

Lisa Newton

Age: 26

Business: Boogles Ltd www.booglesltd.com

Lisa set up Boogles, a bookkeeping service, in 2004 the same month she graduated from City University, London. Today Boogles Ltd has a staff of ten and Lisa has already started a second venture, www.yurbroke.co.uk to help people find solutions to their money problems. Lisa thinks a lot of people struggle to get to grip with their finances because of poor financial education in schools.

Who has been the greatest inspiration to you?

Oprah Winfrey. She always has interesting people on her show and she gives back to the community. She touches a lot of people's lives with some of the subjects she covers. She came from the poor South and now she's one of the richest women in America. In fact the idea to start up my own business came to me when I saw self-help author and businessman Robert Kiyosaki on the Oprah Winfrey show back in 1999.

How well did you do at school?

I did well. I got 10 GSCEs (A*-B), 4 A-Levels (A-C), a First Class degree in Accounting and Marketing, and a Masters. I also did AAT NVQ Levels 2-4.

How important is success at school?

I didn't do Accounting and Marketing at school, so don't worry if there's nothing you like at school, as you can take on other subjects when you leave. It's not game over if you don't do as well as you'd hoped in your exams, as there are always other qualifications ahead of you – you just have to work at them.

The people I went to school with were great, but remember that when you leave time will fly, and there are lots more people to meet once you leave. The world's a big place, so get out there, meet new people and do new things.

Do you have any advice for any fellow young women thinking of starting their own business?

Encouraging people to think 'outside the box' about their finances is how I believe I can help. Many people work nine to five because they think that is what they should do, but there are other options and starting your own business is one of them. I often ask people, 'Do you want to make a living or make a fortune?'

Top Tips

Have a plan and read it aloud every day.

Learn how money works because they don't teach you that at school.

Do what you enjoy, which is normally what you're good at.