



**Lachezar Arabadzhiev**

**Class of 2013**

**Nord Anglia International  
School Shanghai, Pudong**



**Lachezar Arabadzhiev** graduated from **Nord Anglia International School Shanghai, Pudong**, a COBIS Member School in 2013. Lachezar currently works as an Insights & Analytics Manager at Mindshare (WPP), based in Toronto, Canada.

Lachezar originally intended to study science, specialising in Biology and Chemistry at school, before switching to Economics and Business. He cites his **incredible Economics teacher** as the reason behind this change, saying they "*discovered my passion before I did and guided me to find what I really love.*" He went on to pursue a Management and International Business Degree at the University of Toronto, where alongside his studies he explored a **variety of interests**. He organised a TEDx conference, completed two internships at Microsoft, took digital art and music classes, competed at an international business competition, became a staff writer at a magazine, and created two start-ups. All these activities, whilst not all directly linked to his degree, helped Lachezar to develop a **well-rounded personality** that allows him to **thrive in any situation**.

Reflecting on his time at school, Lachezar emphasises the impact that his **Theory of Knowledge (TOK)** classes as part of the IB Diploma have had on his life. The discussions he had in TOK classes have benefitted him tremendously and helped him to **create perspectives** on various problems, saying "*without these types of challenges I never would have pushed myself and question the decisions that are being made.*" A key highlight in Lachezar's school days was a trip to mainland China where the students had to **work as a team** and build a playground for a local migrant school. He says "*it was the first time I felt I had accomplished something by helping the local community.*" He was also part of the entrepreneurship club, the first innovation-driven club at the school, where he enjoyed coming up with ideas and **solving problems**.

Lachezar's advice to current students would be to try lots of new things that push you **out of your comfort zone**. While it may seem scary, Lachezar stresses that school gives you a **tremendous playground** where you can try and fail and face your biggest fears. He also stresses the importance of **continual learning**, even once you have left formal education and started working. "*Keep learning new things whenever you find free time and not necessarily related to your job. That will expand your mindset and help you grow as a leader.*"

Over the next year, Lachezar hopes to spend more time writing about technology, business and leadership, taking his own advice by continuing to **challenge himself** and step out of his comfort zone. He also hopes to keep working on creating new products that **benefit the community**, such as a new video manager application he has just launched that will help the video community to manage, sort, and analyse their content and help them focus on the creative process. His longer-term travel bucket list includes Japan and South Korea, and he would also love to live in Hawaii.