

Career changers – video transcript

Speaker 1: I'd been working in the city for 27 years and the challenge had gone from the job that I was doing. And I thought 'now's the time, I'm approaching the big five-oh, let's do something different.' Because teaching had been at the back of my mind, I thought 'let's give it a go.'

Speaker 2: My previous life had been in retail, in fine art and antiques. So I was working with customers and clients all over the world which I really enjoyed. But actually, I really enjoy the buzz of the staffroom, the buzz of the classroom.

Speaker 3: I had assumed that my age would be a barrier – it absolutely wasn't. Everyone was very welcoming and they said 'you're absolutely not too old to become a teacher, we're looking for people like you to come into teaching.'

And also, I think for me, because I'd reached quite a high level of management in my previous career, it was just like 'can I go back to being a student?' That actually worked out very well, because there's lots and lots of mentoring and support and all sorts of people you can go to for advice and guidance.

Speaker 4: I decided now to be a teacher because I had the explanations for funding explained to me really clearly, and I understood how I could balance my passion with the kind of income I still want to earn.

Speaker 1: I'm many years out of university but at university I studied maths, so I always had an enjoyment of working with figures. I always thought at some stage I would come back and use my subject knowledge a lot more.

Speaker 2: I think although I've come to this later in my life – so I'm not a career starter in my twenties – I still feel as though there is the opportunity for career development and that's something that I'm very interested in.

Speaker 5: Instead of working for a CEO, instead of working for that, you're working for the kids. You're putting in the hours, you're putting in the effort and the reward you are get at the end of it is the kids actually learning and creating things themselves.

Speaker 4: It took me ten years to do it and I would have been ten years on in my profession. Ten more years of all these satisfying days I have.