

Glenn Betram

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Can you tell us a little bit about your job and your career journey?

I work at the BBC where I manage staffing and business which includes looking after finance and recruitment. I've been working with the BBC for 39 years going straight into it from college after completing my studies. My first job was in office administration, and over the course of my career I've moved across ten other roles which include assisting the BBC's design department and working in information services for the BBC's board of management and governance.

What difference did you want to make for yourself and young people through volunteering with Inspiring the Future?

There can be this perception that working at the BBC isn't for you unless you studied at the likes of Cambridge or Oxford, which isn't the case at all. The BBC want and need people from all walks of life, and there are a myriad of job types aside from being a presenter. It's important that young people are aware of the range of opportunities that exist, and not be limited to what they might see on the surface.

How long have you been volunteering with Inspiring the Future?

I've been doing voluntary work for 20 years since my first senior management role, and seven of those years were with Inspiring the Future. They came up in a previous conversation and I thought the opportunity to volunteer with them sounded brilliant, especially as I've mentored in the past.

What events and activities have you taken part in?

I have undertaken mock interviews, career talks, application forms and CV workshops and bespoke sessions designed around the organisation.

What did you want to be when you grew up and why? Who inspired you?

I wanted to be a doctor when I was 6 years old, and this was because a family member was a doctor, so it was an arbitrary choice. To be honest, I didn't really have the brain for it. The great thing is different people have different types of intelligences, and there are many ways to make it in the world. That's why it's so important that young people see examples of all kinds of jobs.

What has been the best part about volunteering?

Meeting individuals and groups that I would not normally come in contact with and sharing our knowledge and expertise.

How have you benefited from volunteering with Inspiring the Future? Please give examples to skills, knowledge, attitude and behaviour.

I think it's helped with being confident talking to groups of young people. I've also had the chance to flex my creative muscles when designing and adapting session plans for different audiences. It is rewarding being able to inspire young people, even if it's only to get them thinking about the importance of subjects they're studying, like maths.

What's the one message you feel is important to share with the young people you speak to?

Emotional Intelligence is a skill or craft everyone should strive to be better at and the best individuals who have mastered it always do well.

Describe Inspiring the Future in five words

Educational, entertaining, enlightening, worthy and rewarding.

What has been the strangest/funniest/best question you've been asked?

What car I drive and why?

Who or what inspires you today and what is the reason?

Anyone who has a unique craft skill, such as a painting restorer, wood/wood/metal/glass craft person i.e. something that takes years to perfect and not something a layperson can do.

What would you say to other volunteers thinking of volunteering with Inspiring the Future?

Consider that if you 'inspire' just one person then you have done 100% more than you would by not taking part.

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