

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:	Adelle Roberts Performance Based Oversight Lead
What did you enjoy doing when you were younger?	I grew up in North Yorkshire, I spent most of my childhood outdoors enjoying the beautiful countryside. I had my first flying lesson when I was 14 and continued enjoying the beautiful countryside from the sky.
What were your favourite subjects in school? Why?	Maths was always my favourite and probably still is. To be pilot you need to know your 3 times table. I also studied Psychology, which I still use when applying the complexity of the human mind to Human Factors in Aviation.
What or who inspired you to study these?	I was always encouraged to study subjects that I was good at. That was good advice. I was drawn to STEM subjects probably because my father and brother are engineers.
Did you do work experience? Where and did it help in choosing your career path?	Yes – whilst I was doing my Degree, I did a placement in London with BBC good food. I learned 2 things <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I didn't want to live in London – I need countryside • I wanted to go flying
What was your first job?	My first full time job was as Cabin Crew for British Midland. I was so eager to start flying I missed my own University graduation ceremony because I was doing my Cabin Crew training. Absolutely no regrets about that.
How did you arrive where you are in your career?	I stayed in my Cabin Crew job for a year and then went to Australia to complete my Airline Transport Licence with British Aerospace. When I returned to the UK, I was offered jobs as a Pilot with 3 different airlines. I accepted a job

	<p>flying the Fokker jet for British Midland based at East Midlands Airport. I stayed with British Midland for 6 years and flew the Boeing 737, Airbus 319, 320 and 321 in that time. I then joined Virgin Atlantic and flew Airbus 340 and 330. After 22 years flying as a Commercial Airline Pilot, I am at a point now where I feel I have so much I can give back to industry. I joined the CAA in April 2021 and my role allows me to share my knowledge and experience to help uphold the highest possible standards in UK Aviation.</p>
<p>What do you love about your current job?</p>	<p>As I Pilot, I looked after 1000's of people, keeping them safe as they travelled on my aircraft. The responsibility of a Commercial Pilot is huge but since I have joined the CAA, I feel an enormous sense of pride that the work we do not only seeks to protect the UK public but also influences Global Aviation Safety.</p>
<p>What were the biggest challenges/barriers you had to overcome?</p>	<p>During the Covid pandemic I was made redundant from my Pilot job with Virgin Atlantic. I briefly mourned the loss of my career and then decided to use it as a catalyst for change. I started a Master's degree in Emergency Management and Resilience. I was also able to use my transferable skills as a Human Factors instructor to get a job within the Civil Service training new Work Coaches for the Department For Work and Pensions. This enabled me to learn new skills whilst playing my part in supporting the UK through the unemployment crisis caused by the virus.</p>
<p>Who have you looked up to and why?</p>	<p>My brother. He taught me to fly when I was 14. He joined the RAF as a pilot, but he sadly lost his aircrew medical and transitioned into engineering. Despite this setback early in his career it never held him back and he had an impressive career in the Airforce.</p>
<p>What is your ambition?</p>	<p>I'd really like to go to Space. In fact, I'd really like to be the pilot of the Spaceship, but I think that's for the next generation of Pilots to enjoy.</p>
<p>What is the best advice you were given?</p>	<p>I was told I would never be a pilot because I didn't have the aptitude. This was the best advice because it gave me determination I needed to succeed.</p>

What advice would you give a younger you?

I wouldn't change what I have done, so my advice to myself would be study what you are good at and enjoy, choose a job you love.



Thank you for sharing your journey.