



## A message to my younger self

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A letter to my younger self, if I knew then what I know now,

A difficult question on where to begin and at what age it may have had any impact (I didn't tend to listen to others when I was younger). I grew up around Rochdale in Manchester and attended the local state school, I went into their 6th form as I had no idea what I wanted to do but always found maths and science interesting. With those A levels I ended up choosing Chemical Engineering as a degree (though if I'm being honest that was based on Newcastle University's social scene rather than the course). Luckily for me I enjoyed my course and continued into a career in the energy sector which has given me huge opportunities in my working life and has led me to working in the Humber region.

I don't have specific advice but have managed to learn a few lessons in work and life and can only hope some may help as you navigate the choices ahead of you;

- Try to plan your future direction but don't let it stress you, life very rarely goes to plan
- When considering further education ask yourself why you are choosing this and what you want to achieve with it
- Hard work and effort are the main components of being successful in anything you attempt but try to have fun along the way
- Ensure you keep integrity and honesty in what you do, people believe and support honest people but rarely get behind miss-truths

- Take advice from other people but make decisions based on your beliefs
- Don't be afraid to say what you want and take opportunities otherwise no-one else will know
- Try to accept and learn from failure, it will happen even if you try to avoid it, seeing these as opportunities can help reposition your approach
- Work at what you find challenging and engaging, always ask why and push your own development throughout life
- Trust is built through care, always consider your impact on others in your actions and words

As to those looking at what future skills and competencies leaders and the Humber region require, personally I believe a core area will be technology and data. All industries will be impacted by developing technology therefore skillsets in coding, software design and AI robotics will all support future business developments. As we develop more complex systems and greater connection between devices our ability to gather data increases, skillsets in analytics and big data management will be critical in supporting companies navigate this feedback to assess trends and patterns.

In the Humber manufacturing and energy will remain a key component in supporting the UK but will transition to a carbon neutral and renewable focus. These industries will require research and development for new technologies, engineers to implement design, frontline operators to maintain and the considerable supply chain that supports these activities. This makes the Humber an exciting and challenging place to work with the opportunity to lead the UK in its ambition to achieve net zero by 2050.