achieved on the course in 4 years getting 94/100. I was also a member of the Journalism society at university and have a huge passion for writing about all things related to society, culture and history integrating them with one another. This was demonstrated through my final major project and on many of my blog posts.

I have a huge passion for the environment and biological science as well. I often like to spend time volunteering at animal sanctuaries and visiting places like the Eden Project which work on protecting and sustaining our environment. Often when I'm back in my home town over the summer I volunteer as part of a team as well to pick up litter and my town's park for one-two hours and when I visit my second home in Bournemouth I'm often

involved in beach cleans with the Dorset Devils council group. Other volunteering work I participate in is reading to children at the local library and volunteering weekly or fortnightly at a soup kitchen for the homeless in Oxford. Through the latter I have met many interesting people from different walks of life and learnt to be a compassionate, accepting and non-judgemental individual, characteristics that help me in any work environment.

I really enjoy music, going to small gigs and shopping for vinyls are how I enjoy spending free time; my collection is ever growing. My favourite live music act was the Arctic Monkeys live at Reading Festival in 2014 and venturing the more festivals in the future is certainly something I have added to my bucket list whether than be working there as a volunteer or as a festival go-er myself. I have a deep admiration for a variety of genres of music loving everything from indie-rock to punk, northern soul, jazz, classical and acoustic. On a normal evening you could find me jamming out to the Pigeon Detectives before winding down to some John Coltrane and falling asleep to The Lark Ascending.

Time-permitting, I'd also love to learn to play the piano or the violin and to learn different languages, especially French and Italian, both in which I have a very basic level of understanding and can carry a conversation in and have forever thought was a beautiful language. I would also love to travel, both inside and outside of the country. After my final year of university I hope to spend some time working with communities abroad in either the Philippines or Japan as part of a project that the government offers, either to help teach those less fortunate basic reading and writing skills or be part of a conservation project. .

I consider myself a very creative person and people have always said that I'd be a perfect party-planner as I often have a very clear 'vision' and am also highly organised. In my spare time I'm often reading or writing in coffee shops, whether that be short stories, poetry, dreams from the night before or things that have inspired me. I love scrapbooking and creating 'mood boards' as well and spend hours tucked away prit-sticking and collaging miscellaneous bits to motivate me. An example of this creativity is when I recreated Willy Wonka's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory for my dad Father's Day surprise as we both adore Roald Dahl. The living room was decked out in all sorts of hand-made props from the lickable wallpaper from the 1971 film to the television with a mini Mike TV inside. *(This was made from many roles of tin foil, a very large cardboard box and bits of string!)* Finally, I love being active. If I'm not in the gym

or walking my dog you can find me on my bike or rock climbing. In July 2017 I cycled with the charity Breast Cancer Now as part of a member of the Raise And Give Society at Plymouth University. Between the 7-9th July we cycled from London to the Eiffel Tower in Paris, totalling at around 270km. For this I raised £1500 throughout the year all by myself which I think shows how if I put my mind to something, I can certainly achieve it.

All in all I feel I'm a very well rounded individuals who is determined, passionate and compassionate. I have lots of experience in both restaurant and café work as well as some in bartending and retail. I strive to do everything I can to the best of my ability and approach every situation with a positive outlook which I hope influences others around me.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- **THE BLUE BOAR HOTEL 2018-19** Part of a team in the Restaurant's Braiserie and Bar. Waitressing and Bartending. Dealing with difficult customers, many from different parts of the world who didn't speak any English and many very rude. Working alongside people from all different cultures ie. Romania, Bulgaria, Poland and Italy. Dealing with allergens and intolerances.

- **OXFORD WITNEY HOTEL 2017** Part of a team in the Restaurant's Braiserie and Bar. Waitressing and Bartending. Dealing with difficult customers, many from different parts of the world who didn't speak any English and many very rude. Working alongside people from all different cultures ie. Romania, Bulgaria, Poland and Italy. Dealing with allergens and intolerances.

- **BURFORD GARDENING COMPANY 2016** Part of the Interiors team involved in visual merchandising, sales and product promotion. Often had to deal with difficult customers or staff. A highly well-known and prestigious company selling high-end product and therefore a high quality of knowledge of the product and good customer service was vital for maintaining a reputation.

- **ASTON POTTERY AND CAFETERIA, ASTON, OXFORDSHIRE 2014-2015** Worked in the cafeteria as part of a small team of staff serving hundreds of customers each weekend. Frequently filled-in for sick staff and did whatever was asked of me to prepare the cafeteria for customers. Operated till and customer's money. Cleaned tables and maintained a hygienic and safe eating environment. Rated 4.5 out of 5 on Tripadvisor.

- **WEST OXFORDSHIRE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU 2014-2015** One of only four people outside of school to offer volunteer work in the community rather than the school itself, I worked with the West Oxfordshire CAB and provided research skills