

# ALUMNI

## Waqar Younis Class of 2010



### **What are your favourite memories of school?**

I have many memories of Challenge College (now OALP), in particular my Business lessons, sports day and five a side football tournament arranged by Mr Tolan. Challenge College gave me skills and knowledge that have moulded me today.

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

Upon leaving school, I studied a degree in Accounts and Finance that equipped me with skills which enabled me to fulfill my role as Sales Director at Regal Foods PLC.

### **What made you decide to follow the career path?**

From a young child I have been inspired and passionate about business. Having an insight to Regal Foods PLC from my teen years observing the CEO Younis Choudhury, Managing Director Ali Choudhury and Operations Director Faisal Ali gave me the thirst to be part of such an organisation.

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

Being the sales director I face many challenges from organising distribution to 70 countries across the world and all over the UK to supermarkets and independent stores. There are many challenges that lie ahead due to Brexit and the changes in import and export legislation.

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

How to deal with problem solving for example real life business crisis. This caused obstacles in my journey which then delayed the solution. I had to learn this from more experienced staff rather than what I had learnt in my studies.

### **What advice would you give to yourself in Year 11?**

Persevere, work hard and give it your best! More hours revising less time socialising. Year 11 is your make or break of your future. You must try doing what's best for you, speak to your teachers if you need help. Do not ignore the gaps in your knowledge as this will hinder your overall achievement.

### **What are your career ambitions for the future?**

I envisage Regal Foods PLC to be available all over the world, to provide our products to all communities. I would also like to give back to those who are in more need, being able to support underprivileged families and communities. I don't want to stop learning, every day is a journey into gaining more skill, experience and knowledge. I aim to strive to do my best in my career journey.