



**Dr Emma Duncan**

**Dr Emma Duncan** did not have a conventional route into university or academia, as she had to attend an alternative provision whilst in secondary school due to health reasons. Despite these health issues, in 2011 Dr Duncan went on to study an undergraduate degree in Politics at the University of Salford.



Dr Duncan's early work focused on contemporary political issues such theories of European Union expansion with particular focus on Central Eastern European countries and Turkish application to join the European Union. This formed the focus of her dissertation, which due to its success, she was invited to present at the Imperial War Museum North.



Dr Duncan went on to complete a Masters in Intelligence and Security Studies at the University of Salford, achieving a distinction, and developed an interest in the history of British Security. Following this, Dr Duncan decided to make a PhD proposal on the development of a British 'Security State' during and after the Second World War. She successfully secured two separate funding awards for her research, one from the Lady Monica Cockfield Memorial Trust and the other from University of Salford School of Arts, Media, and Creative Technologies. So, in 2018, she embarked on her PhD studies, finding out she was pregnant shortly afterwards.

This did not deter Dr Duncan who went on to become both a Doctor of Philosophy and a mother. Dr Duncan faced considerable challenges during the completion of her thesis. Firstly, alongside her studies, she raised a young child, but COVID also made life difficult, as it caused considerable delays to the completion of the PhD. Dr Duncan's thesis relied heavily on access to Cabinet Office briefing minutes held by the National Archives, which during the height of the COVID pandemic, were closed to the public for approximately 6 months.



In August 2023, Dr Duncan completed her viva (her PhD defence) and on 01 December 2023 graduated as a **Doctor of Philosophy in Contemporary History and Politics**.



Here at Kendrick School, we are all incredibly proud of Dr Duncan for her amazing academic achievements.

**Congratulations from us all!**