

Rumana leaves politics and children behind in pursuit of her goals



Rumana Begum, 28, left school and got married at the age of 16 and had not returned to education until she enrolled on a Beauty Therapy course at Tower Hamlets College.

“I didn’t even do my A Levels. My family were keen for me to get married at that age so I just found a job and didn’t really give it much thought. I had all sorts of different jobs, including working in market research for Michael Howard’s office when he was the leader of the Conservative party.”

After Howard was deposed as leader of the opposition, Rumana moved on but decided to take the plunge and return to education when she fell pregnant with her second child.

“After the birth, I decided to go back into education and enrolled in a NVQ Level 2 in Beauty Therapy as I had always wanted to work in the industry. I knew of the college as it was local and the adverts were sometimes in local newspapers.

Although it can be difficult to come back into education as an adult, I felt it was the only option for me if I want to achieve my life goals.”

On successfully completing her Level 2 qualification, Rumana’s teacher encouraged her to progress straight onto Level 3 and she is now studying a Level 2 VRQ (formerly NVQ) in Hairdressing.

“I have really enjoyed the courses, especially the practical side, and the teachers are always good with the way they pass on their experience to help you improve. I plan to get some work experience when my course finishes and salons always want potential employees to have qualifications in both Beauty Therapy and Hairdressing.”

Rumana wants to have her own salon business eventually and has even given some thought to going abroad and ‘Livin’ La Vida Loca’.

“Once I have the skills and some experience, I can do anything with it. I have always wanted to live in Spain and I think it could be a great place to set up a hair and beauty business. I just have to learn the language first!”