The Ogden Trust

making physics matter

Phizzi professionals

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School

I did physics, maths and art at A-level. But I realised that I didn't really enjoy sitting in a classroom and the thought of university was extremely daunting. I spoke to a career's advisor who told me about apprenticeships which had hands-on learning experience.

What next?

When I left school, I became an Aerospace Engineering Technical Apprentice at BAE Systems and I am working towards a Higher National Certificate in Advanced Manufacturing.

Why physics?

It was around Year 10 (aged 14-15) when I became really interested in physics. I found a lot of the topics interesting, and a lot of questions I didn't even know I had were answered!

And now?

After my apprenticeship, I hope to work my way up within my team and undertake an important role within the business, as well as get a degree that will relate to my career.

Physics in practice

Throughout my apprenticeship I have done several placements which have all used physics, maths or science in different ways: testing aircraft wings in a wind tunnel, data analysis, testing aircraft equipment, upgrades to avionics equipment… BAE Systems is such a large company – I didn't know it was possible to have so many different careers that feature physics!

Advice for young scientists

At school, I was always told to go to university as if it was the only way to get a good career; and don't get me wrong, you can do exactly that and be very successful, but there are other ways too. With apprenticeships, you get paid to learn! What more could you ask for? Always keep your options open; don't limit yourself to one route for your future.

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