



JANET HORTON

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YEAR OF LEAVING: 1981



What was your favourite subject at school and why?

English Literature. It opened a world of possibilities and was endlessly interesting. I loved to read, so it did not feel like a chore, except perhaps some of Milton.....(particularly Samson Agnonistes!)

What have you been up to since leaving school?

I went to London and did a Humanities Degree, then joined the MOD as a Civil Servant. I worked in Berlin for the British Military Government – this was before the Berlin Wall came down and Germany reunited. I also worked for the MOD at locations in Kent and then Whitehall, London. I then joined the private sector and spent 20 years working mainly in support of local government across the UK. I joined the NHS nearly 3 years ago.

What experience and qualifications do you need to do your job, and do you have advice for current students looking to go into your sector?

You need to get a good grounding in foundation subjects. You do not need a clinical qualification for many senior roles in the health and care sector. My top piece of advice is to be curious; the world of work is complex and people who can think more widely are particularly useful and tend to get asked to do the interesting, challenging, and important work. It is easy to make yourself indispensable and versatile in this way and get noticed.

What is one piece of advice you would give to current students?

Spend time thinking about what you are passionate about and love doing and put all your energies into making yourself an absolute expert at it – be the best you can be. The world does not owe anyone a living, so you do have to work hard. But if you find something you enjoy doing, the hard work is enjoyable.

What challenges have you faced in your life so far, and how have you overcome them? What is your next big goal?

All sorts of challenges – personal and professional. I tackle them by remaining positive, keeping focused on getting the right result (challenging conventional wisdom and thinking when needed) and I always do my best, whatever I am involved with. Next goal....? Set up a local retail business....?

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