

A proud thanks to the teachers, friends and family who supported Matthew Johnson from Reigate.

Matt was born in 1983 and in 1988 he started school at the old Reigate Parish. His education took him to Reigate Priory from 1992 to 1995 and on to Woodhatch Secondary school (now Reigate School). At this time he had decided his road through life was to university, this came in 2003 after leaving Reigate College when he took up a course in Biological Sciences at Birmingham. Three years later he was awarded an 'Honouree degree in Genetics'. A gap year wasn't for him so he decided to sit a Master's degree in Micro Biology also at Birmingham and with high results put him in good stead for a scholarship to do his PhD in the exploration into 'E.coli'. Over the last four years and still with Birmingham University his work in this field led him to give talks around the country, in Europe and America. He is an author to a number of science papers written or co-written on his discoveries into the bio-science world in the development of medicines. His latest written work, an impressive 56,000 words for his thesis, now gives him the worthy titles BOs, MOs, Ph.D. (or Dr. Matt for short!). He has donated this book to his nephew Harry Tree. Harry, aged six, died suddenly in April 2010. A copy of this work is held as a permanent record in the university's library.

Not many people can make a comment so early in life and stick to it but Matt's attitude has always been: *'If I have to go to work for most of my life I would like to enjoy it and make it worth something'*. Like most students he has worked through many part time jobs to get where he is today.

With his Reigate & Redhill sporting accolades behind him in football, golf, athletics and table tennis (with the late Roy Punter) his focus is now set on academia trophies. Matt has gone to Australia to work with Monash University in Melbourne on stem cell and crystal research into drugs and medicines used to combat or cure cancer and other illnesses. Matt expresses his thanks to the teaching staff from the local schools for their help and encouragement to get him to where he is today. He is still in education to do his 'Post Docs' so in 1-2-3 years' time his title may be 'Professor Matthew Johnson'. In addition to this and now in 2015 he has just been given the 'Hayes Barnett' award from the Australian society of micro biology. His prize is to work for a month in any laboratory in the UK and not surprisingly he has chosen Birmingham.

Not sure if any of the staff are still working or remember him but even so it's nice the schools and colleges get a pat on the back at times.

Mr D P Johnson (Matthew's father)