

CHARLY LESTER



Education

Charly graduated from St Catharine's College, Cambridge, with a 2:1 in Law with Mandarin in 2007.

During her time at Cambridge she was President of the Ospreys Committee, St Catharine's May Ball President, and Captain of the Varsity Women's Cricket team. She received three Half Blues, and a Full Blue, both skiing and playing cricket for the University. In 2008 she received a Master's Degree in Broadcast Journalism, from the University of Westminster.

Journalism

While studying for her Masters in 2007, Charly set up the YouTube Channel '[Challenge Charly](#)', where she filmed herself completing extreme sports and endurance challenges around the world. She jumped out of airplanes, did bungee jumps, climbed mountains and ran Marathons, all with a camera in her hand.



After her Masters, Charly spent three years travelling the world alone and writing fiction novels. Charly spent several months living in Honduras, training up as a Dive Master, and also gained Ski and Snowboard Instructor qualifications whilst living in Whistler, Canada. During the Vancouver Winter Olympics, Charly was the Olympic correspondent for active.com, and wrote an op-ed piece about the Paralympics which appeared in the New York Times.

30 Dates Blog

On returning to live in England, Charly began a career in Banking. It was whilst working for Lloyds Banking Group that Charly encountered the now infamous Henley Boy, and began her self-imposed challenge to go on 30 Blind Dates before her 30th Birthday. The blog [30 Dates](#) was born, and it quickly grew into one of London's most well-loved dating blogs.

Dating Industry Expertise

In 2013, Charly was head-hunted by the Guardian and by April 2014, she was promoted to [Guardian Soulmates Editor](#). In June 2014, Charly left her Banking career to pursue writing and speaking about dating full time. She launched the [UK Dating Awards](#) in May 2014, an annual national industry Awards ceremony. In October 2014 Charly was asked by the Guardian to take part in their Masterclasses teaching program. In November 2014 she was head-hunted by Time Out, and began work as their Global Head of Dating in January 2015. In 2016, Charly expanded The Dating Awards to both the European mainland and America.

Charly's writing and dating advice has appeared in the Independent, Guardian, Observer, Daily Telegraph, Daily Mirror, The Times, The Daily Express, Marie Claire, and on Channel 5, BBC Radio 4, and Heart FM. She has become a regular guest on Woman's Hour, appeared on The Long View, The World Tonight and the Today Programme as a guest expert, and she filmed an episode of BBC Newsnight discussing the cultural impact of the dating app Tinder. In 2015, Charly was an expert advisor to Lord Sugar in the Final of the BBC flag-ship TV Show 'The Apprentice'.



Kendrick School

Speech Day

on

Wednesday 14th December 2016

in Kendrick School Sports Hall

2.00pm for a prompt 2.15pm start

Charly Lester

A former Kendrick student and current Kendrick governor, Charly is the former Head of dating for Time Out and Dating Editor at The Guardian. She is now the CEO and Founder of the International Dating Awards. She will be speaking and presenting prizes.