

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:	Nicola Keeble International Programme Manager
What did you enjoy doing when you were younger?	I enjoyed being outdoors; climbing trees and making dens within our local woods. Which is why I ended up joining the Brownies followed by the Girl Guides. I also enjoyed drawing, crafts, baking and writing programmes on the Acorn computer.
What were your favourite subjects in school? Why?	Maths because I actually enjoyed doing algebra and trigonometry. Chemistry because I liked playing with the equipment and watching how different materials react with each other. And also, arts and crafts because I like using my hands and was quite creative.
What or who inspired you to study these?	Very independent person and like to make my own decisions and judgements so I tended to embrace school and learning.
Did you do work experience? Where and did it help in choosing your career path?	I have undertaken various work experiences over my younger years and as an older teenager, I actually did some work experience for the Civil Aviation Authority. One of my parents worked in aviation and being local to the airport, I just naturally fell into an aviation role and started working for one of the big UK operators at 19 years.
What was your first job?	My first job was a Saturday checkout operator for Tesco's which I started when I was 15.
How did you arrive where you are in your career?	After nearly 8 years within a major UK operator I was made redundant. I took the opportunity to return into education where I gained a 2:1 Business and Marketing Degree.



	<p>I then applied for a Technical Support job within the Civil Aviation Authority for which you needed a Degree. Learning and developing my knowledge, I move into a training coordination role and then into project management.</p> <p>18 years later I am still here and now a Programme Manager supporting within two International areas.</p>
<p>What do you love about your current job?</p>	<p>Being able to interact with different nationalities and cultures</p>
<p>What were the biggest challenges/barriers you had to overcome?</p>	<p>Initially, transitioning and adapting your ways of working from an open relaxed business culture into a rigid bureaucratic culture.</p> <p>Learning to spot bullying within the workplace and having the confidence to positively come out the other side.</p>
<p>Who have you looked up to and why?</p>	<p>I would say my Nan (on my mother's side). My sister and I spent a lot of time with our grandparents and she taught me a lot of my cooking skills.</p>
<p>What is your ambition?</p>	<p>To be in a role where I can help develop and motivate others to be able to achieve their own goals.</p> <p>And ...to ensure my pension is sufficient so I can retire at 60!</p>
<p>What is the best advice you were given?</p>	<p>Give it a go Don't ask you don't get.</p>
<p>What advice would you give a younger you?</p>	<p>Do things that are right for you and not how other people will see / think of you.</p>

Any additional comments:

I am also volunteer for a youth club, where I am a Detachment Commander and Duke of Edinburg Leader for Sussex Army Cadet Force where I am, ultimately achieving my ambition.



STEM

OPPORTUNITIES IN AVIATION



Civil Aviation
Authority



Thank you for sharing your journey.