



Tom Emmett

Team BWS

Sport at School – Cross Country, Athletics, Rugby
Sport now – Cycling, Kayaking and Climbing

1. What made you decide to take A Level PE as part of your 6th form studies?

Chemistry, Modern History & Psychology - I wasn't sure what I wanted to study so I continued with the subjects that I enjoyed. I had in the back of my mind that I may want to go into teaching but the main reason was that I enjoyed doing it. Psychology was the exception as I wanted to try something different but I always had the view that I would only do it to AS level. I enjoyed the content both from a practical and theoretical perspective in PE.

2. Having finished Year 13, give us some idea of the pathway that you took in terms of further studies or career choices

I still had a view that I may want to go into teaching but this was not centre in my mind in making my choice of university course. I knew that I wanted to continue to study in the world of sport. I found a joint honours degree at Loughborough in Chemistry and Sports Science which would allow me to continue to study in the areas I both enjoyed but also performed best in.

I initially wanted to go into Criminal Forensics as that was the part of my degree that I enjoyed the most. Unfortunately, it also coincided with the time when lots of cuts were being made, as a result of this, I wanted to go into an industry which would always be in demand and food was something that really stood out. I researched different jobs and graduate schemes and was offered to join the Tesco programme in the Fruit & Vegetable buying team.

3. Where has this led you to at the present time and what are your plans for the future?

I worked in the Tesco Produce & Horticulture team running different parts of their business. This has involved lots of travel to ensure we are working with the best growers around the world and also managing the in store selling/branding strategy.

I have recently made the decision to join the Aldi Group based in Salzburg where I am purchasing all the fruit for the entire European business. The main reason for this was that the part of the job at Tesco that I enjoyed the most was the sourcing/supply chain elements which is what the new role is focused on. Another main reason is that I wanted to get out of my comfort zone by living/working in a different country.

Plans for the future will be at least 5 years at Aldi before assessing whether I would like to move back to the UK. At this stage I don't have a clear path/goal mapped out. I have found throughout my career that if you do, there is a risk that you become blind to other opportunities. I am in a completely different place to where I thought I could be and am always clear with my team that having a path mapped out isn't right for everybody.

Humility, Enjoyment, Respect, Resilience, Discipline