

Be your own man: Dan Coyle

I am Dan Coyle. I was born in 1955, so coming up to retirement.

I'm now going back in time to July 31, 1970, to my last day of school before I'm let loose on the big, wide world.

I am walking up the drive of Tapton Secondary School, in Crosspool, Sheffield. Coming towards me is me, aged 15, shoulder-length hair and quite a handsome chap.

This what I would say to him.

Firstly, I'd say: Hi Dan, I'm your future self and I'm here to put you on the right path. Carry on with the parks job that you start on Monday. You will be going to Hillsborough Park under Tommy Lloyd, a lovely man, but check out the lad Kevin. He is a bully and made my life a misery.

Secondly, listen to the experienced guys. Don't be cocky and be polite. You will do this job until 1979 when you move onto a fantastic job in the transport section.

There you get to drive everything from tractors to heavy lorries.

In 1984 you marry the love of your life and have a son, Rob. That will be the best decision you will make.

Thirdly, don't take redundancy in 1991 like I did. You will regret it every day.

Remember, be your own man. Don't be put upon, because you are as good as anybody and better than most .

Cherish your time on earth. It goes far too fast.

See you in 51 years. I will be waiting.