

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:	Christopher Mason Flight Standards Officer – Air Display Team
What did you enjoy doing when you were younger?	Playing badminton and travel
What were your favourite subjects in school? Why?	Geography and History Geography: I have always had a desire to travel and explore the world. History: I have a great deal of interest in worldwide historical life events, whether that be from medieval times to current politics.
What or who inspired you to study these?	No one inspired me as such. As stated above, it was my own personal interest that steered me to study these subjects in greater detail.
Did you do work experience? Where and did it help in choosing your career path?	Having always wanted to travel and work in aviation, my career commenced on what was the UK Government Youth Training Scheme (YTS). I worked a year's placement with British Airways (1984-85), where at the end they offered me a full-time position.
What was your first job?	My first full time job was with British Airways, working in Flight Operations.
How did you arrive where you are in your career?	Having worked in aviation since 1985, my career path has taken me from a major national carrier (1985-1996) to a cargo charter operator (1996-2001), then on to a global aviation telecoms company (2001-2013) and then to a European airlines trade association (2013-2020). Finally, I joined the CAA in March 2020.
What do you love about your current job?	The investigation side, whether that be assessing an air display application or

	investigating an ABNL and/or MOR (undertaken on behalf of the Ops Team)
What were the biggest challenges/barriers you had to overcome?	In my current role it was gaining a wider appreciation of the air display regulation (CAP403), something I had very little exposure too in the past.
Who have you looked up to and why?	Sorry, difficult to answer as over the years there have been quite a few for various reasons. Therefore, it is difficult to nail it down to a selected few!
What is your ambition?	To remain at the CAA, where I hope to secure a full-time and permanent role, that will allow my career path to continue here.
What is the best advice you were given?	Work hard, be polite and appreciative of others, look smart and you will be recognised.
What advice would you give a younger you?	If an opportunity presents itself, go for it! Try not to doubt your abilities as you may have more to offer than you realise.

Any additional comments:

Having worked at the CAA for a relatively short period of time, I have been both impressed and overwhelmed by the level of teamwork and support from all colleagues within the GAU and outside.

The CAA has always been 'on my radar' as a place to work and now that I am (finally) here, I have not been disappointed !



Thank you for sharing your journey.