



THOMAS'S KENSINGTON

Louis Cunningham **Class of 2009**

I spent an incredible seven years at Thomas's Kensington from 2002-2009, following in my brother Charly's footsteps and settling into an education that is without a doubt responsible for what I do and where I am now!

After Thomas's, I attended Farleigh School and later, Ampleforth College. I finished school, took a year off, during which I lived and worked in Beirut, and started at Oxford University in September of 2017, reading German and Philosophy.

Something that began in the P.E hall of the Lower School, during our nativity at Thomas's stayed with me throughout each of these stages: my love of performing.

Halfway through my time at university, during one of many plays I was doing, I was lucky enough to be picked up by an acting agent and began auditioning for anything I could. Eventually, half way through my final exams, I landed the role of Louis XVI in *Marie Antoinette* for Canal + and the BBC.

I am now working in France, shooting the second season of the show.

I truly don't think I would be where I am now if it weren't for my time at Thomas's. It's rare to find an environment that not only allows time and space for creative learning, but actively encourages expression, performance and the Arts in general. No doubt we have the Thomas family themselves to thank but also the wonderful teachers who put endless hours into plays, art fairs, choir tours etc.

I have vivid memories of singing in St Mark's in Venice with the choir, watching a production of *Cats* when I was in Year 2 or 3 and getting on that stage at Imperial in Year 6 to play Peter Pan. How lucky we were to have such space to explore and grow as little humans!



One memory that sticks with me to this day summarises why Thomas's was, and is, such a special place. It's not necessarily a happy memory, but one that speaks to the love and connection that flows through the place. At the Memorial Service for Mr Brown, a truly spectacular teacher, we sang 'I Was glad'. The pure emotion that seemed to run through everyone was the first time I remember feeling loss and unity at the same time. There was something so telling about that day, about a community that extends beyond a classroom. The unity I, and I'm sure others, felt that day speaks to something very special at the core of Thomas's: a real spirit of friendship and care.

I was so lucky to be able to attend such an incredible school and I'm forever grateful for everything I learnt and experienced during those years.

