Name: Hannah
Hometown: Darlington
Job Title: Software Engineer
Company: SiXworks

Fun fact about me: I’ve got two ponies!

What was your dream job when you were 10?
I always wanted to be a vet!

What do you do now?
I design and create software (mobile/web apps) for the Defence industry.

Why is your area of STEM important?
Working in the Defence industry you get to work on some really cool projects – not just for the military, but there are opportunities in aerospace, police, counter terrorism etc.

Can it get much better than knowing that your software will help protect others?

How does your job link to Computing?
As a Software Engineer most of my day is spent working with computer technology, however the ways in which I interact with the technology varies from designing applications to actually creating and testing them!

What do you do day-to-day in your job?
I usually work 8:30am-4:30pm most days. My time is currently split across different projects so my days can vary quite significantly. Sometimes I spend most of my day writing code, solving problems and researching new ideas/technologies. Other days, I might spend more of my day in team meetings, planning work and presenting to customers.

I am also a STEM ambassador and am helping to organise our new graduate programme. I love the variation my job offers.

What is your favourite part of your job?
The thing I love most about my job is the fact that I work in the Defence sector – I’m constantly being challenged, every day is different, and I love the sense of reward knowing that what I’m doing is going to make a real difference!

**What challenges do you face in your job?**

As a Software Engineer there one of the main challenges you face is rapid technology advancement – trying to keep up with the most up to date technology can be tough, but it means there is always something new to learn!

**What skills help you in your job?**

A lot of the skills I have I’ve learnt on the job, however problem solving and the ability to work in a team are key! If you are passionate about the job and your personal development, then you can succeed in any role.

**What subjects would I have to take in school to do your job?**

A lot of people think that to become a Software Engineer you need to come from a computing background – but this is definitely not the case! Taking any STEM subject is a good place to start as you will learn to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills which can then be applied to software engineering.

**Why should more women and girls choose STEM?**

I love my job for a variety of reasons, the main one being is that you get the change to working with cutting edge technology. Knowing that what I’m creating will contribute to help solve real world problems, if something I really thrive off.

When working in STEM every day is a challenge, you are continually learning and developing your skills to be the best you can be.

**My challenge for you:**

*Zoom in, zoom out*

#1:
**Answer: Typhoon**

The Typhoon is a multi-role combat aircraft used in several air operations, including air policing, peace support and high-intensity conflict. Working as a Software Engineer in Defence you get to work on some amazing projects, including ones related to Typhoons jet!