



making physics matter



Phizzi professionals

Alasdair Robertson

School

I decided to study physics for my GCSEs and it was my favourite subject. I've always been curious about how things work, and believe physics is the best subject choice if you also want to gain a deeper understanding about the world you are living in.



What next?

I didn't study physics at A-level but developed a passion for science after leaving school and studied it through the Open University. I wanted to work in the renewable energy sector and knew that a strong background in physics would be one way of achieving that goal. I wanted to contribute to reducing the UK's carbon footprint and play a part in slowing down global warming.



Why physics?

I knew that physics would help me to work in my chosen industry, but the skills you learn in physics are highly sought after by so many employers, particularly in engineering or science-based roles. The beauty of physics is not just the subject-knowledge that you learn but also the transferable skills that open up so many different doors and opportunities.



And now?

I am Assistant Operations Manager at Community Windpower. We are at the forefront of wind energy development in the UK. When all our sites are developed and operational – and the wind is blowing – we will provide enough energy to power roughly 500,000 homes. My physics education at school and university set me up with the perfect skills for this role!



Physics in practice

I have to make sure that the wind turbines are always spinning; if they aren't, I need to work out why. The turbines provide a stream of information which I help to analyse. Sometimes, fixing a turbine can be as simple as switching it off and on again! But often we need to think about the gears, the kinetic and electrical energy, the power ratios – so much physics!



Advice for young scientists

Approach science with motivation and drive to achieve your goals. It can be easy to become demotivated after a bad test score, or seeing students succeed when you don't, but keep working hard! Keep your mind open to new ideas. The skills you develop studying physics will open doors and career decisions can be made later. Develop your skills and find what you are passionate about.

