

My career in brief...

Name: Matthew Wallace
Job title: Head Chef
Industry: Hotels
Company: Macdonald Botley Park Hotel

1. Please give a brief overview of your career history – where you started, how you progressed, the companies you have worked for etc

I started as a kitchen porter working in local restaurants. I completed a college Diploma in Professional Cookery. I gained experienced working in Switzerland, London, Canada and Australia. I worked for Marriott hotels for 9 years. I then worked my way up from Chef de Partie to Head Chef at Macdonalds.

2. Have you always wanted to work within hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism and why? If not, how did you end up where you are now?

Yes, since school. My nan was a dinner lady and had an influence on my chosen career.

'I enjoy working with a variety of people towards the same goal'

3. What sort of qualifications and training have you had and what else would you like to do?

I have a college Diploma, NVQs, various management courses, leadership programmes, Food Hygiene, COSHH and Health & Safety training.

4. What are the top 5 activities you would typically carry out on a daily basis?

Daily organisation meeting, daily ordering of stock, care and control of my staff, cooking requirements needed for the day.

5. What do you most enjoy about your job?

Working with a variety of different people towards the same goal.

6. What would you say is the biggest challenge you face on a daily basis?

Having the time to do everything, from cooking, paperwork, staffing issues etc.

7. What would you say is your biggest achievement to date?

Running a successful kitchen. Nurturing talent and retaining a good kitchen brigade.

'I had dinner with Raymond Blanc – what an honour and a fantastic experience!'

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8. Where do you see yourself in 5 years time?

In a senior management role within a 4/5 star establishment.

9. Do you have a favourite tale or most memorable moment from your career? If so, please tell us about it!

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10. What piece of advice would you offer someone who wants to work within our industries?

You have to work very, very hard to achieve something within this industry, but it will be worth it!

11. What would you say are the essential person characteristics for your job e.g. enthusiastic, team worker, proactive etc?

A team player, committed, hard working, understanding with sense of humour.

Further information

For further information on career opportunities at Macdonald Hotels & Resorts please visit www.macdonald-careers.co.uk.

For further information on career opportunities in the hotel or other hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism industries, please visit www.uksp.co.uk.



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