

#Be *in* Business



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What do you love about business?

After working for other people for two decades, I love being my own boss. I choose what I do, when I do it and who I do it with. This is really liberating.

Why do you think studying Business is important?

These days, people have more agile careers and build portfolios of opportunities. Being self-employed, a freelancer or a small business owner is an opportunity for everyone to shape their own career. Studying Business enables you to see this as a possible pathway in the future.

How would you describe yourself and your role?

I am a former Headteacher, spending 19 years teaching and leading in secondary schools. I am now a leadership development consultant, coach and trainer.

How did you get into business?

I have never studied business, but my parents, my sister and other close family members are all self-employed and entrepreneurial. I guess they rubbed off on me! I have always been good at negotiating and pioneering new ideas so having my own business is an extension of this.

What does success mean to you?

Success to be me is being happy, being fulfilled and being values/ purpose aligned to what you are doing.

What does the future of business look like?

It is more agile, more flexible and led by more women and people of colour.

What piece of advice would you give to business students?

As someone who coaches others and who has gained a lot from being coached, my advice is to be really clear on your purpose – what is it that you can add value to, be focused and make it happen.

Are there any businesses that are leading the way in inclusivity and accessibility?

There has been an explosion of organisations focused on supporting schools and colleges with DEI, this is our DEI Directory detailing the ones in our network: <https://www.diverseeducators.co.uk/our-dei-directory/>

Who is your biggest business inspiration/ role model?

For me, it is people in my network who put themselves out there and take a leap of faith like Isa Buencamino. Also, Diana Osagie who rang me on my first day of working independently to tell me: "Remember, you are not an educator doing business, you are a businesswoman doing education". These words have stayed with me.

What can we do to make business more inclusive?

Starting your own business takes courage as potentially you will experience periods of instability and insecurity. Building diverse support networks empowers and enables others who are starting out. There are also lots of grants you can apply for to get started. It can get lonely so build collaborations with others so you work in partnership.



**DIVERSE
EDUCATORS**

Why being in business is *everyone's* business