



Old Scholar



Saint Stephen's College

NIKKI FOZZARD

(nee Koutoufides)

Class of 2004

I graduated from the College in 2004, and commenced my studies at Griffith in Feb! I started with a Bachelor of Biomedical Science, I had the intention of becoming a paediatric oncologist, inspired by my own childhood illness. However, I got to my 2nd year at uni, and had what I called a "career crisis" - for various reasons, I realised that medicine didn't suit the lifestyle I envisaged for my life.

I had no idea what else I wanted to do and I nearly dropped out of uni. It was around this time that I had also become involved in undertaking some work experience in a medical research lab. Fast forward a few years, I graduated from the Bachelor of Biomedical Science with Honours in 2008, and a few weeks later I also married my boyfriend that I'd had since year 12.

In 2009 I started my PhD, looking at chemical signalling in cancer, and how they affect the spread of cancer around the body (metastasis). I also started casual teaching in Statistics. In 2012 I was employed as an Associate Lecturer in the School of Medical Science to co-ordinate my own course in Statistics. I am so passionate about teaching and supporting students, so this really was a career dream come true.

Later that year we found that we were pregnant with our first bub, who was born in April 2013. I returned to work in January 2014, and unfortunately had to withdraw from my PhD due to health complications but in July 2014 I commenced a Master of Biostatistics part-time through, which I do amidst the busyness of looking after about 400 students in my undergrad statistics course. The Masters is incredibly interesting, and I am excited to see where it takes me in the future. I never realised that I'd end up in a career involving maths, but when I look back on my schooling career, I realise now that it's exactly where I should be.

