



CELEBRATING TEN YEARS OF ROSIE ACCOUNTING

What I've learnt...

You've taken the leap and set up business on your own. But what lies ahead and what will you need to be prepared for over the next few years?

I started Rosie Accounting in 2014, after years of studying and training to be a Chartered Accountant. I had worked for several people, and enjoyed the time I was an employee, but I knew that my goal was to be my own boss. I knew that there would be learning curves along the way, and I would need to make my own path as a business owner and employer.

As Rosie Accounting is celebrating its tenth year this year, I have taken time to reflect and consider what have I learned over the last decade.

To run your own business, the first thing you must be is motivated. If you are not a self-starter, motivated and keen to drive the business forward yourself, no one is going to be there to do it for you. It can, of course, be a bit scary at times, knowing that you are 100% responsible, and the buck stops with you. But that bit of fear can also become motivational and spur you on to be the best you can be. Of course, you may be working on your own or with a team, but when it's your own business, you will be doing lots of jobs – a different hat for a different hour/day/week! But at the end of the day, you are still your own boss.

I am fortunate enough to have a dedicated office space at home which enables me to separate work and homelife. With a busy family life with kids and pets, there is no way I could have been productive or focussed without a dedicated office in the house. Doing the job that I do, I wouldn't be able to pitch up on the kitchen worktop with my laptop. I needed a quiet room with a clear desk. A tidy desk is a tidy mind! I needed to work without risk of distractions, and of course somewhere I would be able to have focussed, confidential calls with clients and HMRC.

I'd like to think I am an organised person. Again, that comes with running a home with a husband, two kids, one hyperactive dog and two cats! But being able to plan, not just your day-to-day activities or month-by-month workload but planning your future plans for growth and development is absolutely key. For example, I wouldn't be able to take on new clients if I didn't have the right software and human resources in place ahead of time. If you plan your working day or week, you will see your productivity levels increase too. That's certainly what I have found. If you are juggling too many balls and trying to focus on too many things at once, I find that your work will take longer and you'll have too many things completed to a substandard level, rather than fewer things completed to

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a high standard. Less is more, as they say. Quality over quantity! It's not always easy to do, but it's worth it in the end.

Another thing I have learned along the way is that you need to do things your own way. Of course, you will take advice from others, do your research, and try different things out. But everyone is different, and what is right for one person, is totally wrong for another. I've certainly learned that over the last ten years. You find your own way, even if that means making a few mistakes along the way. But being your own boss, means you can do what is right for you.

I believe, no matter how long you've had your own company, we are all still learning. For me, keeping up with the changes in the accounting world, Government rules and regulations, employment law – it's forever changing and evolving and its essential to stay on top of it all.

Of course, we may all love what we do, but we still need a work life balance. All work and no play makes Vikki an unhappy accountant... Take a break! Holidays are important. Try to switch off, focus on yourself, your friends and family or whoever you are away with. Enjoy the time that you have off to recharge and recuperate. You'll be back at work before you know it.

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