

CONVERSATION & AFTERNOON TEA WITH SAMINA AZAM

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AFTERNOON TEA

Those of you who know me, will know one of my favourite past times is enjoying afternoon tea.

The artistry, tradition, venue and food but most of all the company. This is my virtual version of having a catch up with a friend over tea & cake.

Enjoy my conversation with

Myself !

Samina Azam

Founder Oculus Creative Learning



WELCOME TO OUR NINTH EDITION FEATURING - SAMINA AZAM

This is what I'm up to at the moment?

It's been a few weeks since I left my role at Microsoft, and what a few weeks it has been. Firstly, honouring the privilege of working for such an organisation is a milestone, that's how my journey has felt. People met, friendships made and connections built. Wow and the learning I have had access to.... You would think working in corporate for more than 20+ years would cover everything - nope, working for a tech company is a unique experience.

I am a lecturer with The Lifestyle Institute, who are delivering their second edition of their postgraduate for Personal Angels.



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Teaching Intelligence and Empowerment has been such a joy. Being a lifelong student and teacher, whilst aligning with an organisation who have the same ethos and values has been an honour and of the utmost importance to me. Our goal is one and the delivery of my lessons weaves the thread of development through authenticity and exposure.

Being the CEO of my own company, my own world is not only empowering but also a privilege, which I do not take lightly. This is the consequence of a lifetime of paying attention, working hard, listening and being in the arena. Saying Yes to opportunities that make me feel intensely uncomfortable and out of my comfort zone, for that is the space where learning and magic happens.

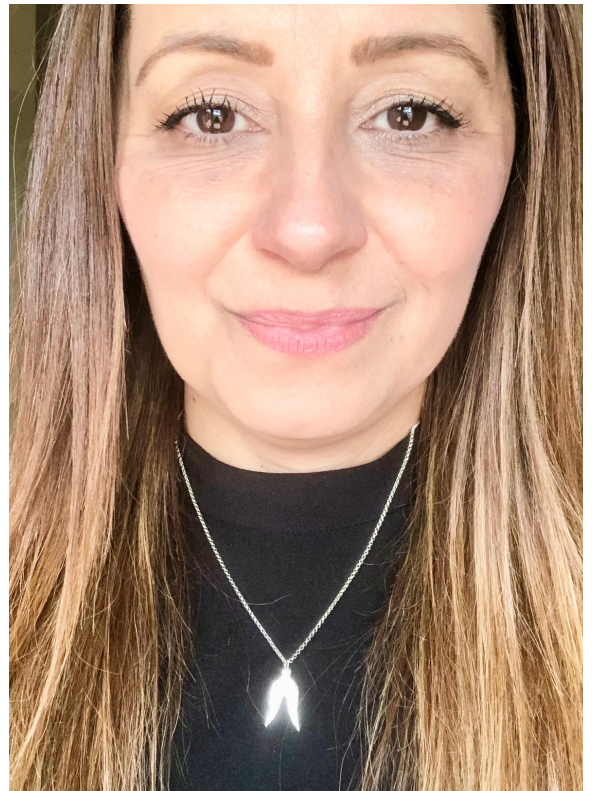
The work around Emotional Intelligence is a necessary one. Especially now, as we and the world heal together and create a different space.

I am watching/listening to?

I love crime dramas - full stop. I have just watched season two of Innocent on ITV. Line of Duty kept me gripped every Sunday evening. There is something very organic about having to watch a series in real time on a weekly basis.

My favourite tool/app?

There are so many excellent features, tools and platforms available. If we look at social media, LinkedIn and Instagram are my go to places. For my creative work, Canva is the tool I use to craft my work. I am enjoying learning more about Google Arts & Culture and Google



MY BEST LOVED CAKE, TEA, COFFEE OR VENUE?

This is a hard one to answer as I adore cafe's, tea and everything related to cake! I do have a favourite go to spot. The Daniels cafe in Windsor. This is a department store with the cutest cafe. For years, its been my go to place to read a magazine, write, people watch or simply enjoy a pot of tea and a delicious lemon meringue tart or a strawberry tart. These desserts look and taste so good. The staff, the atmosphere, service and smiles are all ingredients of a satisfied customers repeat custom. My next go to place would be Costa. I adore a chai latte.

#TeaWithSamina

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Lens. Microsoft OneNote is where I have my vision board, my safe and expressive space, my virtual collection of ideas, thoughts and dreams.

For connecting it has always been Microsoft Teams but more recently have also started to use Google Meet.

I have also enjoyed conversations over in Clubhouse. It took some getting used to not being able to have a camera to turn on! We have almost been conditioned to do this automatically.

I am reading

As my bookshelf overflows with books of every genre, size and texture, I am spoilt for choice. I have read, dipped in and out of so many books over the past months. Ones which I am actively reading are ones I have been recently gifted, The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse and The Magic Faraway Tree Collection. These books were part of my farewell, from my friends at Microsoft. Thank you Lesley and thank you Michelle.

WORDS OF WISDOM

A LETTER TO YOUR YOUNGER SELF WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

It makes me well up with emotion at the thought of seeing my younger self. So here goes...

Whilst being raised as an invisible girl, one who should be seen and not heard, one whose identity was always in question.

Brave girl, stand tall for you possess so many exquisite qualities. Your essence of belief in others, the purity of truth may present you with some challenges. Fear not for you are strong, you have nurtured and grown yourself to be wise, way too early and beyond your years.

Live your life with conviction, laughter and authenticity. Dance in the rain and rejoice in the sun. Give yourself the gift of time and self care, Explore your creative side and follow your passion. Yes you have the talent to be a designer, Keep the business cards you printed
#EasternShimmer

Travel the world, enjoy every experience and culture. Learn always. Set your sights high and don't be shy to reach for the sky. You own your future, believe in yourself and don't let anyone shut you down. People will tell you your not good enough and it will hurt. It hurts every time, I remember. Don't listen to them. You're a warrior woman.

I love you and I am proud of the person you have become x



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Happiness means?

Chatting, laughing and connecting with family, friends, my network and loved ones. Doing so around a table with tea, coffee and dessert is an absolute bonus.

Being able to hug someone means everything, more than we could have ever known.

A country I would love to visit?

Italy. Rome holds a very special place in my heart. I travelled there 5 years ago with my wonderful friend. The memories captured, the laughter, the food, the, well just everything was perfectly exquisite.

A favourite quote?

"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years. "

- Abraham Lincoln

In this moment I feel...

Blessed to have the ability to live such a joyous life. Life is not without heartbreak, hurt and failure. However, when we turn each into a lesson, a message and a learning we have the capacity of clarity, mindfulness and strength.

Connect with Me:



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GOAL/VISION

A VISION/GOAL I AM GOING TO MAKE HAPPEN THIS YEAR

Creating and delivering my own Emotional Intelligence programme. This piece of work has been compiled and crafted not only from life experience but 20+ years of corporate learning along with the world of education and charity.

I am looking forward to launching the programme very soon. I am beyond excited with how it has all come together, the look and feel of each word, the intelligence, the graphics and the delivery. Each piece, each session will be bespoke and authentic.

A vision I strive to continue throughout my journey.

#TeaWithSamina