



making physics matter



(c) Alex Brenner

# Phizzi professionals

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## School

Science and maths were always my main focus, but I was just as interested in studying other subjects that I knew I wouldn't cover later on. My GCSE options were history and PE. I'm very grateful for those opportunities – scientists need to know something about the world other than science!



## What next?

I studied natural sciences (physics) at Cambridge and then did a PhD in experimental explosives physics, using high-speed photography to explore the physical world. But it wasn't a 'career path'. Studying physics led to an interesting PhD, which then led to ocean bubble physics and then broader ocean science. That journey is still twisting and turning, which I love.



## Why physics?

Physics provided the toolbox that suited my way of thinking. It gave me the technical knowledge and skill to poke and prod at the way the world works, and to use that for lots of different things. Now 'studying the way the world works' has become a real thing, because physics is essential to understand planet Earth.



## And now?

I am an ocean physicist at UCL, and my research topic is still ocean bubbles. I also care about the connection between science and society, and I think that there are many perspectives from science that can help us be better human beings. Part of my work now is sharing those perspectives through writing, performance and broadcasting.



## Physics in practice

I learned physics at school, at university, and I've also taught myself a lot since leaving university – the learning doesn't stop (which is great!). All of this is essential to my everyday work of building experiments to understand the surface of the ocean during a storm.



## Advice for young scientists

Be a good human, above all else. That means listening to others (including non-scientists), having humility, being respectful, honestly admitting when you're wrong, and doing your best at whatever you're doing. All of that will benefit your science, but most of all, it will make you a better citizen of Earth, and that's what matters most.

