

12th November 2015

SUBJECT: LETTER OF ADVICE TO MY 18 YEAR-OLD SELF

Hey Amanda,

Not all chemists wear white coats! This is the statement that started your education off in the pursuit of science. But I wonder how you'd feel if I tell you that science isn't going to be your number one choice of profession? Don't panic!

I'll let you in on a secret – this profession is in quality. You will get to know what this is once you graduate and take up your first job as a Quality Control Centre Assistant for a poultry breeding company. Yes, you do make it to the Labs.

The industries are going to be extremely varied, not at all what you'd expect from DNA and Drug/Alcohol testing then to the Water Industry. You'll find that quality is massively transferrable and necessary for all business. This means that no day is the same and no doors are barred. I know this appeals immediately.

You've worked hard and overcame some challenging times in education. At times you felt although you're climbing a mountain but your spirit and sense of self-belief and motivation are hugely important. In fact, you are able to develop these into motivating the people around you, with a positive can-do attitude and lead by example reputation. You really can make a difference.

After university and during your first role you are still massively un-focused and need to work on your people management skills.

However exposure to quality forces you to communicate clearly to all levels in the organisation and teaches you how to influence change.

Your decision to return to education to learn about business is a good choice. You will struggle with part-time, long-distance studies and full-time work, and it will be stressful. However this will lead to both a post-graduate diploma and your first Chartership with the CQI.

Don't worry about making a career change to quality. You will realise that being a quality professional doesn't dilute your past profession. In fact, you will remain both a scientist and a quality professional. That is the beauty of quality.

You will be surprised when you realise when you start "collecting" informal mentors and supporters during your career. They give you the best sounding board and experience, so listen carefully, you'll be needing their support.

Finally, don't put too much pressure on yourself. Work hard, realise people are an organisation's best assets, and look forward to the future.

Have fun, look forward to the future!

Amanda

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