

# THE FUTURE OF WORKING: 2036

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## The fall of the fun factor

Remote working could threaten  
social interaction; but power is in  
employees' hands

With a sizeable shift towards remote working predicted over the next 25 years, the global workforce might be heading for a future free from physical interaction with colleagues, clients and customers alike. According to the latest research by Office Angels into the changing face of employment, 54% of employees believe that the future workforce may never physically meet other members of their team; 39% believe that new recruits will start work without meeting their managers; and 38% doubt whether employees will ever meet their boss.

This might sound like a dream scenario to anyone that loves to get their head down and work alone, but 39% of people worry that less social interaction could make work less enjoyable.

If the office environment becomes a thing of the past - as predicted by a quarter (25%) of those surveyed - the annual Christmas party might be a distant memory; coffee machine chats could be limited to virtual cafes; and office romances may potentially fizzle out for good. For some, work provides a social scene where friendships are made, like-minded people relate, and colleagues share knowledge, ideas and approaches. It will therefore be important for employees to maintain communication with their colleagues, and to perhaps arrange their own social outings. As long as workers are prepared to take this responsibility upon themselves, there's no reason why they should lose out on the important relationships that are built through work - both personal and professional.

The positives of remote working can of course be found in increased autonomy, flexible working and the end of the morning commute; but with a predicted explosion in new technologies making it possible for employees to be contacted at any time of the day or night, workers will have to give themselves time to switch off from the office - however virtual that office may be.

Communication between colleagues could lessen, as people rely on virtual contact over and above face-to-face interaction; but for those reluctant to lose the social perk of their professional lives, these skills can be maintained if they continue to be nurtured. The ability to communicate effectively will always add value, regardless of working practices; but these will need to be teamed with solid IT proficiency, advanced organisation skills, and the ability to manage one's own workload.

Stand out from the crowd in a  
global jobs market

With that in mind, Office Angels has created the Education Zone - an online training tool that provides workers with an opportunity to build on the sort of skills that will be highly prized in a competitive future market. With over 7,000 training modules at all levels and across all specialisms, every skills gap is accounted for.

For details, contact your local Office Angels consultant,  
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