



CASE STUDIES

Jemma Gordon
Pupil 2016, Tenant 2017



I joined St John's Buildings in 2016, completing a common law pupillage in Chester. I accepted tenancy the following year, specialising in criminal law.

I was immediately welcomed within Chambers, meeting the majority of practitioners based in Chester within the first few weeks. The majority of workspaces in Chester are communal and there would always be other members of chambers around, willing to provide advice, discuss how pupillage was going or to have a coffee break with. There were extensive opportunities to engage with Chambers events, everyone was very friendly and it was easy to settle into Chambers.

My supervisor practised in criminal law but throughout my first six I shadowed members in other areas and also spent days with local solicitors so that I had a good grounding in preparation for my second six. I was provided with the opportunity of completing paperwork for other members of chambers so that all aspects of my pupillage were covered and I could receive a wide range of feedback.

I felt fully prepared going into my second six. I was in court daily and doing a variety of work. My clerks, supervisor and other members of Chambers were always contactable and I never felt reluctant to ask for advice. Chambers also provided extensive support regarding finances and well-being so that some of the pressures of completing pupillage were alleviated.

My supervisor and clerks were incredibly supportive and I was always able to discuss any concerns in full confidence. There were regular reviews once I began my second six where we could discuss any issues and so that I was able to take an active role in the progress of my practice. There was natural progression in the level of work throughout my second six which has continued throughout tenancy.

Overall, my pupillage year at St John's Buildings was challenging but one which I enjoyed as I was encouraged and assisted throughout.