

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:	Rachel Gardner-Poole Head of General Aviation, but currently on secondment to the UK Space Agency
What did you enjoy doing when you were younger?	I loved looking at planes in the sky and always wanted to fly and be a pilot.
What were your favourite subjects in school? Why?	Maths and physics
What or who inspired you to study these?	I didn't have a very good memory and didn't really like reading. I found that with maths, I could work it out without needing to learn as much information.
Did you do work experience? Where and did it help in choosing your career path?	I worked in a travel agent as I'd always to fly and travel.
What was your first job?	I was a Scientist – mathematical modelling of submarines. It was ideal as, not only did I do maths which I loved, I also got to travel and spent many weeks in the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Florida and Washington DC.
How did you arrive where you are in your career?	After spending several years doing mathematical modelling of submarines, aircraft and cruise missiles, I moved into a management position. I also trained to be a commercial pilot and whilst I haven't flown commercially, the knowledge has been invaluable to my jobs over the last 10 years.
What do you love about your current job?	The variety – and that it is focused on aviation and, whilst I'm on secondment, Space. Both are things I'm passionate about.



What were the biggest challenges/barriers you had to overcome?	My own mindset. I used to think the things I wanted to do (learn to fly, live in other countries & travel) were impossible or that I wasn't good enough.
Who have you looked up to and why?	My dad – he was very humble and has always worked really hard & challenged other people when things didn't seem right.
What is your ambition?	To be the CEO of a Charity.
What is the best advice you were given?	It doesn't matter if you fail – that's how you learn. The most important thing is that you have done your best.
What advice would you give a younger you?	No dream is too big & always have a plan or a list of things you want to achieve in life. Put the list somewhere you'll see it every day.

Any additional comments:



Thank you for sharing your journey.