

*Ambassador Profiles*

*Name: Charlotte Bailey*

*Occupation: Laboratory Analyst*

*What were your interests when you were at school?*

*At school I was interested in sports and Product Design; I spent the majority of my dinner times either in the PE block or working on my Design folder! I even carried my Design subject through to A level...then ended up doing something completely different after I left school. I enjoyed Science at school, but it wasn't a passion at that age, it took me being a little older to properly appreciate the subject, and now it's my job!*

*As a student were you able to take advantage of any STEM type activities outside the usual school timetable?*

*Yes, we often took part in STEM activities, although they weren't as well known or as well advertised when I was in school. I took part in various activities with STEM, but the main ones that stick in my mind are the Hovercraft Day for Girls and one I did when I was in primary school, which involved building a structure to hold a weighted load...(our team won!)*

*If so, how did this influence your career path?*

*Yes, around 17 I decided that university wasn't for me, but applied anyway (I applied for English, Design and Media and was accepted at various universities) I looked into other options and one idea I had from STEM activity days was to do with engineering/science. On further thought I looked into apprenticeships and found GENII did a wide variety, I applied for the scientific, and got in!*

*What are your roles and responsibilities in your workplace now?*

*My role is to delivery of analytical services to a variety of customers who send us a variety of samples. We receive anything from pond waters to nasty chemicals you wouldn't want to touch! Many of the things you learn in school I can use in my work place, such as pH determination and chromatography, but I have learned so many more interesting techniques as well. I am currently learning more of the safety and documentation side to the laboratory, the opportunities are endless.*

*Why did you decide to become an STEM ambassador?*

*I always enjoyed STEM activity days and that is probably the main reason I decided to become an ambassador, I thought: If I enjoyed learning it when I was younger, it must be as fun to teach it... And it definitely is fun to show young people new things, and so satisfying when you are asked question about your experiences to be*

*able to answer with advice that hopefully will help someone make a great decision about their future.*

*What do you feel are the positive outcomes of being a STEM Ambassador?*

*For yourself?*

*Being able to give knowledge to people who don't have the same experiences as you, or may not know where to look for opportunities. If you haven't done a particular activity before, you can end up learning something too!*

*For the pupils taking part in the activity?*

*When you see pupils in a group arguing over the best way to make a structure, or the best solution to a problem, you know then that they are really engaged and even though it might not feel like learning to them, they will definitely take something away from the day.*

*For the teaching staff accompanying the pupils?*

*For the teaching staff it will be a nice break from the regular way of teaching, a new way to teach a part of the syllabus, it may also give the teachers thoughts on different ways to teach other classes, whether older or younger, with mixed abilities, or even with different subjects.*

*Which STEM activity have you enjoyed the most and why?*

*I enjoy all the STEM activities that we do, however, the one I have enjoyed the most is the Hovercraft day. I have chosen this as the most enjoyable because of how fun it is, as it is very hands on, and the pupils are in direct competition with the teachers! Pupils work in groups so can bounce ideas off each other. It incorporates design elements and engineering elements. I have been lucky enough to experience this from 2 points of view, as a pupil (around 13/14 years old) AND as an ambassador.*

*What was your role in this activity?*

*My role as an ambassador in Hovercraft day was to provide help, pointers or tips where needed. I think it is also important to bond with the pupils as much as you can as they become more receptive to what you have to say.*

*Do you think being a STEM Ambassador has enhanced your career in anyway?*

*Yes, for example, I have been fortunate enough to take part in a short film regarding my role as an ambassador, my work as an ambassador also contributed to my winning the HG Davey Award, an award to celebrate successful apprentices in my workplace. My role has also led me to be recognised for various other opportunities at work, such as an invitation to the First Womens Awards in London by our Director of Engineering.*

*Do you have any advice for people who are considering becoming a STEM ambassador?*

***My only advice would be, give it a try, and; the more effort you put with the pupils, the more they will gain out of it and the more you will gain out of it with regards to satisfaction that you could have a positive influence on a young persons life.***