Spotlight on STEM Careers: Girls in Computing

Name: Jordan  
Hometown: Leeds  
Job Title: Experience Manager for Conversational AI  
Company: NatWest

Fun fact about me: I really enjoy drawing people and places on my iPad, I love being creative and drawing helps me to do that.

What was your dream job when you were 10?

My dream job when I was 10 was to be an astronaut! I got a telescope for Christmas when I was 9 and just loved looking into space. I dreamed of going up there one day. 😊

What do you do now?

I now work in a bank building Chatbots, which is really fun! A chatbot at our bank is like a robot on the internet that answers people’s questions about their bank account, and I get to spend all of my time building them which is really fun 😊

Why is your area of STEM important?

Technology is super important in our world today, without it we couldn’t enjoy things like TikTok or the new PS5 console. The more people that work in technology the quicker we can create even cooler technologies in the future, which is very exciting!

How does your job link to Computing?

I use technology everyday in my job. I use excel to look at data, zoom for video calls and my iPad and iMac for extra screens so I can work on different things at once.

To actually build our chatbot, I use a software called “Watson Assistant” as well as code like HTML, which I really enjoy. You can also get started in code with scratch where you can code your own mini games!

What do you do day-to-day in your job?
A typical day for me starts with a fun 15-minute meeting called “show and tell”, where a few people from our team show something random like their favourite game, something they’ve recently bought or favourite clip from a film. We vote on which one is the best and that person then sets the theme for show and tell for the next day. We have been working from home for over a year, so it’s been a great way to stay in touch with our friends at work 😊

During the day I can spend time looking at data, building our chatbot and learning other coding languages like Python. Everyday is different in my job which I love 😊

**What is your favourite part of your job?**

My favourite part of my job is that I learn something new every day. I love working with new technology and find it really exciting that the work I do can impact millions of people!

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

One challenge I face in my job is knowing when to stop working. I absolutely love my job so I sometimes work later than I should to finish or improve things.

Another challenge I face is improving my coding skills as I only recently learnt how to code. I wish I had started younger to make it a bit easier, which is great for you because you can start now! 😊

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

**Problem solving**

Working with new technology means I must be able to solve problems quickly and subjects like Maths and Science really help to improve this skill. I also use this skill when planning my holidays and figuring out where to go, when to go and what activities I want to do when I am on holiday.

**Teamwork**

I work in a small team of 5 people and we all need to work well as a team. We all have different skills, so we work together to be able to do the best work possible. I have also used this skill when living in a shared house at university where we had to work together to make sure our house was clean and tidy, our bills got paid on time and when we cooked our meals together as we had no adults to help us do any of these things anymore!

These skills are super helpful and you can start to develop them now by joining after school clubs and sports teams, focusing on lessons like Maths for problem solving, and P.E for teamwork, and most importantly by having fun with it!

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

The main subject to take in school to do my job would be Computer Science as it helps with skills like problem solving and programming. I use computers and technology every day to be able to do my job, but other subjects like Maths, Science and English are all really helpful as well. Maths and Science help with my problem-solving skills and analysing data, and English helps with building what our chatbot will say to customers.
Why should more women and girls choose STEM?

I love being a woman working in technology, it’s so fun doing different things everyday and working with the latest technology. There are so many different ways you can work in technology, whether that’s building chatbots, building apps, designing games, analysing data, building websites, working on social media like Tiktok and so much more!

Another great thing about working in STEM is that the demand for skills in science, technology, engineering, and maths is growing every year which makes it easier to get a job when you’re older.

There’s a place for everyone in STEM, and I would love to see more women and girls choosing STEM subjects and having fun in their jobs when they are older!

My challenge for you:

1) **Code for the first time!**
   My challenge for you is to go onto scratch and find a project you think looks interesting, and code for the first time. I’ve included the website with different projects on it, click one you like the look of and press play to see what it does. Then click “look inside” to see how it’s built and have a play around with it.
   Things you can try to do are:
   - Change the colours
   - Change the writing
   - Change how the objects move
   - Insert new objects

   Have fun playing around with your first project, and well done! You’ve started learning how to code!

   Link to Scratch projects: [https://scratch.mit.edu/studios/2953430/](https://scratch.mit.edu/studios/2953430/)