



### Inspiring a younger generation into STEM and the Aviation Industry

**Our goal:** Inspiring young people to explore careers in STEM and aviation, to support and encourage their future career choices.

**How can you help?** By sharing your story

Name & job role:	Amy Breckell – Project Manager
What did you enjoy doing when you were younger?	Playing the piano, going to Air Cadets, riding my bicycle and climbing trees with friends, reading books.
What were your favourite subjects in school? Why?	History as I find learning about the past and the lessons learnt interesting. Psychology as I enjoy interacting with people and learning about how they work. Law as I enjoy the challenge of creating arguments to back up my point of view.
What or who inspired you to study these?	I picked topics which I found enjoyable and interesting so that when I had to study it did not feel like a chore.
Did you do work experience? Where and did it help in choosing your career path?	In the Air Cadets I became a staff cadet at an airfield. This meant that I spent most weekends getting cadets ready for their air experience flight as well as delivering safety briefings. This furthered my interest in aviation.
What was your first job?	In university I was a member of the University Air Squadron, this requires an interview to join and you receive a small payment. This gave me a bit of pocket money throughout university and then my first job was at the Civil Aviation Authority as a Safety Improvement Analyst.
How did you arrive where you are in your career?	I have always been interested in aviation and all my extra curricula was to do with it, when younger I had been an active member of the Air Cadets, the University Air Squadron and I



**STEM**

OPPORTUNITIES IN AVIATION



	<p>gained a scholarship from the Light Aircraft Association to complete my private pilot's licence. I also volunteered with the Light Aircraft Association helping at events. I did a degree and a master's in psychology and during my masters my dissertation was about critical decision making in unmanned aircraft. I started working at the Civil Aviation Authority using my statistical skills in the analysis department and as I love dealing with people and challenges, I successfully sought opportunities to move into project management.</p>
<p>What do you love about your current job?</p>	<p>As a project manager I love that every day is different as the project is always at a different stage, I enjoy the rush of dealing with challenges and that I get to interact with a wide range of experts and learn about all aspects of the organisation.</p>
<p>What were the biggest challenges/barriers you had to overcome?</p>	<p>I was advised in school that I should apply to a university that had lower acceptance grades, however I was determined to succeed and applied to the university and course I was inspired by. I worked hard to make sure I was successful in achieving the grades required and prepared fully for interviews.</p>
<p>Who have you looked up to and why?</p>	<p>My parents who when I was younger owned clothes shops and I spent a lot of my childhood in the shops. When the shops were closed, we would be visiting warehouses to buy stock. Their hard work ethic has stuck with me. Then when I started work, I was in meeting with a lady who inspired me as I thought she came up with so many good points, which whilst I understood the logic of all these points, I was left thinking "why am I not coming up with these points". We ended up having a chat and she reminded me that she had 15 years' experience compared to my few months. This chat developed into mentorship and friendship; and I am inspired to always try and add value in meetings and not be afraid to speak up.</p>
<p>What is your ambition?</p>	

	<p>Due to my interest in aviation, my ambition is to support that sector and play a role in shaping the industry, helping ensure challenges are overcome and opportunities are explored.</p>
<p>What is the best advice you were given?</p>	<p>That everyone is just human at the end of the day, never be scared to speak to anyone in the organisation regardless of their seniority, if you share a lift with them or have the opportunity engage them in conversation you can ask them things like what are they interested in / working on / worried about.</p>
<p>What advice would you give a younger you?</p>	<p>Work hard and be smart about what you want to do when you grow up. I know it can be difficult to know exactly what you want to do, and you might change your mind a few times. Take time to understand what you enjoy and what motivates you. Have some sort of plan for yourself whether that be where you want to go to university, what to study or some volunteering you want to do. It's important to be decisive about what you want in your life and just go for it whilst being open to any opportunities that may arise.</p>



Thank you for sharing your journey.