

THOMAS WHITTINGHAM

TTS STUDENT: 2000-2007

Current role: Furniture Designer/Maker, Thomas Whittingham Furniture

Career pathway:

Growing up, I always had a passion for creating and a keen eye for detail so I decided to pursue a career in Art & Design. After graduating from Nottingham Trent University with a degree in Computer Aided Design, I decided that an office job, designing at a desk really wasn't for me. I took a 40 week furniture design course with Williams and Cleal and started a bespoke furniture design business in April 2014, which focusses on the highest standards of craftsmanship.

Advice for students:

My advice would be for students not to rush to go to university but to think really carefully about their career and course choice. I have also enjoyed coming back into School to advise the Year 12 students on their furniture design projects and have hopefully passed on some good tips!

Plans for the future:

I hope to build my business even further and develop my customer base.

Best memory of your time at Thomas Telford?

I really enjoyed moving into the Sixth Form as the teacher – student relationship really changed and I felt we were treated much more like adults and given more independence.

