

**gfirst**<sup>®</sup>  
growing gloucestershire

# re<sup>the</sup>searcher

>> **Dr. Steven Walker** Director  
General of Campden BRI.

Founded in 1919, as an arm of  
Bristol University, the Campden  
site quickly became known as  
the leading UK authority on the  
processing of canned foods.

The fledgling research station grew rapidly,  
moving into the new science of frozen foods in  
the 1950s and thereafter branching out into all  
areas of food processing and preservation.

Having recently celebrated its 90th anniversary  
and employing 380 scientific researchers and  
undertaking development for the many industries  
associated with agriculture, food and drink  
manufacture, distribution, retailing and food  
service Campden BRI is widely regarded as the  
world's leading food research company.

**Campden BRI**   
food and drink innovation

[www.gfirst.co.uk](http://www.gfirst.co.uk)



# Q&A

“Great achievement takes place in the form of great expectation”

**Dr. Steven Walker // Director General**

Describe yourself in three words:

**Integrity, enthusiastic, approachable.**

Being such a niche industry, do you find local skilled staff hard to find?

**We attract graduates from external colleges. They are often from the area originally but want to come back to the area. We find graduates leave and then come back to what they know. We also have great links with local schools. We regularly have the kids here where we will have days out to show them what we are doing here at ‘that science place’. We do careers evenings and work experience. We are the largest employer locally so we hire the majority of our admin staff from this area. They tend to stay for a very long time.**

What’s unique about living and working in Gloucestershire?

**You have the opportunity to have a great work/life balance, you can be all cosmopolitan in Cheltenham during the day and have the chance to walk in the countryside in the same day. There is a great mix. We have the best countryside here as well as the best villages. Also there are great schools here.**

What do you think are the key benefits of being based in Gloucestershire?

**As a business we have contacts all over the country, therefore being in a centrally-based location means that we are not far away from them. Because of this, our clients often arrange to meet on our premises as we are generally around two hours’ travelling time from most locations.**

What advice would you give to an aspiring local entrepreneur?

**Truly understand your clients and truly understand your products.**

What’s the best advice you’ve ever been given?

**Great achievement takes place in the form of great expectation.**

Where would we find you on a lazy day off?

**I’m an unpaid taxi driver for the kids at the weekend, but I also like to grow vegetables and potter in the garden.**