

12<sup>th</sup> November 2015

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

Dear Lee,

Here we are, straight out of college, part time job on an assembly line, living for the weekend - playing gigs in little Essex pubs, unsure about the direction we want to take in life.

I am here to tell you that despite what you think, the world does not need an Essex Mick Jagger (even though I still maintain there is a gap in the market for it).

Firstly, relax. Your craving for some guidance on what to do with your life is unnecessary, you will figure out the direction you want to take by yourself, even if it does take another seven years. The apprenticeship you are about to undertake will start with two long, arduous years of cleaning ink bowls (your future girlfriend will appreciate this) but this will lead you into the world of Quality.

You're going to learn how to manage and lead projects that will enable you to change the things at work that make you frustrated. Do you remember when you could never find a dustpan and brush? You will successfully implement a 5S project. The variation between batches of product every time they are made? You will end up creating and maintaining highly critical SOPs which will alleviate that problem. There are going to be many success stories just like these for you that will shape you into the professional you desire to become.

There will be times when you want to give up, but those moments of self-doubt needn't consume as much of your time as they do. Upon reflection, you will be glad you didn't because when you do finally get there it will be the most exciting time of your life. You're going to end up being part of something special; a family within the Next Generation Network Steering Committee that enables you to fulfil your want and need for mentoring, and creating the guidance you

so desperately wanted earlier in life. Every day this will give you a great sense of achievement and make you proud of yourself.

Remember, nothing is unreachable. Keep throwing yourself into every project available and do it with the determination and enthusiasm I know you possess.

Follow your dreams Lee!

*Lee*

Lee Wood