

Now the exam results are in, many young people are considering what to do next. (27th Aug 2011)

One area that could be considered is politics as you cannot be worse than the current elected representatives are with a handful of exceptions. Everyone 'does' politics, but does the 'system' actually provide the governance we expect? It's really isn't rocket science to organise a town, a borough, a county or even a country. The process is the same. The difference is just in the scale of things. Strangely, if you think about it, all politicians want the same end result, it's just the methodology that will change depending on the political grouping you are considering. To get into politics you either need to know someone, have the ability to agree without question and before you know it, you will be selected to stand as a candidate. Speak nicely and you will get a safe seat although it might be better to be allocated one that you need to fight for if you want to make career in politics.

You need to remember that being a politician only requires the desire to be noticed, not a lot else as there are plenty of 'advisors' ready to advise and make sure you take the blame if the public don't like the decision that your party has made. The 'higher' the level, the more advisors appear out of the woodwork. For example, on the town/parish level, advisors are thin on the ground as they believe there is nothing in it for them. On the contrary, this level has few restrictions so the sky really is the limit. It's only when you get to county/unity or even nation level that it is worth their while as the stakes are high. Having said that, a real difference can be made at the lower political levels due to the flexibility but you do need to have a vision and get past the parochial view that local councillors seem to be born with. At the last election, it was obvious the local parties had difficulty finding candidates and even then, being elected due to being the right party just means you can do very little but still maintain the right to say you represent ward x, when in fact, you are doing nothing of the kind, just check out your local councillor and see what they actually do. You might get a shock!

The ability to believe in everything you say and to say it with conviction will ensure your rise through the ranks will be rapid - whether it's true or not does not matter as truth and honesty are not considered high on the list.

Becoming an 'advisor' is more difficult but much more rewarding. You can influence policy and really make a difference without anyone actually knowing what is going on but stand back and say 'I did that' as it does not matter if it was the right thing to do, you achieved something without the hassle of getting elected or indeed anyone realising just how much good (evil) you have inflicted. It also helps to know the system as many things can be achieved without the democratic process getting in the way. A prime example is the decision to join a trading organisation to help the country do a bit of business. It was helped by asking the public if joining this trading partnership would be a good idea. Naturally, the advisors (remember them?) came up with a form of words that would suggest saying 'no' would not really be an option. 30+ years later, and the advisors got the result they wanted in the first place.

I hope this short article will give you all something to think about and over the next 4 years come to realise that the saying 'I can do better than that' is true and get involved

So, if you want a career for the long term, then politics has to be high on your list and get in early due to the long term nature of the job which also has a short term view on things.