

ALUMNI



Umair Aurangzeb Class of 2013

When did you leave Challenge College? (now OALP)

I left Challenge College in 2013 after completing my A-Levels.

What are your favourite memories of school?

How approachable the teachers were and how much the students were happy to help one another.

What were the steps you took after school that led you to where you are today?

After finishing my A-Levels, I started a foundation year in Engineering at The University of Bradford. I then continued on at the same university to first obtain a Bachelors and then a Masters in Chemical and Petroleum Engineering. After graduating, I found a job as a Process Engineer in the Netherlands where I spent a year before moving jobs to an aerospace company working on plane engine components as a Process Engineer in Nottingham.

What made you decide to follow the career path?

I always found Engineering interesting growing up, I'd watch Formula 1 with my uncle most weekends and the genuine interest in cars and planes led me down the path of Engineering.

What are the challenges you are facing in your job (apart from the impact of COVID-19)?

The aerospace industry is heavily reliant on being able to adapt, so with the introduction of new technologies and pushing current techniques to their boundaries means being able to think on your feet, balance multiple projects and manage your time effectively. Things aren't always going to work out, mistakes will be made no matter where you end up. I feel its more important that you're able to react to mistakes in a positive and timely manner than simply not making mistakes.

What if anything, do you wish you were taught at school in preparation for your future?

There are multiple ways of ending up where you want to be. Some may take longer than others but if you're dedicated and work hard you'll end up where you want to. Whether that's university, apprenticeships, work or otherwise.

What advice would you give to yourself in Year 11?

Try and understand which method of learning you're best suited to. It will come in handy when you're going through further education as a lot of it will be self-taught.

What are your career ambitions for the future?

I am currently learning to program using various coding languages such as Python, I think it's something you should look at as it's a very handy tool to have at your disposal. As the world moves toward automation and reducing lead time being able to code, understand and write programmes puts you in a very advantageous position. Using these skills I'd like to make a jump into data science or pursue further qualifications in engineering in the form of chartered status.