

#NOWRONGPATH

AGE: 35

JOB TITLE: DIRECTOR

BUSINESS: ELITE CONTRACT FURNITURE

## GREG WINSTON

### WHAT DID YOU WANT TO DO WHEN YOU LEFT SCHOOL?

I didn't have a clue what I wanted to do but as I was reasonably OK at working on a computer, I thought that would be a good career for me.

I remember a careers advisor showing me a large book of different job roles. I don't think he spent more than 30 minutes talking through it and I remember being very overwhelmed about having to choose a career path at such a young age.

### WHAT DID YOU DO AFTER SCHOOL AND WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB?

As I was living at home I was told by my parents that if I wanted to leave school I needed to get a job or go to college. I got a Christmas job at Asda and managed to get kept on so decided to leave school halfway through 6th year. I tried going to college the following year to study something to do with computers but did not enjoy it so left. Looking back I realise I was not ready for the academic path.

### HAVE YOU CHANGED JOBS OFTEN?

I have had four jobs to date. Where possible I don't like moving jobs too often as I hate job interviews and tend to mess them up by letting my nerves get to me.

### HOW DID YOU GET INTO YOUR CURRENT ROLE?

The company I work for is a family business, it was never a guarantee I would join however in 2008 there was a job opening putting together letting package furniture and furnishings for student accommodations. The job involved putting cutlery, pots and pans, kettles and hoovers etc together into packages ready to be delivered to the different flats. I was happy taking the job as I have always been taught and am a firm believer in working your way up the ladder in any business through hard work.

### DO YOU HAVE A MESSAGE TO PUPILS RECEIVING THEIR EXAM RESULTS TODAY?

If you don't get the result you expect, don't panic, take a breath and look at all your options. The academic path isn't for everyone, if you find a job you are good at or even better enjoy, get stuck in, work hard and in 3 years the people coming out of university will be at the same level as you with more debt and less work experience.

It can take time to find the right job for you, work on your confidence, if you can make yourself believe you are confident other people will believe it too.

Be ambitious, if you are doing well in your job or have taken on extra responsibility talk to your employer about career progression, don't expect anything straight away but they should be able to guide you to the next level when you are ready.

