

Career Story – Careers Adviser (Maureen – over 50)

Q1: What is your current job or career?:

Careers Advisor

Q2: Why did you choose your job or career? Did you have a plan? What resources, if any, did you use?

I had been a Head of a High School Faculty, A Year Advisor and then following my school's restructuring I became a classroom teacher again. After working with a young head of department who thought he had something to prove, I decided to resign. I fiddled around for a few months and then my husband finally said "You are too young to be wasting your time like this - go back to work!". I saw an ad for a maternity replacement, applied and got it. At the end of the year I was asked to stay on and I taught a variety of subjects before the Headmaster offered me another maternity replacement job but this time as a Careers Advisor - what an enormously steep learning curve. I had never worked so hard in all my life and had never loved a job as much as I love this one.

I write daily student notices for inclusion in our daily communications bulletin and write a page or so information and advice sheet for our bi-weekly Parent Bulletin. I run after school seminars, lunchtime talks, training certificates such as OH&S and Barista courses. I interview all year 12 students and have decided that I am more a coach than an advisor. I tell all my students that they will change their professions many times in their working lives and I have found that I have now done the same. Each year I go to a country venue for a Year 12 study day - my session has become so popular that I now run it twice during the day. I was asked by the grandfather of one of the girls that attended my session if it would be possible to make a video of my session which I did using my students here at school (so I suppose I am now a movie star too!). This job is my ideal and I only wish that I had found it before 4 years ago.

Q3: How would you like your job or career to develop and what do you need to do to make the change?

I want to get my qualifications as a 'coach' through one of the many organisations offering such courses as I believe this is the way of the future.

I would also like to inspire my students to attend more and more of the lunchtime sessions I offer using outside experts.

Q4: When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A lawyer

Q5: What challenges do you need to overcome to "get the life you love"?

Realise that learning is a life long pursuit

Q6: What do you know now that you wish you knew in school?

That nothing is impossible if you are passionate and that even though you might not go directly from point A to Point B you might enjoy the trips through points B, C, D and
Remember that life is a journey with many stops along the way.