

## Nuggets and Bright Lines

- Allow yourself time to reflect
- Recognise opportunity
- Be a student
- Keep the main thing the main thing



## Chris Hughton Wisdom

In his Coaches Voice article 'Forward Facing' Chris Hughton offers some gems of wisdom from his reflections after losing his job at Brighton.

### Reflection

He speaks wisely of allowing yourself to use the periods of adversity or down time to reflect in order to move forward. As many a wise man has said, to keep doing the same thing and expecting a different result may be the height of insanity.

### Opportunity

'There is a tide in the affairs of men, which when taken at the flood leads on to fortune...'

He talks of the windows of opportunity in his life that are often narrow and rare. At the beginning of his playing career his chance of becoming a full time professional was seemingly almost removed when he wasn't offered terms. His response? To take the opportunity of evening training as an amateur whilst working a job. The result? An offer of a contract two years later. How many would have given up at this point?

He speaks of the same windows opening up for his management career that one has to take when they arise.

### Learning

Chris looks back at his time as a player and talks of how in looking back he learnt from Keith Burkinshaw the art of creating a great team from a collection of outstanding individuals like Hoddle, Ardiles and Villa.

## Mastery

He comments on how his career after playing was a slow rise of fourteen years at Spurs as a coach with seven different managers, learning from each of them before his opportunity at Newcastle came along. The transition from player to manager, as he alludes to, is notoriously challenging. He states that the 'extended coaching apprenticeship' he experienced was invaluable in this regard. As all the masters say time and time again. The only shortcut is this: there are no shortcuts. Period.

## Adversity

'If you can keep your head when all around you are losing theirs and blaming it on you...'

At Newcastle Chris talks about the period of adversity when the club were relegated from The Premier League and his biggest lesson in keeping the main thing the main thing during the turbulence. What a powerful lesson this is for us. No matter what the squad had to be coached and that was his focus. What is yours?

Credit for the inspiration for this article goes to Chris Hughton 'Forward Facing' on The Coaches Voice. <https://www.coachesvoice.com/chris-hughton-brighton-newcastle-tottenham/>

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## The Author

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