

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:	Ed Weston, Head of Environmental Research and Consultancy Department.
What did you enjoy doing when you were younger?	Playing piano and drums in bands, using computers to create music and manipulate sounds, mountain biking, drawing and painting.
What were your favourite subjects in school? Why?	I enjoyed maths and physics for how they help us to understand the world we live in. I also loved music and art for self-expression and creativity.
What or who inspired you to study these?	My mum was an artist and my dad an engineer, so together they inspired me to have broad interests and I chose the subjects I loved.
Did you do work experience? Where and did it help in choosing your career path?	I worked part-time at a retail and trade painting and decorating supply shop as a teenager. It helped me realise I enjoyed interacting with people and helping them using the technical knowledge I'd built up.
What was your first job?	Acoustic Consultant at Bickerdike Allen Partners, an acoustics and architecture practice in London.
How did you arrive where you are in your career?	Keeping an open mind to the range of technical niches that exist in the field of acoustics and having the courage to follow my heart to a path that I didn't originally see myself on.
What do you love about your current job?	The variety of people I work and engage with, the technical and political challenges, supporting and being supported by my team, and working professionally and purposefully.
What were the biggest challenges/barriers you had to overcome?	Self-doubt in some areas, and perfectionism getting in the way of growth and progress in others.
Who have you looked up to and why?	The technical directors I reported to earlier in my career, and more recently innovators and instigators of change in the world where they have good values and act with integrity. The artists who create the things that uplift and inspire me.

What is your ambition?	To be the best version of myself, professionally and personally, and to help and inspire others to be their best versions too.
What is the best advice you were given?	We are not defined by what we do, that our best learning may come from failure, and that feedback is a gift.
What advice would you give a younger you?	Seek to develop your self-awareness, understand what may be holding you back in certain areas and compassionately work to overcome them.



Thank you for sharing your journey.