

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:	Damien Walker- Health and Safety Advisor
What did you enjoy doing when you were younger?	Camping, swimming and surfing.
What were your favourite subjects in school? Why?	Science, IT and History
What or who inspired you to study these?	Science fiction books (Isaac Asimov, Frank Herbert), computer games, Military history
Did you do work experience? Where and did it help in choosing your career path?	I worked at a letting agency, and learned about team work.
What was your first job?	Lifeguard at a recreation centre.
How did you arrive where you are in your career?	I was made redundant during the pandemic, and retrained in health and safety in my mid-30s. I worked in property as a H&S co-ordinator and a consultant before joining the CAA.
What do you love about your current job?	I enjoy working to ensure people are safe in in their workplace, and within various parts of aviation around the country and the world.
What were the biggest challenges/barriers you had to overcome?	I have dyslexia, and during the 90's I was I was not well supported. Changing careers and going back to studying during my 30s.
Who have you looked up to and why?	I have looked up to my father who is an interior designer, had to learn CAD 20 years ago at ages



STEM

OPPORTUNITIES IN AVIATION



	50 to modernise with the industry, which was a hard thing to do.
What is your ambition?	I would like to continue studying in health and safety, first in a Diploma, then onto a Masters. I may decide to specialise in aviation safety for that.
What is the best advice you were given?	“Keep the faith” – don’t give up, by my father.
What advice would you give a younger you?	just because your struggling to learn now doesn’t mean you learn continue to learn as an adult. Take you time, don’t rush.



Thank you for sharing your journey.