



Lisa Walsh

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I left school at 16 with very little knowledge of the world of work. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do, just knew I wanted to earn money and be independent. I remember my one and only encounter with a careers advisor in school was a very brief meeting.

I started work straight out of school. I worked my way through many different industries including electronics, pensions, hospitality, and fashion before I settled into insurance (of all things!) I started in administration and worked my way through various different roles from Office Assistant to Project Co-ordinator, to Fundraising Manager to my current role. Throughout my career, I attended courses to further develop my skills, some I did in my own time, some through Zurich Insurance where I have worked since 2001. I also used my network to gain experience in areas of interest through secondments whilst working for at Zurich Insurance.

In 2010 I started to volunteer with Zurich Community Trust (ZCT), the charitable arm for Zurich Insurance. I joined their London Charity Committee and would support a range of activities like grant-making, fundraising and volunteering. This is where my passion for helping people really developed. I started working for ZCT at the beginning of 2018 as a Programme Manager; one of the areas I focus on is supporting careers and employability skills in schools.

Having very little careers support whilst I was at school, I understand the importance of ensuring that students are equipped with an understanding of how the workforce operates, the skills required to get you into employment and the knowledge of the specific markets - this knowledge is vital in helping students make the right choices when it comes to further education and careers.

I am delighted to be supporting St Michael's and its careers team in developing a variety of engaging opportunities for students.