

## 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:	Emily Cottrill Project Support Officer
What did you enjoy doing when you were younger?	I really enjoyed all sport including running and football, but particularly netball which I still play today, as well as anything creative – drawing, crafting, sewing.
What were your favourite subjects in school? Why?	My favourite subjects were Maths – problem solving, Geography - learning about the world around me and, Art – an escape to tap into my creative side.
What or who inspired you to study these?	My teachers, who made me realise that you don't have to choose between creative subjects and technology subjects by showing me how diverse subjects can complement each other.
Did you do work experience? Where and did it help in choosing your career path?	I went to observe air traffic control operations at both NATS Prestwick Control Centre and Leeds Bradford Airport Control Tower. I wanted to see how different part of the aviation industry interacted. This helped me to decide that I wanted to pursue a career in aviation, and what path to take.
What was your first job?	My first job was working in a bridal shop which I enjoyed very much. It built my confidence in the working world.
How did you arrive where you are in your career?	In my final years at school I decide that I wanted to pursue a career in aviation, so I went on to study Aviation Technology and Management at the University of Leeds. After that, I trained to become a commercial pilot and gained my first commercial flying job with Flybe in 2020. I was made redundant from



	<p>Flybe in March 2021, and as the Covid pandemic hit, I wanted to diversify my skills and knowledge. Building on from the Management side of my degree, I gained a job as a Project Support Officer in the NHS, then a Programme Coordinator with the NHS, and then finally I gained the position of Project Support Officer with the CAA very happily returning to the aviation industry will new skills in tow and an appetite to expand my knowledge further.</p>
<p>What do you love about your current job?</p>	<p>I love that each day is different, I am always working on new tasks with new people, and I love that I am always learning. I never want a job where days are predictable.</p>
<p>What were the biggest challenges/barriers you had to overcome?</p>	<p>My two biggest challenges were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Feeling like I was held to higher standards and needed to earn my place in the industry as a minority.</li> <li>2. The loss of my job in aviation through reasons out of my control as the industry was hit so hard the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.</li> </ol>
<p>Who have you looked up to and why?</p>	<p>I have always looked up to the work ethic and positive mindset of my parents. They have always encouraged me to see unexpected changes and challenges as opportunities. As well, I admire lots of sportswomen who show the physical and mental strength that women do have.</p>
<p>What is your ambition?</p>	<p>My biggest ambition is to make the aviation industry more appealing and welcoming to women and girls.</p>
<p>What is the best advice you were given?</p>	<p>You can only do your best.</p>
<p>What advice would you give a younger you?</p>	<p>Don't worry about things not going to plan, plan less and allow any changes to be opportunities to discover more about yourself.</p>

Any additional comments:



Thank you for sharing your journey.