

A day in the life: Holly Constantine

I'm Holly Constantine, one of the newest Wedding and Private Events Coordinators at Waddesdon Manor.

As with most people, I didn't really know what I wanted to do when I "grew up", so when it came to choosing a degree, I decided to study something I enjoyed, and that was photography. Although I loved exploring beautiful landscapes, and capturing intimate moments in portraiture, I somehow knew that becoming a professional photographer wasn't for me. It wasn't until my final year that someone jokingly pointed out I should become a wedding planner "because of my amazing organisational skills and pure obsession with the wedding industry" - and that was that!

When I left university I started working as a wedding photographer's assistant, which opened the door for me to become one of Ellie Sanderson's bridal sales advisors. After working with her for just over a year, I then took the plunge and decided to apply for my first wedding coordinator role at a hotel in Maidenhead, and it was this experience, as well as my history within the wedding industry, which enabled me to be considered to join the wonderful team at Waddesdon.

While that tells you *how* I got into the industry, it doesn't tell you *why*, and it certainly wasn't just because of my "amazing organisational skills". People love weddings; it's a time that brings family together, a time that celebrates a couple's love for each other, and if that's too sickly sweet for you, it's a time to party! It was mainly the idea of meeting new people and being able to connect with them on a personal level, whilst planning the biggest day of their lives that made me realise this was the job for me. Being trusted by a couple as they go through the ups and downs of wedding planning, and holding their hand as they organise the start of their married life together really does mean the world to me. (And if I'm completely honest, I still tear up when my brides start to walk down the aisle!).

I often get asked if I have a favourite wedding. The answer to that, I'm afraid, is no! Working with so many wonderful couples over the years, I have come to realise how vastly different everyone's perfect day is.

So, with my wedding industry experience, my one tip to any newly engaged couple is to enjoy it. Yes, wedding planning can get stressful at times (don't get me started on those RSVPs!), but at the end of the day just remember what you're doing it for. Yes, you want it to be the perfect day, but this is a time to celebrate your love for each other and to start your life together as the new Mr and Mrs.

By Holly Constantine, Wedding Co-ordinator at Waddesdon