

*Ambassador Profiles*

*Name Claire Jones*

*Occupation: Mechanical Project Engineer*

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

*I was good at Maths and the Sciences but I also really enjoyed art – especially painting and reading travel and mountaineering books.*

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

*I took part in the Royal Academy of Engineering, Engineering Education Scheme in sixth form. I was part of a team of 4 that worked with GKN Westland Helicopters of a helicopter simulator seat.*

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

*It made me aware of the variety of careers within engineering open to me.*

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

*Managing projects from the design stage to commissioning and handing new equipment over to plant. Projects could be replacing a plant roof, camera system or installing new railway barriers.*

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

*There are so many myths surrounding careers in engineering and manufacturing I wanted to speak to students about what a career in engineering is really like and bust those myths.*

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

*For yourself?*

*I get to meet other engineers and have fun taking part in the activities*

*For the pupils taking part in the activity?*

*Pupils are able to try hands on activities that show them the variety of careers that exist within the STEM subjects and ask questions to real engineers and scientists*

*For the teaching staff accompanying the pupils?*

*The STEM subject are constantly evolving, which in turn results in new jobs being created all the time. STEM days allow teachers an opportunity to keep up to date with careers and ask the STEM ambassadors questions. I believe this is increasingly important with non STEM teachers. The better we can educate teachers the better careers advice will be.*

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

Girls in Engineering Day in 2012, where a real rocket ship visited and we made plasma in a microwave.

*What was your role in this activity?*

*I organised the event with support from our local STEM centre in Cumbria.*

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

*It has given me greater confidence in presenting to large numbers of people - to students, teachers and engineers. This is directly transferable to work.*

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

*Go For It! Not only will you be helping the next generation but you will have fun doing it.*