

Donor Pen Sketch and Goodwill Message

Donor Pen Sketch

Donor 1851

Hi there.

At the time of writing I am still working part time as a lawyer and I have just completed my first year of studying post graduate entry medicine. I guess you can read from that that I love doing exams, love to challenge myself, and have been more motivated by making financially reckless, but hugely rewarding decisions!

I'll take things chronologically, so you can get a better feel for who I am. As a child I was pretty fearless, had very supportive parents and really enjoyed school. I am one of two children brought up by a mother who was a nursery nurse/ worked with children with disabilities, and a father who ran a construction business. Me and my sister were first generation university entrants, and I moved away from my home town at age 18 to attend university and gain experience of independence, but always kept a very close family unit.

At school I was always strongest at languages, drama and humanities. I did pretty well at debating and creative writing, which was very influential in my decision to study law at University at age 18. Across the board I did well academically, although I dropped art and music pretty early on, which were not my strengths. Sports was a mixed bag, I swam for the local team and training took up 5 days a week of my early teenage years but I was never really competitive enough in sports to excel. I also did a bit of acting but never took it seriously enough to plan a career in it, although I think it did help me to do well in public speaking and interviewing in later years.

I got sponsored by a firm to study at law school and pursued a career as a Solicitor. Then [REDACTED] I decided I wanted to gain experience working in a different country/with different cultures, so I moved to Asia to continue my practise. During these years I reflected on what I really wanted out of a career and kept coming back to medicine as a career which I felt provided a good balance of technical challenge, and patient care. So, after a few years of saving as much as possible, [REDACTED] I commenced a post graduate medicine degree, which at the time of writing I am part way through. At school this was probably what I really wanted out of a career, but was a little blindsided by strengths in language and debate that I overlooked sciences as a career option. But now I couldn't be happier with my decision and, whilst I continue to do so part time legal work, I am committed to a career in patient care.

In terms of my religious/philosophical views on life, I suppose I do believe in "everything happening for a reason", but that reason is driven by the work you put into getting there. Whilst I naturally fall into routine and planning day to day matters, I try and break this as much as possible, live in the moment and do things which bring as much happiness to me and my loved ones as possible. This usually involves a lot of travel, a bit of live music and theatre, a fair amount of fitness classes and hiking in beautiful destinations.

I used to be an avid reader, but having been forced to read several hundred pages a week at law school, I rarely read for pleasure but generally prefer biographies or factual stories. Music wise, it's a mixed bag, a fair amount of pop, a bit of indie and electronic music would be a fair summary.

Appearance wise, I'm 6ft 3 (the same height as my father). I have blue eyes, was very blonde as a child but this seems to get increasingly darker to the point it is now a light brown. I have a naturally slim frame but, having swam for years and regularly attend the gym, have now got an athletic build.

In terms of what I like most about myself, I suppose it is my drive and focus. I have made some really difficult decisions when it came to moving away from home, moving overseas, and giving up a career to start a new, very challenging one. But my drive to do well in all these choices has always stood my in good stead. I think I get the drive and enthusiasm from my father, whereas I have the more cautious side from my mother, which comes with a tendency to be very analytical. Finally, to round off with a summary of what is important to me, I think its really to make a positive impact on the people I surround myself with. Whether that's my partner, my patients or my family and friends, I want to be someone that supports them and they can share happiness with.



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I think I spent a lot of my 20s focused on money and now I am at the point where I am much more driven by experiences and making a difference, which was a key factor in my decision to be a donor.

I hope this has been useful and best wishes for the donor programme.

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Donor Goodwill Message to Offspring

Donor 1851

Hi there

This is one of the most challenging letters I have ever had to write, and no doubt, one of the strangest ones for you to read, so bear with me as I try and set out something useful!

Firstly, I hope you have had the best start to life. You're likely just at the end of what I found to be the hardest years to get my head around, where I wasn't really sure who I was, what I wanted out of life and what I really cared about. If you're feeling at all this way, it may be some comfort to know it continued to get better for me from aged 16 onwards.

Perhaps it's helpful if I explain a bit about me, and how I came to be a donor. I grew up in the UK, had a very comfortable childhood with one older sister, very supportive parents and great friends. School was fun, I was pretty focused, swam a lot, and visited some pretty cool countries. I worked hard, went on to university to study law, and qualified as a Solicitor, moving to a few cities in the UK, eventually London, before working in Asia and, later, in a more global role with a lot of travel.

██████████ I had been working as a lawyer for 8 years, and I reached a crossroads in life where I felt I still had time to make a career shift and to do something more meaningful, which prompted me to eventually end up studying medicine and pursuing a career as a doctor. A lot of friends were going through similar thoughts, some seeking new career challenges, others turning to family. One of the first "friends" I ever had (our parents had been friends since before I was born so this friend was a part of my life since I was a baby) decided she wanted to be a solo mum and have a child through a donor. This was a key reason influencing my decision to see if I could donate and help support another family. At the time of writing this letter, nearly 8 years later, I am mid-way through medicine studies, my friend has a very healthy and happy daughter and I've now concluded my involvement in the donor programme.

None of these things would have been on my radar 10 years ago, and definitely not when I was a teenager so that leads me to my first "advice". You never know where life may take you. The things you want out of life are likely to evolve, or may be completely different from what you thought before. Looking back I wish I hadn't felt the need to have a plan for everything and if you're not sure exactly where you are heading, don't worry, it will all clear up at some point. If you encounter challenges/frustrations/hurt, the best advice I have been given to deal with this is to take a step back, think about whether this will bother you in 5 minutes' time, in 5 weeks' time and in 5 years' time. If the answer to 5 years' time is no, try not to get stuck on it. Finally, everyone goes through confidence struggles, feeling like they don't fit in or aren't good enough. But you are! Stay optimistic, you can achieve great things, and make sure all your decisions are motivated by what makes you happy.

So my final comments are that I really hope you are making the most out of life and that you have found things or people that inspire you and make you happy, and that you continue to do so. If you love school and that's going well, amazing. If not, you're nearly at the end of it and there are plenty of opportunities to find happiness in life once school has finished. Wishing you the very, very best for a happy and fulfilling life.